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Series Introduction

Critical Introductions to World Politics

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World politics in all its socio-economic, cultural, institutional and military dimensions affects the lives of billions across the globe. Yet international relations is still an area of study associated with the 'high politics' of statecraft, strategy and diplomacy, or with distant and seemingly uncontrollable global flows of money, people and commodities. *Critical Introductions to World Politics* aims to reverse this prevailing elitism by illuminating and explaining the causes and consequences of these diverse aspects of international relations in an accessible way, thereby highlighting the impact of international processes and developments on the lives of ordinary people. The series will bring together a range of theoretical and empirical studies into the workings of world politics, while also identifying areas for political intervention by those seeking not just to interpret the world, but also to participate in political struggles to change it.

The series engages with key areas, providing succinct, informative and accessible overviews to central debates in global affairs. It draws mainly, although not exclusively, on Marxist approaches to international relations concerned with the analysis of, among other issues, transnational class formation, the role of international organisations in sustaining global capitalist hegemony, the sources of violent conflict and war, and the nature and evolution of state sovereignty. Empirically, it focuses on such issues as the origins of the modern international system, the Cold War and the consequences of its end, globalisation, and the character of American global power.

Critical Introductions to World Politics builds on a new, distinctly historical-materialist approach to global affairs, serving as a key reference point and resource for those studying and teaching international relations from a critical perspective, as well as those involved in the various movements for a more just, equal and sustainable world.

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