

Newsletter

February 2025

Welcome

to the second issue of the Global Research Network on Peaceful Change (GRENPEC) Newsletter. In this issue, you will find some of our recent and forthcoming publications. For previous publications see: www.grenpec.com

GRENPEC is a research network launched in 2019 by a group of scholars from some major universities across the world to promote the study of peaceful change in international relations at the global, regional, and domestic levels.

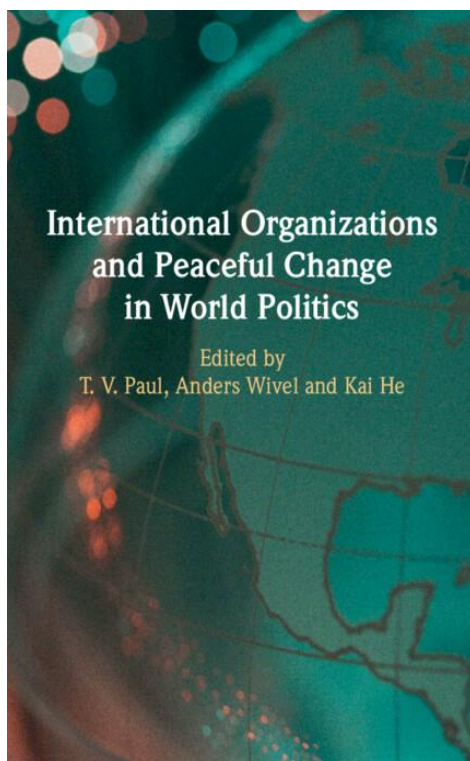


**GLOBAL RESEARCH NETWORK ON
PEACEFUL CHANGE**

Recent Publications

International Organizations and Peaceful Change in World Politics

Edited by T.V. Paul (McGill University), Anders Wivel (University of Copenhagen), and Kai He (Griffith University), Cambridge University Press (January 2025).



International organizations play an important, if imperfect, role in world politics, solving collective action problems in security, economic, environmental, and global health among others. While many believe that international organisations have formed critical pillars of global governance, sceptics contend that they reflect the power politics of the day and the interests of hegemonic powers.

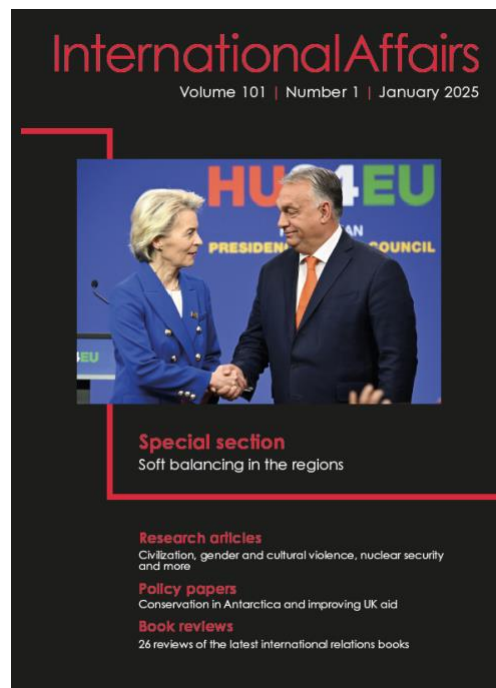
This volume examines whether international organizations contribute to or detract from peaceful change, acting as agents of both status quo and stasis. Providing a historical overview of international organizations, from the nineteenth century to the current day, a team of leading scholars offer an overview of how major theoretical

approaches – Liberalism, Constructivism, Rationalism and Realism – have contributed to our understanding of the role played by international organizations in peaceful change. In particular, the roles of the United Nations General Assembly, UN Peacekeeping, UN Environment Program, World Health Organization, World Trade Organization and G20 are analysed.

[Find out more](#)

Journal Issue: *Soft Balancing in the Regions: Causes, Characteristics and Consequences*

A special section that was published in the journal, *International Affairs*, in January 2025, organized by T.V. Paul (McGill University), Anders Wivel (University of Copenhagen), and Kai He (Griffith University).



