The student engaged in the study of global politics faces a much different world than existed just five years ago. We live in a time when international news is instantaneous; when the Internet can open windows into the lives of people around the globe—and every economy is linked in a complex web of interdependence that means crises in one country quickly spread to others. Questions of climate change, human trafficking, and nuclear proliferation not only affect individual nations, but many nations. Who among us was not transfixed by recent world events when young people used Facebook and other social media to organize civil protests to combat authoritarian rule? Or the consequences of the 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear reactor crisis in Japan that not only affected one nation, but the economies, cultures, and safety of other nations? It seems a small idea to say our world is merely “shrinking.” These are the times of globalization.

The nature of this course has also evolved during the past five years. No matter what it’s called—international relations, world politics, or global politics—the course has transformed from a relatively inward-looking view of the world that focuses on contrasts between nations to an outward-looking view that seeks to understand similarities. Instead of defining the world from our own point of view, globalization asks us to define ourselves within the greater context of world events.

Textbooks for this course also need to evolve. Most books for this course were conceived ten to fifteen years ago, at a time when the world wasn’t so interconnected, so small. We perceived a need to write a new textbook that is better equipped to explain world events from today’s perspective. *Introduction to Global Politics: Brief Edition* is the first concise textbook for this course developed from the ground up with our increasingly interdependent world in mind. This concise volume stresses the same themes and topics, in fewer chapters, as the comprehensive first edition of *Introduction to Global Politics*, published in 2011. Each of these has roots in the leading British textbook on the subject, *The Globalization of World Politics* (Oxford, fifth edition, 2011). The ten chapters of the *Brief Edition* can be used by instructors who desire a shorter text and can be covered easily in a quarter- or semester-long course. It may be conveniently used with other materials that instructors might wish to add.

Like the comprehensive first edition of *Introduction to Global Politics*, this *Brief Edition* includes thorough, balanced coverage of the major theoretical perspectives of international relations, an examination of global actors, and an introduction to global issues such as political economy, conflict, and human rights. The *Brief Edition* leads students beyond their existing understanding of global politics and invites them to examine the world by applying foundational concepts to historic and contemporary issues, events, and headlines. The book combines essential concepts with classic and current research, learning aids, and
examples that students can easily relate to. In so doing, the Brief Edition encourages the development of critical thinking and imagination that students can take with them as they continue their course of study and explore careers.

**A Global Approach**

When we say our approach is “global” we really mean two things: First, this textbook brings together academics from around the world. No other textbook draws from such a diversity of thought from around the globe. All of us teach international relations courses, and all of us agree that to be an effective and productive citizen it is critical to have a basic understanding of how this world works and the important global challenges that we face as members of a global community. Students need to be exposed to the diversity of thinking in our field, but they should come to appreciate these common elements as well.

Second, we also discuss in great detail the critical actors in global politics. We explore the role of individual nation-states and international institutions such as the United Nations, the European Union, and critically important economic institutions, including the World Bank Group and the World Trade Organization. We carefully assess how different groups and individuals shaped these global institutions, holding different views on how best to govern this world of independent nation-states now numbering nearly two hundred. We also explore the growing number and significance of non-state actors, both multinational corporations such as Nike and McDonalds and non-governmental organizations including Oxfam and Doctors Without Borders. The entire world saw how important these actors are as we experienced two significant events: the global economic crisis in 2008–2010 and the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that resulted in the devastation of parts of Japan. The field is changing as the world changes. And yet, until now, no textbook has provided such in-depth coverage of these important non-state actors. As you will see, with *Introduction to Global Politics: Brief Edition* we hope to improve on the standard conversation to ask (and try to answer) the kind of questions most relevant for students of world politics today.

Students also need to develop a deeper understanding of current events—of the contending explanations surrounding the events and issues we hear about in the news every day. These explanations—or theoretical arguments—frame our understanding of this complex world, often acting as filters for what is important and what is ignored. Theory matters because we all use it—whether we know it or not—to decide our priorities and to act on our decisions. Students of this textbook will be introduced to the mainstream theoretical traditions of realism and liberalism and the more relevant alternative theories of constructivism, Marxism, and feminism that are usually left out of other texts. Our goal is to introduce students to all relevant voices so they can make an informed choice about how best to both explain and understand the world in which we live. We hope each student will read these pages and develop a more informed worldview.
The Organization of the Book

*Introduction to Global Politics: Brief Edition* includes ten chapters that are organized and color coded into three parts, as follows:

### Foundations of Global Politics

Basic concepts, history, and theories of global politics.

