Getting It Done: Post-Agreement Negotiation and International Regimes

Bertram I. Spector and I. William Zartman, editors United States Institute of Peace Press, 2003

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From NAFTA to NATO, from the WTO to the WHO, a vast array of international regimes manages an astounding number of regional and global problems. Yet the dynamics of these enormously influential bodies are barely understood. Scholars have scrutinized international regimes, but that scrutiny has been narrowly focused on questions of regime formation and regime compliance. Remarkably little attention has been paid to the crucial question of how regimes sustain themselves and evolve.

This pioneering work sets about correcting that neglect. As its title suggests, *Getting it Done* explores how international regimes accomplish their goals – goals that constantly shift as problems change and the power of member-states shifts. In a series of conceptually bold opening chapters, the volume editors emphasize that successful evolution depends above all on a process



of continuous negotiation – domestic as well as international – in which norms, principles, and rules are modified as circumstances and interests change.

The second part of the volume takes this framework and applies it to four case studies, two regional, two global. Each case study presents the aims, achievements, and structure of a regime and demonstrates how it adjusts its course through negotiation. A final chapter draws both theoretical and practical lessons for the future.

To read a review of the book, click here.

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