

China, the West and the Global Development Finance Regime

Competitive Convergence

New Horizons in International Relations series

David Skidmore, Department of Political Science, Drake University, US

This compelling book examines how the rise of an illiberal China has affected the stability of the Western-dominated order through the lens of global development finance. David Skidmore demonstrates how China's growing impact on the global development finance regime has produced competitive convergence rather than divergence, emphasizing the resilience of the liberal international order.

'This book offers an important answer to one of the key questions in global political economy: how has the rise of China impacted the global development finance regime? Challenging much conventional wisdom, Skidmore highlights a process of competitive convergence and emulation between China and the West that is generating a post-neoliberal order in this realm of global economic governance. A clearly-argued and interesting book that deserves a wide audience.'

Eric Helleiner, University of Waterloo, Canada

'Skidmore offers a timely and compelling analysis of how China's rise is reshaping global development finance. Rejecting simplistic binaries, the book captures the nuanced, interactive dynamics between China, the West, and the Global South—revealing an emergent, heterogeneous regime shaped by competitive convergence rather than systemic divergence.'

– Jessica C. Liao, North Carolina State University, USA

'Does China really offer a different "model" at permanent odds with the liberal international order? With respect to development assistance, competitive convergence shows that, in fact, China is partially converging on Western norms. Compelling and well written, this book is essential reading for scholars and practitioners alike.'

– Lee Jones, Queen Mary University of London, UK

'Contesting the conventional perspective on China's development finance initiatives challenging the hegemony of US-led multilateral banks, David Skidmore masterfully argues that China's interventions within the global development financial regime have triggered competitive convergence between liberal Western and illiberal Chinese development finance norms and institutions. This is a must-read for scholars, students and practitioners interested in development finance.'

– Fumihito Gotoh, University of Sheffield, UK

'This book challenges the notion of an inevitable U.S.-China bifurcation, demonstrating how competitive convergence offers an alternative path in global development finance. A must-read for understanding how strategic rivalry drives institutional adaptation, shaping norms, policies, and the evolving international financial order.'

– Ian Tsung-yen Chen, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan



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