Grand Challenges of Planetary Governance

Global Order in Turbulent Times

Oran R. Young, Professor Emeritus, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, University of California Santa Barbara, US

In this timely book, leading scholar Oran Young reflects on the future of the global order. Developing new lenses through which to consider needs for governance arising on a global scale, Young investigates the grand challenges of the 21st century requiring the most urgent and sustained planetary responses: protecting the Earth’s climate system; controlling the eruption of pandemics; suppressing disruptive uses of cyberspace; and guiding the biotechnology revolution.

‘Oran Young, known worldwide for his contributions to thinking about governance, has taken advantage of the isolation imposed by Covid-19 to produce a ground-breaking analysis of the distinctive challenges of the 21st century along with changes in the global order as we move beyond a western-dominated world. The result is essential reading for all those interested in governance. It will also inspire policy analysts looking for fresh perspectives on specific issues.’
– Jian Yang, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, China

‘In this timely book, Oran Young, the world’s leading authority on international governance, provides a deep analysis of 21st century challenges of planetary governance. Using a range of prominent cases, he considers different ways to think about the needs for governance and explores alternative approaches to addressing them.’
– Alexander N. Vylegzhanin, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russia

‘Oran Young is a towering intellectual – the dean of academics concerned with environmental governance. As a person also engaged with the very governance he studies, he can think profoundly and act too, powerfully and pragmatically. This combination of imagining the ideal while engaging with the actual makes him a unique guide to the future, a future that may differ drastically from the present.’
– Durwood Zaelke, Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, US