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Introduction

In an era defined by unprecedented global interconnectedness and rapid change, understanding the complex dynamics of international politics has never been more challenging—or more essential. We find ourselves navigating termed a Multiplex Era; a decentralized, diversified, and multidimensional international order where multiple actors engage simultaneously across various domains, creating a complex web of relationships, institutions, and power structures that defy simple categorization.

The traditional frameworks that once guided our understanding of international relations—from the bipolar Cold War system to the brief unipolar moment of American hegemony—have given way to something far more intricate. Today's international landscape features not only the familiar great power competition between states but also the rising influence of non-state actors, transnational networks, regional organizations, and global civil society. Power itself has become more diffuse and multifaceted, encompassing not just military might but also economic leverage, technological prowess, cultural influence, and normative authority.

This book aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of current trends in international politics, examining the forces reshaping the global order and their implications for states, societies, and individuals worldwide. Drawing on extensive research and empirical evidence, it offers both a theoretical framework for understanding contemporary developments and detailed examinations of specific issues and regions. While acknowledging the complexity and uncertainty inherent in international affairs, it seeks to identify patterns, trajectories, and potential futures that can inform scholarly analysis and policy decisions alike.

The present international system is characterized by what many observers have described as a state of disarray, upheaval, and dispute. The erosion of international norms has become increasingly acute, and events have grown more unpredictable. The liberal international order established after World War II—built around principles of multilateralism, free trade, democratic governance, and human rights—faces unprecedented challenges from both within and without. Rising powers question aspects of this order that they view as serving Western interests, while populist movements within