### Global Actors

Introduces the main actors on the world stage—from states, to intergovernmental organizations, to transnational actors and nongovernmental agencies.

### Global Issues

Issues of crucial importance to the security and prosperity of the people in the world.

### Features

The development of critical thinking skills is an important element of the course. Several active learning features are provided in every chapter to reinforce student comprehension. These boxed essays and other textual or visual elements bring into sharp relief some of the unique themes of this book:

- **Theory in Practice**—These features examine real-world scenarios using a variety of theoretical lenses, demonstrating the explanatory power of theories in global politics. Each Theory in Practice box concludes with a set of discussion questions.
- **Case Studies**—For a more in-depth analysis of a subject, students can turn to these boxed essays that delve into world events. Each Case Study box concludes with a set of discussion questions.
- **What’s Your Worldview?**—These short, critical-thinking questions in every chapter challenge students to develop their own, more well-informed ideas about global actors and issues.
- **Thinking About Global Politics**—At the end of each chapter we provide an active learning lesson that encourages students to think about the issues raised in the chapter and engage in discussion, research, and writing in cooperative learning situations.

The art program has been carefully selected to support critical thinking as well; not only do we present a number of maps that offer unique global perspectives on historic events and modern world trends, but we have also incorporated extensive data graphics and compelling photographs to engage the reader visually. The captions of many of these images include questions for further thought—once again connecting the reader back to the core content of the course.
Finally, each chapter concludes with a discussion of key chapter topics, a list of key terms with page references, and a set of thought-provoking review questions. All of these features encourage students to analyze the various topics and themes of the chapter a bit more critically, placing everything they have learned into the broader context of global politics theories, actors, and issues.

**Supplements**

Oxford University Press offers instructors and students a comprehensive ancillary package for qualified adopters of *Introduction to Global Politics: Brief Edition*. All of the supplemental materials were prepared by John S. Masker, coauthor of this text.

**Companion Website at www.oup.com/us/lamy**

- For instructors, this site includes the teaching tools described below, available for immediate download. Contact your local OUP sales representative for access.
- For students, the companion website includes a number of study tools, including learning objectives, key-concept summaries, quizzes and essay questions, Web activities, and Web links.

**Instructor’s Resource Manual with Test Bank**

- The Test Bank includes over 1,400 test items, including multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay questions. Questions are identified as factual, conceptual, or applied, and correct answers are keyed to the text pages where the concepts are presented. Available in print format or on the Instructor’s Resource CD.

**PowerPoint-Based Slides**

Each chapter slide deck includes a succinct chapter outline and incorporates relevant chapter graphics. Available on the Instructor’s Resource CD or as a download from the Web.

**Computerized Test Bank**

Employing the popular Diploma test authoring and management tool, this system is designed for both novice and advanced users. Diploma enables instructors to create and edit questions, create quizzes and tests with an easy-to-use drag-and-drop tool, publish quizzes and tests to online courses, and print
quizzes and tests for paper-based assessments. Available on the Instructor’s Resource CD.

**Instructor’s Resource CD**
This resource puts all of your teaching tools in one place. This CD includes the Instructor’s Resource Manual with Tests, the Computerized Test Bank, the PowerPoint-based slides, and the graphics from the text.

Please contact your Oxford University Press Sales representative for more information at (800) 280-0208.

**Packaging Options**
Adopters of *Introduction to Global Politics: Brief Edition* can package ANY Oxford University Press book with the text for a 20 percent savings off the total package price. See our many trade and scholarly offerings at [www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com) and then contact your local OUP sales representative to request a package ISBN. In addition, the following items can be packaged with the text for free:

- **Oxford Pocket World Atlas, Sixth Edition**: This full-color atlas is a handy reference for international relations/global politics students.
- **Very Short Introduction Series**: These very brief texts offer succinct introductions to a variety of topics. Titles include *Terrorism* by Townshend, *Globalization, Second Edition*, by Steger, and *Global Warming* by Maslin, among others.

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