



*The European Review of Organised Crime*

## ***Book Review***

**Crime, Security and Global Politics: An Introduction to Global Crime Governance,** by Anja P. Jacobi, London: Red Globe Press. Pages: 285. Paperback – 9781137467997, \$41.99. Hardcover – 9781137468000, \$95.99.

Attempts to govern crime at the global level date back to late 19th century, and since the founding of the United Nations and other international organizations with mandates concerning responses to various forms of illicit cross-border conduct, global crime governance has been part and parcel of domestic politics and foreign policy. Throughout this time, crime governance has been deeply entwined with the uneven progresses of economic development, securitization and digitization, giving rise to patchy response mechanisms, often questioning the crime control capacity of the international community.

Anja P. Jakobi's accessible and highly informative book on global crime and its governance dives deep into the various dimensions of transnational organized crime and its multiple manifestations around the world, covering such crimes as trafficking in drugs and persons, environmental crime and financial crimes, and cybercrime, among other cross-border economic crimes.

*The European Review of Organised Crime* 6(1), 2019, pp. 10-35.

ISSN: 2312-1653

© ECPR Standing Group of Organised Crime.

For permissions please email: [european.review.oc@gmail.com](mailto:european.review.oc@gmail.com)

The book provides an account of existing responses to these crimes, looking at both nearly-universal as well as regional and domestic mechanisms, demonstrating that global crime governance involves both national, regional, and global processes and is dependent on the input not from governments alone but also from civil society and the private sector.

The author rightfully emphasizes that many crimes have only been recognized after civil society actors pushed for its criminalization. Therefore, global crime governance is more than just a constellation of political processes among sovereign states and intergovernmental organizations. According to Jakobi, multi-stakeholder action lies in the heart of what global crime governance is—it is a form of governing or overseeing the control of transnational organized crime by the means of transnational processes with the involvement of at least one non-state actor.

Chapter 1 covers pertinent conceptual and theoretical questions, setting the ground for an overview of global crime presented in Chapter 2. In Chapter 2, Jakobi reviews the literature on definition and structure of organized crime, demonstrating how global crime operates and impacts global security. In Chapter 3, the focus is shifted to the existing mechanisms and tools that constitute global crime governance. Through the International Relations disciplinary lenses, the chapter offers explanations of global crime governance, enlarging on cooperation against crime and explaining differing outcomes, elucidates the design of global cooperation, and elaborating on politics and principles of countermeasures. Whereas Chapter 3 covered the main principles of governing global crime and the intricate political aspects intertwined with it, Chapter 4 extends the discussion of global crime governance with an in-depth analysis of international cooperation against transnational organized crime. Jakobi describes a wide variety of institutions and measures of international cooperation, zooming in on international and regional policing organizations (e.g., INTERPOL) and other international efforts to

counter crime, such as those led by the Vienna-seated United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Moving away from the multilateral elements of global crime governance, Chapter 5 is dedicated to unilateral contributions of individual states to countering transnational organized crime. Here Jakobi presents an analysis of the ways of influence and innovative tools used by the United States towards countering transnational organized crime. Chapter 6 makes room for a discussion of the different ways in which non-state actors contribute to the fight against global crime, looking at such dimensions as the development of counter-crime policies with inputs from civil society organizations and the private sector.

After Chapter 6, the book breaks into the review of specific crimes. More specifically, Chapter 7 is dedicated to the topic of the illicit drug trade, to which Jakobi refers to as “the prototype of global crime,” making a claim that the global prohibition regime against narcotic drugs is in many ways a prime example of global crime governance. In this chapter, the author describes the types of narcotic drugs, discusses their production and trafficking routes, elaborates on the current global and national counter-efforts and the challenges that exist in their implementation. Violence, conflict and crime is the focus of Chapter 8 that unveils the link between violence, warfare, political terrorism and global crime, emphasizing the blurring boundaries of crime, war and violence. Continuing the multidimensional perspective on security, Jakobi unpacks the crime of human trafficking in Chapter 9. In this chapter, human trafficking and smuggling, modern slavery and organ trafficking are discussed, highlighting their importance to the broader understanding of security despite the fact that on many occasions these crimes were only seen a side issue in global crime governance. The next chapter, Chapter 10, presents a myriad of issues related to global environmental crime. To show the breadth of this crime, the chapter elaborates on the blurry definition of the concept and its link to environmental change

and security, such as species decline, resource depletion and disposal problems. Chapters 11 and 12 are dedicated to financial crime and cybercrime, respectively. Chapter 13 concludes the book, summarizing and comparing the main actors and principles of global crime governance, offering a few future scenarios for how global crime governance may develop in the future.

Altogether, the book is divided into 13 chapters, including introduction and conclusion as stand-alone chapters, and thus allows for the book's easy adoption for a survey course in a typical fifteen-week-long semester. Each chapter comes with boxes that contain case studies or practical information that may be assigned to students for further examination. At the end of each chapter, Jacobi provides focus questions and further reading suggestions. These pedagogical features should be of value to instructors as well as students who are offered ways to optimize their teaching and learning experiences and are provided with didactic guidance throughout the book.

Overall, the book makes an important contribution to the understanding of how transnational organized crime has been tackled at the global level. It is a fine text that elaborates on the linkages between politics and security, human rights and economic considerations and development. It will serve well in any introductory course to global security and international criminal justice and can potentially appeal to students across the social sciences more broadly.

Yuliya Zabyelina,  
Associate Professor,  
Department of Political Science,  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice,  
City University of New York (CUNY)  
Email: [yzabyelina@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:yzabyelina@jjay.cuny.edu)