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Is Global Institutional Reform a False Promise?

Christian Barry†

Comment on Richard Miller’s *Global Institutional Reform and Global Social Movements: From False Promise to Realistic Hope*

Introduction	523
I. Premises	524
II. Strategies for Addressing Harmful Outcomes	525
III. Prima Facie Reasons to Seek Global Institutional Reform	526
A. Potential Benefit	527
B. Revealed Preferences	530
C. Visibility	533
D. The Unattractive Alternative: Bilateral Bullying	534
Conclusion	534

Introduction

In *Global Institutional Reform and Global Social Movements: From False Promise to Realistic Hope*,¹ Miller tackles the important and difficult question of what kinds of political strategies ought to be adopted by those who find morally unacceptable the extent and depth of shortfalls that persons currently suffer in their health, civic status, or standard of living relative to the ordinary needs and requirements of human beings.² Following Miller, I will call such people the “friends of humanity.”³ Miller concludes that those friends of humanity who currently seek to bring about enduring changes in social conditions to eliminate, or at least substantially lessen, severe harms by developing and implementing large-scale reforms of global institutions will most likely harm those they intend to help:

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1. Richard Miller, *Global Institutional Reform and Global Social Movements: From False Promise to Realistic Hope*, 39 CORNELL INT’L L.J. 501 (2006).

2. I shall refer to such shortfalls as “harms” or “severe harms” throughout this comment.

3. Miller, *supra* note 1, at 501.

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