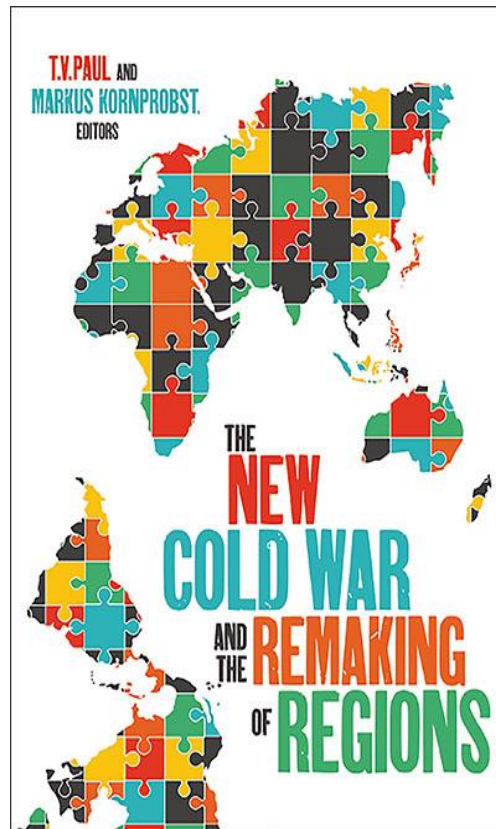
The US decline and retrenchment is increasing the importance of regional dynamics across the international system. Over the past decade, IR scholars have described and conceptualized this development as e.g., “de-centered globalism”, a “multi-order world”, a “multiplex world”, or a multicultural “no one’s world”, but the links between the regional and global levels and the roles and functions of regional institutions in power politics continue to be poorly understood.

This journal issue uses the analytical lens of soft balancing – i.e., attempts at restraining a threatening power through diplomatic and institutional de-legitimation – to explore these links. Soft balancing has been used extensively to understand developments at the great power level, but its focus on diplomatic and institutional strategies holds considerable potential for explaining how rising powers, middle powers and smaller states seek to navigate the emerging international order. Authors discuss developments in the Indo-Pacific, Latin and South America, Asia, Africa, and Europe to answer questions such as: What are the characteristics of soft balancing in the regions? How do regional actors apply different soft balancing strategies? When and under what conditions will soft balancing strategies be effective? How does soft balancing impact regional and global orders?

[Find out more](#)

The New Cold War and the Remaking of Regions

Edited by T.V. Paul (McGill University) and Markus Kornprobst (Vienna School of International Studies), Georgetown University Press (Forthcoming in July 2025).



Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the deteriorating United States–China relationship signify the onset of the New Cold War. Unlike the original Cold War, this competition is multipolar and "multiplex," with secondary powers, small states, and even nonstate actors pragmatically selecting which of their interests intersect with those of the great powers.

The New Cold War and the Remaking of Regions contends that multiplexity and multipolarity have important repercussions for the world's regional orders. Contributors to the book address the New Cold War and regional ordering processes from realist, liberal, and constructivist perspectives. They demonstrate how variable regional dynamics will lead either to peaceful change or conflict.

This volume is part of a new wave of scholarship that expands the focus of international relations beyond great powers and recognizes the increasing agency that other states have gained in the twenty-first-century world order.

Endorsements

"The New Cold War and the Remaking of Regions manages to be both timely and substantive. Led by editors T. V. Paul and Markus Kornprobst, a stellar cast of contributors help us make sense of what great power competition in the twenty-first century will mean for regional orders. This volume is strongly recommended for anyone interested in great power politics and the question of peaceful change."

Ayşe Zarakol, University of Cambridge, author of *Before the West: The Rise and Fall of Eastern World Orders* (Cambridge, University Press, 2022)

[Find out more](#)

New Blog: *International Organizations and Global Peaceful Change*

T.V. Paul (McGill University), Anders Wivel (University of Copenhagen),
and Kai He (Griffith University).

