

# INTELLIGENT GOVERNANCE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



A MIDDLE WAY BETWEEN WEST AND EAST

Nicolas Berggruen & Nathan Gardels

**Why have the Western democracies found it so difficult to reach long-term solutions to persistent problems of social welfare and productivity? What lessons does China have to teach about raising citizens out of poverty? Nicolas Berggruen and Nathan Gardels challenge East and West to learn from each other before it is too late.**

For decades, liberal democracy has been extolled as the best system of governance to have emerged out of the long experience of history. Today, such a confident assertion is far from self-evident. Democracy, in crisis across the West, must prove itself.

In the West today, the authors argue, we no longer live in "industrial democracies," but in "consumer democracies" in which the short-term governing ethos has ended up drowning households and governments in debt and resulted in paralyzing partisanship. In contrast, the long-term focus of the decisive leadership of China is boldly moving its nation into the future. But China also faces challenges arising from its meteoric rise. Its burgeoning middle class will increasingly demand more participation, greater government accountability, and an extension of the rule of law.

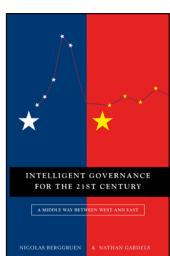
As the 21st century unfolds, both of these core systems of the global order must contend with a genuinely multi-polar world where no single power dominates and in which societies themselves are becoming increasingly diverse. Meeting these unprecedented challenges requires a new system of "intelligent governance" which devolves power and meaningfully involves citizens in matters of their competence to reconcile knowledgeable democracy with accountable meritocracy.

This timely volume is both a conceptual and a practical guide of impressive scope to the challenges of good governance as the world continues to undergo profound transformation in the coming decades.

( ...continued )

*"Humankind has come a long way in the past 5,000 years. Never have so many lived so well and so freely for so long, traveled so far and experienced so much. We know how to transplant organs, clone creatures, regenerate cells, and instantly flash data around the world through fiber optic cables or satellite signals. We can even peer into the distant origins of the universe.*

*Yet, our systems of governance so far have lagged behind in organizing a good society that works for all. Vast inequality and illiteracy persist. Half of humanity still lives in poverty. Billions lack basic freedoms, not to mention the requisite minimums for personal self realization. All too often, violence remains the favoured manner to settle scores and disputes."*



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**The authors will be in the UK 5 – 8 November 2012 and are available for interview.**

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**Nicolas Berggruen** is the founder and president of Berggruen Holdings, a private investment company, and the Berggruen Institute on Governance, a think tank devoted to addressing governance issues.

**Nathan Gardels** is a senior advisor at the Berggruen Institute, editor of New Perspectives Quarterly, and editor in chief, Global Services, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

"A brilliantly insightful and provocative book on the central issue of our time: effective governance. Democracies and autocratic systems are both at risk of failure on a broad front. Berggruen and Gardels courageously invite us and the next generation to tackle this problem head on, with humility and open minds."

- **Michael Spence, Nobel Laureate, Chairman of the World Bank Commission on Growth and Development, and author of The Next Convergence**

"Berggruen and Gardels bring invaluable insights into why our Western democracies have become so dysfunctional. They argue that unless we develop a long-term governance perspective, today's 'consumer democracy' will undermine its own future. A brilliant starting point in an urgently needed discussion about how we govern ourselves in this new era."

- **Arianna Huffington, Editor-in-Chief, Huffington Post/AOL**

"Do we have something to learn from China's political experience? The authors breach the taboo and say yes, imagining a political system that combines accountability and meritocracy and sketching an emergent globalization that could reenergize multilateralism. Truly a thought-provoking book."

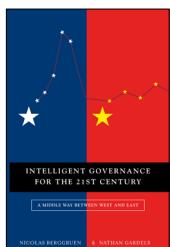
- **Pascal Lamy, Director General of the World Trade Organization**

"Drawing on precepts and practices from both West and East, Berggruen and Gardels provide a thoughtful and attention-grabbing view on what constitutes 'intelligent governance.' Required reading for anyone reflecting on how best to deal with the multiplying challenges faced by all our societies."

- **Zhang Weiwei, author of The China Wave: Rise of a Civilizational State**

"The rise of the West once led to the subjugation of the East. Will the rise of the East lead inevitably to another cycle of war and revolution in the world, or will we have the wisdom to break that cycle? This moral challenge confronts each of us as political citizens of the planet we share, and Berggruen and Gardels put it squarely before the reader."

- **George Yeo, former foreign minister of Singapore**



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