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Book Review: A New World Order by Anne-Marie Slaughter

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extensive and restrictive provisions. Professor Rosenson has made a solid contribution to understanding why and when they have done so.

Philip H. Jos
College of Charleston

Anne-Marie Slaughter, *A New World Order* (Princeton University Press, 2005). 368 pp. \$29.95

Arguments continue about the status of international order after the Cold War including whether some kind of post-Cold War order is emerging or whether this is a prolonged transition period in international affairs. This important book claims that there is already a new world order involving considerable global governance, and that this incipient order could be strengthened to mutual benefit by building on existing governmental networks.

The Introduction to the book argues that the contemporary state has been disaggregated but not necessarily weakened by globalization, since new networks of international collaboration have emerged with governments in the leadership position. Chapters 1-3 are case studies of different kinds of international governmental networks. Chapter 1 traces the emergence of collaborative networks for management of specific areas of the global economy, Chapter 2 examines the emergence of a global legal system, and Chapter 3 assesses national, regional and global collaboration between legislators. Subsequent chapters elaborate how existing collaboration could be strengthened to adapt to the disaggregated nature of the world order (Chapter 4) in ways that are at once effective (Chapter 5) and just (Chapter

6). A concluding chapter synthesizes previous chapters in indicating how the new world order can be further strengthened to mutual advantage. The text is followed by notes, an extensive bibliography, and an index.

The major contribution of this book is rethinking the relationship of international law and organizations to the contemporary world. Globalization has gained momentum since the end of the Cold War, and has been especially characterized by rising interdependence among states. While this phenomenon is dynamic and multifaceted, thinking about the nation-state and the emerging international order ironically has been quite inflexible. One dimension of inflexibility divides those who view countries as increasingly vulnerable to globalization and destined to decline from others who believe that the nation-state will be able to survive. Another expression of inflexibility pits those who see globalization as leading to some kind of world government against those who believe international law and organizations will remain peripheral in a world that will still be structured around countries.

Anne-Marie Slaughter expresses much more flexibility in describing the emerging world order, and she backs up her views with numerous examples and case studies. Governmental networks involve cooperation between countries, and have become increasingly prominent in responding creatively to the challenges posed by globalization. These networks cut across all areas of international relations, and increasingly pull in other actors such as corporations, interest groups and traditional international organizations. A particularly rich case study illustrating this tendency is cooperation between national judicial authorities and international and regional courts (Chapter 2).

Were greater emphasis placed on such governmental networks, the author sees many possibilities for more

international order building to mutual advantage. Governmental networks would establish new international norms in specific areas thereby complementing the rule-making function of traditional international law and the traditional areas of competence of international organization. Governments would remain central in such an order, so that growing international collaboration would not proceed toward world government. According to this vision where both governments and international collaboration prosper, vast areas are potential targets for international cooperation. International law and organization are viewed flexibly as being strengthened by advances in governmental networks. International organizations, international law and governmental networks would increasingly overlap and reinforce one another in synergistic fashion.

In addition to the conceptual contribution of the book, the book is interesting and well written. The marriage of conceptual innovation and attractive presentation make this book a real winner.

With so many strengths, the weaknesses do not bulk large. For example, it is never demonstrated clearly just how important governmental networks are in the various parts of international relations including cultural, military, political, and legal affairs. This makes it hard to verify the claim of the author that we already have a new world order, and that this order can be systematically strengthened.

Anne-Marie Slaughter is an important figure in international scholarship. She is Dean of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the Bert G. Kerstetter '66 University Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University. She is also a Fellow of the American

Academy of Arts and Science and serves on the board of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Michael Morris
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Richard T. Ford, *Racial Culture: A Critique*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005). 248 pp..

Beginning from the premise "that racism and other status hierarchies are a real and present threat to America's nobler, democratic and egalitarian aspirations," (3) Richard T. Ford's *Racial Culture* argues that it is time for the progressive left to rethink its commitment to a multicultural politics of difference. At the root of Ford's critique is his disagreement with the increasingly dominant view within the academic left that racial groups (and their ethnic and gender analogs) possess a unique identity that deserves protection from the assimilating pressures of a hegemonic white majority. While he recognizes that the rise of this kind of multiculturalism emerged as a necessary corrective to an overly narrow emphasis on the western European tradition, he contends that the pendulum has swung too far in the other direction. He is particularly concerned about how this multicultural orientation has settled into a legal doctrine. Such a multicultural politics, particularly as it seeks to establish legal protections based on a connection between specific cultural practices and "authentic" racial, ethnic, or social status is actually counterproductive for the very groups that it putatively seeks to help. Not only do such protections tend to over-generalize about racial, sexual, and ethnic groups, thus