The role of international organizations (IOs) in global politics is as complex as it is critical. Today, they are arenas of contestation among established and rising states as well as domestic politics of major states in particular, the US. With nearly 8,000 formal and informal IOs operating across various domains, their capacity to influence world affairs is undeniable. Yet, their ability to foster “peaceful change”—defined broadly as nonviolent transformation in global and regional politics—remains a subject of intense debate. At their best, IOs promote dialogue, resolve disputes, and establish norms that prevent conflict. At their worst, they can perpetuate inequality, lock in existing power dynamics, and exacerbate tensions. Whether IOs act as architects of a more peaceful order or as instruments of hegemony depends largely on how they are wielded in a world increasingly shaped by great power rivalry.

[Find out more](#)

Events

[International Organizations and Peaceful Change in World Politics](#)

GRENPEC organizes an International Studies Association (ISA) panel in Chicago in March 2025 as part of the annual meeting program. Chaired by T.V. Paul, many other GRENPEC members participate in this panel including Anders Wivel, Kai He, Arie M. Kacowicz, John Ikenberry, Duncan Snidal, Aseema Sinha, Andrew F. Cooper, and Maria Ivanova. The panel will be held at **Room: 72 - Parlor Room 1004, Chicago Hilton**. **Time:** March 5, Wednesday, 10.30 am – 12.15 pm.

[ISA-ISSS Distinguished Scholar Award Panel Honoring T.V. Paul \(Winner of 2025 ISSS Distinguished Scholar Award\)](#)

This event will be held at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association honoring T.V. Paul for his lifelong contributions to international security studies. The panel will be chaired by Rohan Mukherjee (London School of Economics and Political Science). Participants include Norrin Ripsman (Lehigh University), Kai He (Griffith University), John M. Owen (University of Virginia), Aseema Sinha (Claremont McKenna College), Jaeyoung Kim (San Diego State University), Deborah W. Larson (UCLA), Jeffrey W. Taliaferro (Tufts University), and Jeffrey W. Knopf (Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey). This panel will be held at **Room: 10 - Williford C, Chicago Hilton**. **Date and Time:** March 3, Monday, 4.00 PM – 5.45 PM

Please also attend the **ISSS reception** that will be held at 2025 ISA-Chicago Annual Meeting. **Time:** March 3, 7.15 – 8.15 pm **Location:** 06 – Continental C, Chicago Hilton.

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Affiliated Scholars

Trine Flockhart, European University Institute

Trine Flockhart is Chair of Security Studies in the Florence School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute. Her research focuses on international order, NATO, European security, the liberal international order (and its crisis), transatlantic relations, ontological security and processes of (peaceful) change and transformation. She leads the research project Anticipating Governance in the Multi-Order World <https://agmow.eu/> and is currently finalizing a monograph on the Multi-Order World.

Jeffrey W. Knopf, Middlebury Institute of International Studies

Jeff Knopf is a professor at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS), where he serves as chair of the M.A. program in Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies. Dr. Knopf is also a research affiliate with the Middlebury Institute's James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) and Stanford University's Center on International Security and Cooperation (CISAC). Dr. Knopf received a Ph.D. in Political Science from Stanford. Prior to joining the MIIS faculty, he taught at the Naval Postgraduate School, the University of California-Santa Cruz, and the University of Southern California.

Jojin V. John, School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University

Jojin V. John is an Assistant Professor at the School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University and the Director of the Korea Centre at the university. Previously, he served as a Research Fellow at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi, where he coordinated several Track 1.5 and Track 2 dialogues between India and East Asian countries. Dr. Jojin has also taught political science at Christ University, Bangalore, and held visiting research positions at prestigious institutions, including National Chengchi University (Taipei), Seoul National University (South Korea), and the Academy of Korean Studies. His research areas include International Relations Theory, Geopolitics, East Asia/Indo-Pacific, and Indian Foreign Policy.