We have developed this brief second edition of *Introduction to Global Politics* with an increasingly interdependent world in mind. The word *globalization* has become so overplayed that it has not retained much of its original force. And yet there is no unifying topic more important than globalization, no political trend of the same magnitude. Even our everyday decisions—those as seemingly trivial and isolated as what food to eat, what clothes to wear, what books to read, or what movies to see—affect the quality of life of people around us and in distant countries. Meanwhile, decisions made around the world affect our daily life.

Not only is the world changing, becoming more complex and interconnected than ever before, but the nature of this course is also evolving. No matter what it’s called—international relations, world politics, or global politics—the course has transformed in recent years, asking us to examine not only relations among countries but a broader context of global events and issues. In this book, we therefore take a global approach that fosters an awareness of and appreciation for a variety of worldviews. To quote the French writer Marcel Proust, we believe that “the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.”

Like the comprehensive edition of *Introduction to Global Politics*, this brief second edition offers:

- balanced coverage of the major theoretical perspectives of international relations,
- a thorough examination of global actors, and
- an engaging introduction to global issues such as political economy, conflict, and human rights.

This brief text leads students beyond their existing understanding of global politics and invites them to examine the world by applying foundational concepts to historical and contemporary events, issues, and headlines. We have combined essential concepts with classic and current research, learning aids, and examples that students can relate to. In so doing, we offer a text that encourages the development of critical thinking and imagination that students can take with them as they continue their studies and explore careers.

**A GLOBAL APPROACH**

So what does it mean to take a “global” view of world politics? By this, we mean two things: First, this book brings together academics from around the world, drawing from a diversity of thought unmatched by other textbooks. Despite the range of views represented here, all of the contributors teach international
relations courses, and we agree on emphasizing the challenges we all face as members of a global community. This book thus introduces students not only to the diversity of thinking in our field, but to its common elements.

Second, we discuss in some detail the various critical actors in global politics. We explore the role of individual nation-states as well as 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 have shaped these global institutions, holding different views on how best to govern this world of nearly 200 independent nation-states. We also explore the growing number and significance of nongovernmental actors, both multinational corporations such as Nike and McDonald’s and nongovernmental organizations such as Oxfam and Doctors Without Borders.

This text will introduce students to the mainstream theoretical traditions of realism and liberalism and to critical approaches that are often left out of other texts, including constructivism, Marxism, feminism, and utopianism (Chapter 3). 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 our world. We clearly lay out important theories so that they illuminate the actors and issues we discuss, rather than cloud them in further mystery. In short, we hope these pages will help each student develop a more informed worldview.

**LEARNING GOALS**

An important assumption of this text is that theory matters. Every individual sees the world through theories and uses them to organize, evaluate, and critically review contending positions in controversial policy areas. Unfortunately, many people take positions that lack supporting evidence; they accept a statement or position as true or valid because it fits with their beliefs or reinforces what they believe to be true.

After completing a course using this text, students will know more about the global system, the most important global actors, and the issues that shape the priorities and behavior of states and other actors in that system. This text encourages students to approach global politics in an informed, well-reasoned, and theoretically grounded manner. Overall, the chapters in this brief edition support four core learning objectives:

1. To develop a comprehensive understanding of the various theoretical traditions in global politics and the roles they play.
2. To understand the relationship between theory and policymaking or problem solving in global politics.
3. To appreciate the diversity of worldviews and theoretical assumptions that might inform political situations.
4. To develop an understanding of the global system and thereby increase the capacity to act or participate at various levels within it.

In this edition, at the beginning of each chapter we identify specific learning objectives that stem from these overarching goals. The review questions at the end of the chapter check that students have met the learning objectives.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

After reading and discussing this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Define the term “theory” and give examples.
2. Describe the historical origins of the realist, liberal, Marxist, constructivist, and feminist schools of thought.
3. Name key theorists of the five schools of thought.
4. Explain the relation among the levels of analysis and the different variants of the five schools of thought.
5. Explain the benefits and shortcomings of the different variants of the five schools of thought for the study of international relations.

**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. How does the Melian dialogue (see Case Study 3.1) represent key concepts such as self-interest, the balance of power, alliances, capabilities, empires, and justice?
2. Is realism anything more than the ideology of powerful, satisfied states?
3. How would a realist explain the war on terrorism?
4. Can realism help us to understand the globalization of world politics?
5. Should liberal states promote their values abroad? Is force a legitimate instrument in securing this goal?
6. Are democratic-peace theorists right, but for the wrong reasons?
7. Are liberal values and institutions in the contemporary international system as deeply embedded as neoliberals claim?
8. Why have alternative theoretical approaches to realism become more popular in recent years?
9. How would you explain the continuing vitality of Marxist thought in a post–Cold War world?
10. How did Lenin’s approach to international relations differ from that of Marx?
11. What is Wallerstein’s notion of a semiperiphery? Why might it be useful?
12. What is the core concept of constructivism?
13. What do you think are the core issues for the study of global change, and how does constructivism help you address these issues? Alternatively, how does a constructivist framework help you identify new issues that you had not previously considered?
14. Feminists define gender as a social construction. What does this mean? What kinds of questions does international relations feminism try to answer using gender as a category of analysis?
15. Which variant of feminist theory, or any combination of them, seems to capture most accurately what Enloe calls “gender makes the world go around?”

