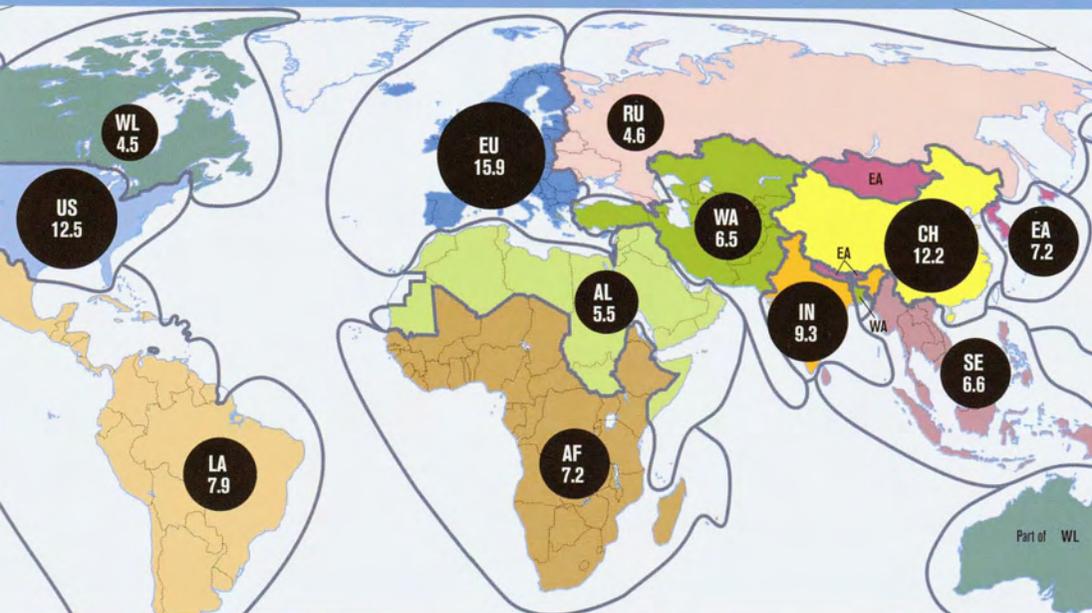




Transforming the United Nations System Designs for a Workable World

Joseph E. Schwartzberg



With a Foreword by Ramesh Thakur

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Global problems require global solutions. However, the United Nations, as presently constituted, is incapable of addressing many global problems effectively. One nation—one vote decision-making in most UN agencies fails to reflect the distribution of power in the world at large, while the allocation of power in the Security Council is both unfair and anachronistic. Hence, nations are reluctant to endow the UN with the authority and the resources it needs. Extensive reform is essential.

This book is rooted in the proposition that the design of decision-making systems greatly affects their legitimacy and effectiveness. It proposes numerous systemic improvements, largely through weighted voting formulae that balance the needs of shareholders and stakeholders in diverse UN agencies. It indicates ways by which the interests of regions can supplement those of nations and by which the voices of non-governmental organizations and ordinary citizens can also be heard. In numerous contexts, it promotes meritocracy and gender equity.

The aim is not to create an unrealistic utopia, but rather to establish a *workable* world, a world in which the force of law supplants the law of force, a world committed to justice and continuous, yet sustainable, development. Given the many existential threats now confronting our planet, the time frame for decisive action is short. The task before us is daunting and success is not guaranteed. But, in view of the urgency of our situation, we must and can find ways of mustering the will, imagination and other resources to do the job.

"This contribution of Professor Schwartzberg will be an essential reference work for all those who are concerned with the future of a new United Nations."
—Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary-General of the United Nations

"No one has thought longer or harder than Joe Schwartzberg about the challenges of designing a fairer and better world order. This book is an essential contribution to a long overdue conversation not only about UN reform but, more broadly, about what passes for our current system (or rather non-system) of global governance."

Thomas G. Weiss, Director Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies

Joseph E. Schwartzberg is Distinguished International Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota, USA.

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