



# Global Political Economy: Evolution and Dynamics

By Robert O'Brien, Marc Williams



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After a period in which the global economy appeared prosperous and stable, the economic crisis exposed the fragile foundations of the international financial system and has reshaped the landscape of global political economy. The fourth edition of this popular and widely used text takes full account of recent developments, while continuing to provide an accessible and historically grounded introduction to the field.

The authors trace the evolution of the global economy, from its roots in the fifteenth century, through the Industrial Revolution, and to the post-1945 world order. They proceed to explore in detail the dynamics of global political economy in the twenty-first century, providing systematic coverage of the key spheres of activity, from trade, production and finance to social divisions, the environment, development, ideas, security and governance.

Lucid, engaging and authoritative, *Global Political Economy* introduces an unusually wide range of theoretical approaches, moving beyond a traditional three-paradigm perspective to show how these theories can be applied and how useful they are for understanding key issues and developments.

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#### Review

"Once again, O'Brien and Williams have succeeded in making an excellent text even better. Wide ranging and historically informed, the fourth edition provides up-to-date coverage of both contemporary developments and the latest theoretical trends in the field.' – Benjamin Jerry Cohen, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

"This remains the most comprehensive introduction to the field." - Craig N. Murphy, Wellesley College, USA

"Illustrated throughout with clear examples across a wide range of global and transnational issues, this attractively redesigned new edition will further enhance the reputation of this well established text as an historically-informed introduction to, and an analytical toolkit for studying, International Political Economy." - Leonard Seabrooke, Copenhagen Business School and University of Warwick

#### About the Author

ROBERT O'BRIEN holds the LIUNA/ Enrico Henry Mancinelli Professorship in Global Labour Issues at McMaster University, Canada. He has published books and articles on the subjects of international trade, global labour issues, social movements and international economic institutions, global social policy.

MARC WILLIAMS is Professor of International Relations, University of New South Wales, Australia. His research focuses on global environmental politics, social movements, and global economic governance.

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