Abstracts

Christopher Daase
The Beginning of the End of the Nuclear Taboo
Explaining the Legitimacy Crisis of the World Nuclear Order

The world nuclear order is in a deep crisis. Only a few years after the indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the future of the non-proliferation regime is rather bleak. This article explains the reasons for this unexpected deterioration. Until 1995 the non-proliferation regime was based on the »nuclear taboo«. Taboos are systems of prohibitions, which create social orders through dichotomous classifications. The legitimacy of this order originated from the »nuclear charisma«, the shared belief that nuclear weapons are unique and require unique measures to prevent them from spreading. This belief was dependent on a periodical reaffirmation by the Non-Nuclear Weapon States. This provision was revoked when the Nuclear Weapon States tried to transform their charismatic into a legal rule by making the treaty indefinite. The unlimited extension increased the legality of the regime, but it decreased its legitimacy. The NPT extension was in fact the beginning of the end of the nuclear taboo.

Susanne K. Schmidt
National Determinants of the Effects of European Integration

What are the consequences of European integration for the member states? This essay attempts to show how integration has changed the institutional options for national actors. It focuses on the German political system, which tends to bottleneck reform through multifarious institutional constraints. Policies may therefore be stable even if they are supported only by a minority of relevant actors. Taking the examples of private insurance and truck transportation, it illuminates how integration into the European multilevel system allowed implementing reforms for which the necessary consensus on the national level would not exist without EU membership. Analysing the consequences of integration not only as a one-sided pressure but including the reactions of national actors elucidates to what extent the impact of the EU is affected by national interests. Integration into the European multi-level system – to resume the argument – produces interaction effects on the national level, or resonance.

Klaus Dingwerth

The Democratic Legitimacy of Global Public Policy Networks
Analysing the World Commission on Dams

Global Public Policy Networks have recently been proposed as an innovative instrument of a more effective and more legitimate global governance. Taking a closer look at one network, the World Commission on Dams, the article examines to what extent the hope for a more legitimate governance through global public policy networks can be justified. The argument unfolds in three steps: First, it is argued that the debate on global governance so far lacks a clear and coherent concept of democratic governance beyond the nation state. The second part then attempts to address this problem by distinguishing between three conceptual dimensions of democracy: collective self-determination, democratic control, and discursive practice. The empirical part of the article applies these dimensions to the analysis of the World Commission on Dams. The resulting picture is more complex than the one usually portrayed by proponents of global public policy networks. While the World Commission on Dams has been successful in some areas, it also accounts for serious flaws in others. In sum, global public policy networks largely fail to live up to their democratic promise.

Reinhard Wolf

IR-Theories and their Practical Surplus
Assessing Current Developments in Systemic Theory

The essay reviews three theoretical monographs which have been widely discussed in both Europe and the United States. In doing so, the reviewer assesses not only their originality, consistency, empirical foundation and plausibility, but also tries to gauge the extent to which these books can offer practical advice to active politicians. In particular, the review focuses on the authors' respective predictions for relations among the Western democracies. Unfortunately, none of the monographs provides persuasive advice or convincing practical orientations. The two general theories under review either tend to over-simplify interactions and thus neglect important variables (Mearsheimer) or they present such a complex and balanced picture of international politics that they can offer few specific predictions or recommendations (Wendt). In principle, less ambitious middle-range theories, like the one presented by Ikenberry, could provide a solution to this impasse. Yet this particular model suffers from a shaky empirical foundation.

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Ulrich Brandt
After Fordism
Global Governance as the New Hegemonic Discourse of
Understanding International Politics?
ZIB, Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 143-166

The concept of Global Governance refers to transformations of political regulation
and furthermore of the nature of politics, especially at the international level. In this
article Global Governance is understood as a discourse which is part of the forma-
tion process of the developing postfordist politics and its rationales. In various
dimensions it will be shown how Global Governance resonates with the dominant
transformations of political regulation. As a result the discourse of Global Gover-
nance does not hamper postfordist-neoliberal social transformations but rather ser-
ves as a means to deal more effectively with the negative consequences caused by
them.

Brigitte Young/Siegfried Gehrmann/Markus Kerkmann
Intercultural Learning in Cyber Space
Opportunities and Problems of Cross-Border University Teaching
through Distance Learning
ZIB, Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 167-189

Our experience with two distance learning pilot seminars with the universities
Münster-Zagreb and Münster-M.I.T. have shown that the new information and com-
munications technologies offer a rare opportunity for cross-border intercultural lear-
ning. The process oriented application of the communications technology also
shows that this form of distance learning has far-reaching consequences for tea-
ching. In comparison to monocultural seminars, intercultural seminars are more
complex and also less controllable. These seminars provide a great opportunity to
reflect on our own cultural standards in the light of experiences with the »Other«
and thus allow for more intercultural understanding. On the other hand, these posi-
tive aspects of computer assisted learning pose greater time requirements and plan-
ning for teachers and students alike than do conventional seminars. Moreover, stu-
dents and teachers are confronted with new roles, which are not compatible with the
traditional hierarchical »culture of teacher-student« relationship.