ABSTRACT:
The pillars of the Pax Americana are decaying. There are two critical challenges. Our interests with our closest allies have been drifting apart for decades, with increasingly serious consequences. A new populist and economic nationalist coalition has been mobilized in the United States, challenging the internationalist coalition that has prevailed at home since the second World War. These challenges are not the product of President Donald J. Trump. He is the manifestation of these challenges, not their cause. Rather, to understand these challenges requires examining anew, the role of international legitimacy and authority in world politics and recognizing that different international orders have different distributional consequences.

This essay summarizes my past research on the incentives for international hierarchy, integrates the role of domestic interests into that theory, and explores the nature and role of international legitimacy in the study of world order. Part II examines the Pax Americana, and contrasts this order with those found in the Caribbean basin and Middle East. The final section outlines the changing incentives for cooperation between the United States and Europe, discusses the rise of populism in the United States, and suggests ways of addressing the current challenges to internationalism.

BIO:
David Lake is currently the President of the American Political Science Association. He was the co-editor of the journal, International Organization (1997-2001), founding chair of the International Political Economy Society (2005-2012), Program Co-Chair of the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (2007), and President of the International Studies Association (2010-2011). At UC San Diego, Lake has served as Research Director for International Relations at the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (1992-1996 and 2000-2001), chair of the Political Science department
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Lake has published widely in international relations theory and international political economy. His most recent book is The Statebuilder’s Dilemma: On the Limits of External Intervention (2016). In addition to nearly 100 scholarly articles and chapters, he is the author of Power, Protection, and Free Trade: International Sources of U.S. Commercial Strategy, 1887-1939 (1988), Entangling Relations: American Foreign Policy in its Century (1999), and Hierarchy in International Relations (2009). He has also co-edited ten volumes on a variety of topics in international political economy, security studies, and international organizations. He is co-author of a comprehensive textbook on World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions (Third Edition 2016).