

Section III

On Global Responsibility

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The essays in this commemorative issue, speak about global responsibility and accountability which may reframe the way issues are defined between globalisation, sovereignty and security. There are increasingly visible works in international relations that invite an all too familiar mode of probing and interpretation. But this scholarly collection assigns a strategy of response to liberal orders, and situates a range of possibilities that allowably explore standard measures of global conduct of both states and non-states.

Evidence suggests that the adoption of liberal practices in international relations is highly clustered both temporally and spatially. While certainly not at margins the question of global responsibility resonates in all far reaches of global political life today, wherever and whenever time, space, cultural and political identity are put in doubt and the territoriality of the modern state is uncertain. And yet it is a question to what extent does it sanctions the appropriate measures to address the diffusive trends in the new world order. The condition and indeed essence of global responsibility lies in equanimity and sustainability. It overcomes the division between “rights” and “responsibilities” that is inherent in liberal security dialogues to which these essays implore a strategy of response.

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Jorge Heine and Ramesh Thakur illustrate cases of terrorist attacks in Asia and reason the need to tackle flawed governance with increased accountability on the part of states and non-states alike. In particular, they propose engaging in such global responsibility through civil society outreach, advocacy, lobbying, and monitoring which may help to strategise effective security policies. David M. Malone and Rohan Mukherjee evaluate India's diplomatic approach to global challenges and suggest the need for re-distributing diplomatic capacities beyond the narrow confines of entangled national interests in bilateral partnerships, if indeed aspirations of being a great power are to be achieved.

Wang Guiguo offers insights to why China has almost never been called to international arbitration to resolve disputes with foreign investors, despite being the second largest FDI recipient. He identifies that though Chinese legal system has much evolved, the economic reforms and the domestic system at large need to be more accountable towards the international community if the Chinese government is to consistently integrate into the global economy.

Parag Khanna advocates the need to improve global diplomatic endeavours as nations, corporations, or faiths can only learn to respect one another's power and values by sharing and negotiating knowledge through multilateral ties.

The contributions call for redefining the scope of global responsibility and the role of the different actors in it. The authors in their specific narratives contend that by enlarging the focus from states to mitigating organisations, the diverse actors will be able to grapple and cope better with the new complexities of inclusion and exclusion of sovereignties and securities thus providing insights on the converging yet ultimately contradictory relationship between international relations and world politics.