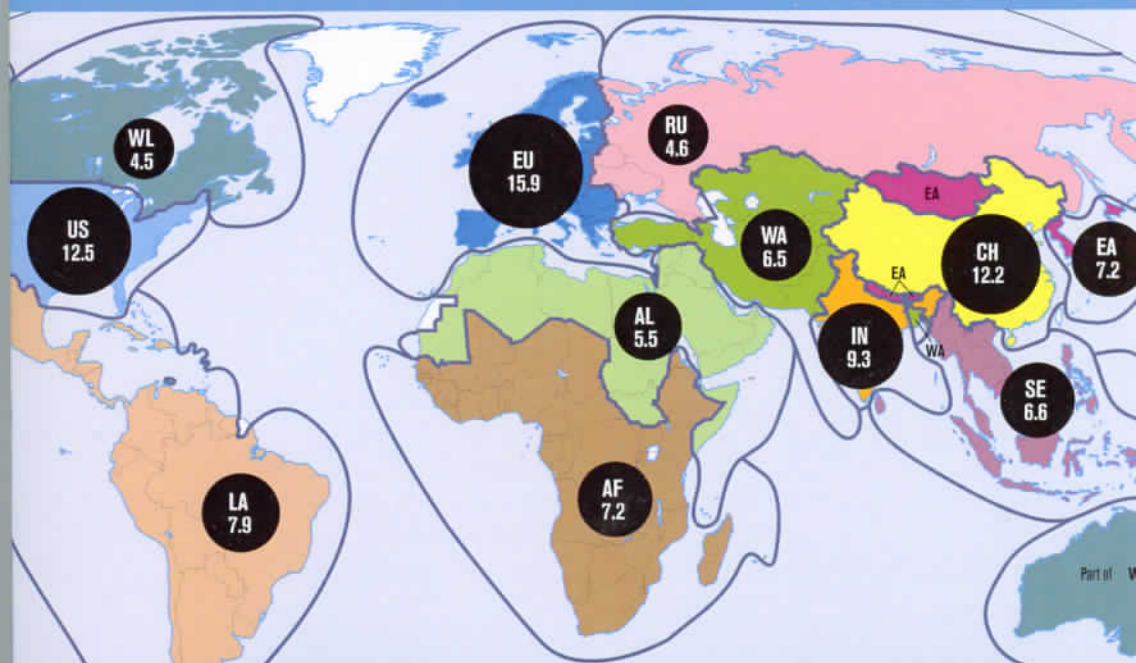




Transforming the United Nations System Designs for a Workable World

Joseph E. Schwartzberg



With a Foreword by Ramesh Thakur

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"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, sixth Secretary-General
of the United Nations

"It is a joy and a privilege to read a manuscript by Joseph Schwartzberg, replete with common sense approaches and pragmatic solutions.... Indeed, world peace requires reform of global institutions and strengthening of the rule of law, nationally and internationally."

Alfred M. de Zayas, Professor of International
Law, University of Geneva

"This volume lucidly and intelligently presents a sweeping series of new, innovative ideas designed to reform the United Nations structure and performance."

Thomas R. Pickering, former US Ambassador
to the United Nations and former US
Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs

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 United Nations 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.

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