

Transformations in Global Governance



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The old Westphalian order of sovereign nation-states is increasingly being transformed into a “postnational constellation” (Habermas) in which political authority is divided among different layers of national, international and supranational governance. Although most clearly expressed in the European Union, this process can also be observed in the international system. The global trading system, the global security order and global environmental politics are examples for new structures of governance in which the nation-state must share its authority with other states and international organizations.

How has this new structure emerged? Which were its driving forces and who were the major political actors?

Historians as well as political scientists have barely addressed the emergence of today’s world order. While the former have concentrated mainly on the international relations of the 19th century or at best examined the phase of political rebirth and reorientation that followed the Second World War, the latter have employed time-invariant approaches that do not consider the transformative elements of international interaction.

The joint doctoral program combines both research disciplines and their respective methodological and theoretical strengths, placing the historical genesis of the contemporary world order in the center. Attention is focused on the emergence and development of formal and informal institutions and organizations that gave rise to the recent era of globalization, considering both post-1945 and long-term developments.