Food Security Governance
Empowering communities, regulating corporations

By Nora McKeon | January 2015
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‘Global food governance is at crossroads. The rich world is over-consuming; the poor continue to lose out; meanwhile global systems of governance have not fully risen to the challenge. This book is an overdue account of the fight over reform. It is a fine reminder that food democracy is the key to feeding everyone equitably, healthily, affordably and sustainably.’ – Tim Lang, City University, London, UK

‘At such an uncertain time in global food provisioning, Nora McKeon’s book offers an exceptional perspective. Not only does she evaluate the organization and politics of the world’s food systems with erudition, but also she provides brilliant practitioner insights from within the UN Committee on World Food Security and the Food Sovereignty movement. The result is a lively account of food system crisis, competing paradigms and new questions of governance in an accessible and forward-looking analysis.’ – Philip McMichael, Cornell University, USA

‘Nora McKeon does a superb job at describing how governments have allowed markets and corporations to take control of food systems, and which tools could be used to provide healthier diets, ensure greater resilience, and empower communities.’ – Olivier De Schutter, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

‘Brilliant! An eye-opening tour of the march to democratize global food governance…A must-read for all who want to go beyond competing “issues” to governance itself -- and real solutions.’ – Frances Moore Lappé, author of Diet for a Small Planet

‘…a must-read for both social activists and academics involved in the realms of agriculture, food, justice and social movements. But it is equally an accessible and highly informative source for interested members of the general public.’ – Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, Wageningen University, Netherlands

This book fills a gap in the literature by setting food security in the context of evolving global food governance. Today’s food system generates hunger alongside of food waste, burgeoning health problems, massive greenhouse gas emissions. Applying food system analysis to review how the international community has addressed food issues since WWII, this book proceeds to explain how actors link up in corporate global food chains and in the local food systems that feed most of the world’s population. It unpacks relevant paradigms – from productivism to food sovereignty – and highlights the significance of adopting a rights-based approach to solving food problems. The author describes how communities around the world are protecting their access to resources and building better ways of producing and accessing food, and discusses the reformed Committee on World Food Security, a uniquely inclusive global policy forum, and how it could be supportive of efforts from the base. The book concludes by identifying terrains on which work is needed to adapt the practice of the democratic public sphere and accountable governance to a global dimension and extend its authority to the world of markets and corporations.

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Author Biography:
Following studies at Harvard and the Sorbonne and a career at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Nora McKeon is now engaged in teaching, writing and advocacy on food issues and social movements

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