



*After Hegemony:  
Cooperation and  
Discord in the World  
Political Economy*

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Robert O. Keohane

At a time when international cooperation seems threatened by the exercise of American military power in Iraq, it is hard to remember that not so long ago some in the world were concerned about the relative decline of American might. In the early 1980s, postwar

institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade seemed threatened by the relative decline of the economic and military power of the United States after the Vietnam War and the oil embargoes of the 1970s.

In *After Hegemony* Robert Keohane contended that the continuation of international cooperation and the survival of the great international economic institutions did not depend on the continued dominance of the United States. Rather, cooperation between states had many benefits, and thus states would continue to support the institutions of international economic cooperation and share the burden of their costs as well as their benefits.

Keohane showed how self-interested countries benefited from institutionalized cooperation. The book achieved the rare feat of both providing a powerful answer to a great public debate and significantly advancing theoretical questions in its author's disciplinary field of expertise.

In 1989, in recognition for the importance of the ideas expressed in this book, the author received the prestigious Grawemeyer Award given to acknowledge outstanding proposals for improving world order.