**ORGANIZATION**

This brief edition includes ten chapters that are organized and color-coded into three parts:

**Foundations of Global Politics**
Covers the 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**
Focuses on issues of crucial importance to the security and prosperity of the people in the world.

Each chapter provides essential information and presents case studies and worldview questions that encourage students to think about issues from contending perspectives.
FEATURES
The development of critical-thinking skills is an important element of the course. Every chapter provides several active-learning features:

- **Theory in Practice**—These boxes examine real-world scenarios using a variety of theoretical lenses, demonstrating the explanatory power of theories in global politics.
- **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**—This feature at the end of each chapter presents in-class activities dealing with real-world political issues. These activities give students the opportunity to develop their critical-thinking skills and apply what they have learned. Each activity includes follow-up questions or writing prompts.
- **Engaging with the World (New)**—These new short pieces at the end of every chapter highlight opportunities for students to get involved with organizations working for positive change in the world.

Every part of this text has been developed with today’s college student in mind. The book includes a number of integrated study aids—such as lists of key terms and review questions—all of which help students read and retain important information while extending their learning experience. Opposing quotations open every chapter, setting up one possible debate for students to consider while reading. At the end of every chapter, rather than simply summarizing the contents for students, we provide a conclusion that requires students to analyze the various topics and themes of the chapter a bit more critically, placing everything they have learned into a broader context across chapters. Students need to acquire strong critical-thinking skills; they need to learn how to make connections among real-world events they hear about in the news and the ideas they learn about in class—and it is with these goals in mind that we have developed this edition.

Here is one last point with regard to pedagogical features: The photos and figures have 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 data graphics and compelling photographs to engage students 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, with an interesting prompt or relevant point.

**NEW TO THIS EDITION**

We have thoroughly updated this brief edition of *Introduction to Global Politics* in light of recent trends and events that are shaping our world, such as the ongoing Arab Spring, the rise of China, and the eurozone crisis. In addition, we have revised for more balanced coverage, and we have strengthened our focus on active learning. In making these revisions, we have taken into account the helpful comments from reviewers as well as our own experience using the first edition in our classes.

**Revision Highlights**

- **New Case Studies** offer in-depth analysis of topics such as drone warfare, cyberterrorism, the roots of poverty in Haiti, and the economics of coffee production.
- **Specific learning objectives**—which flow from the larger goals laid out in this preface—are now presented in each chapter introduction and reflected in the review questions at the end of the chapter.
- **New tables** show how levels of analysis can be applied.
- **We have expanded and updated our coverage of regional governance and nongovernmental actors in Chapter 5.**
- **We have expanded and updated our coverage of failed states, conflict, and the changing nature of war in Chapter 6.**
- **We have added new sections on human rights legislation and enforcement in Chapter 7.**
- **We have threaded mainstream and alternative international relations theories throughout the text more evenly and systematically, particularly in “Theory in Practice” boxes.**
- A new feature called “Engaging with the World” appears at the end of each chapter, suggesting ways that students can get involved with activist organizations.
- Figures, tables, and maps have been updated, replaced, or added, reflecting the most recent data.
- **We have replaced over half of the photos in the text to coincide with textual updates and keep pace with current events.**

**SUPPLEMENTS**

Oxford University Press offers instructors and students a comprehensive ancillary package for qualified adopters of *Introduction to Global Politics.*
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 Oxford University Press 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 Item File
- The Test Item File includes more than 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.

Computerized Test Bank
Using the test authoring and management tool Diploma, the computerized test bank that accompanies this text is designed for both novice and advanced users. Diploma enables instructors to create and edit questions, create randomized 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.

PowerPoint-Based Slides
Each chapter’s 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.

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.

Video
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The Student Research and Writing Guide for Political Science provides students with the information and tools necessary to conduct research and write a research paper. This brief guide gives students the basics on how to get started writing a research paper, explains the parts of a research paper, and presents the citation formats found in academic writing. The Student Research and Writing Guide for Political Science can be packaged for free with a new copy of this text or purchased separately.

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In addition, the following items can be packaged with the text for FREE:

- Now Playing Video Guide: Through documentaries, feature films, and YouTube videos, Now Playing: Learning Global Politics Through Film provides video examples of course concepts to demonstrate real-world relevance. Each video is accompanied by a brief summary and three to five discussion questions. Now Playing can be packaged for free with every new copy
of this text. Qualified adopters will also receive a Netflix subscription that enables them to show students the films discussed in the book. Use package ISBN 978-0-19-934265-5 to order.

• The Student Research and Writing Guide for Political Science: This brief guide provides students with the information and tools necessary to conduct research and write research paper. The guide explains how to get started writing a research paper, describes the parts of a research paper, and presents the citation formats found in academic writing. Use package ISBN 978-0-19-934796-4 to order.

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Reviewers for the Brief Second Edition

Leah Michelle Graham  
*University of North Alabama*

Eric A. Heinze  
*University of Oklahoma*

Courtney Hillebrecht  
*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Paul E. Lenze, Jr.  
*Northern Arizona University*

Andrea Malji  
*University of Kentucky*

Timothy Schorn  
*University of South Dakota*

Jacob Shively  
*Indiana University*

Jelena Subotic  
*Georgia State University*

Richard Tanksley  
*North Idaho College*

Scott Wallace  
*Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis*
The book would not have been the same without the assistance and insight from these outstanding scholars and teachers. Meanwhile, any errors you might find in the book remain our own. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your support.

Steven L. Lamy
John S. Masker
John Baylis
Steve Smith
Patricia Owens