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**“Globalization as a Challenge for Political Decisions
between Sovereignty and Interdependency”**

Kontakt

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Abstract

Globalization – simply the growing intensity, extensity, and deepening impact of worldwide interconnectedness - poses anew the classic questions of political life, namely: who rules, by what means, in whose interests and to what purpose ? In an era of a complex interdependence, states cannot comprehensively insulate their citizens from the consequences of distant events whilst domestic prosperity and human security increasingly require concerted multilateral action. This is not to argue that the forces of globalization are eclipsing sovereign states but it is to acknowledge that the necessary conditions for sovereign and democratic national government are undergoing a profound transformation. A singular expression of this transformation is evident in the significant shift from classic (post-war) multilateralism – the Bretton Woods system - to a more complex system of global management in which national governments delegate or share competencies with local, regional, transnational and global agencies (public and private) i.e. a system of multilayered global governance.

Whether, in the twenty first century, political intervention can tame globalization in ways which enhance global justice and human security will depend significantly upon the dominant values, strategic coherence and regulatory capacities of this evolving system of multilayered global governance. A fatal flaw, however, is located at the heart of this system, namely its lack of democratic credentials .For the most part it remains highly unrepresentative of the world community and scored by deep inequalities of power, influence, access and resources: a system perhaps best described as distorted global governance. Accordingly, a more democratic and accountable system of global governance, by ensuring it is representative of, as well as responsive and responsible to, the world's states and peoples, appears a necessary condition for the realization of greater global social justice.

This paper examines the trends and developments that define this emerging structural shift from government to a system of multilayered global governance and its implications for state sovereignty and national democracy. Drawing upon this analysis it reviews some of the principal defects of this system with particular attention to issues of coherence, legitimacy and effectiveness. This establishes the context for a critical examination of the necessity, desirability and feasibility of constructing more inclusive, solidaristic, and accountable forms of governance beyond the state – a system of genuine global governance. The discussion commences with a consideration of how globalization has transformed the conditions of political sovereignty and democratic governance .

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort.