

A League of Democracies

Cosmopolitanism, Consolidation Arguments, and Global Public Goods, 1st Edition

By John J. Davenport

Routledge

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Description

In the 21st century, as the peoples of the world grow more closely tied together, the question of real transnational government will finally have to be faced.

The end of the Cold War has not brought the peace, freedom from atrocities, and decline of tyranny for which we hoped. It is also clearer now that problems like economic risks, tax havens, and environmental degradation arising with global markets are far outstripping the governance capacities of our 20th century system of distinct nation-states, even when they try to work together through intergovernmental agreements and organized bureaucracies of specialists.

This work defends a cosmopolitan approach to global justice by arguing for new ways to combine the strengths of democratic nations in order to prevent mass atrocities and to secure other global public goods (GPGs). While protecting cultural pluralism, Davenport argues that a Democratic League would provide a legal order capable of uniting the strength and inspiring moral vision of democratic nations to improve international security, stop mass atrocities, assist developing nations in overcoming corruption and poverty, and, in time, potentially address other global challenges in finance, environmental sustainability, stable food supplies, immigration, and so on.

This work will be of great interest to students and scholars of international relations, international organizations, philosophy and global justice.

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About the Author

John J. Davenport is Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University in New York City, where he directed the Peace & Justice Studies program from 2014 to 2018. In addition to two monographs on topics in moral psychology, and two co-edited collections on Kierkegaard and virtue ethics, John has published several essays on just war theory, the responsibility to protect, and the idea of democratic federation (as well as other topics in democratic theory). He is now preparing books on a Habermasian argument for a universal right to democracy, justice as stewardship of public capital, the errors of political libertarianism, and the need for a new constitutional convention to fix the United States.

BY PATRICK VEREL ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

POLITICS AND SOCIETY

In 2011, a series of uprisings known as the Arab Spring briefly gave the impression that democracy was on an unstoppable march across the globe. Seven years later, it hasn't exactly turned out that way. Egypt has embraced authoritarianism, Libya is in a state of near anarchy, and Syria has been mired in a catastrophic civil war for seven years. Meanwhile, the international influence of authoritarian countries such as China and Russia has grown significantly.

John Davenport, Ph.D., a professor of philosophy, says these and many more developments are proof that NATO and the United Nations Security Council, the two bodies best equipped to promote human rights and peace, are no longer up to the job. In a book that will be published by Routledge this fall, Davenport makes the case for creating what he calls a "League of Democracies."

Listen below

And in an extended bonus track, Davenport delves into the ways in which game theory explains how the challenges the world's democracies face are similar to those that America's founding fathers faced in the 18th century.

