

Institutions Without Government

Political Science

What institutions do when there is no world government.

Functions and limits.

Functions

Provide information about compliance

Reduce the cost of making agreements

Create focal points for coordination

Lengthen the shadow of the future

Confer legitimacy on actions

Limits

Enforcement depends on member states

Powerful states can ignore rulings

Membership rules can entrench old power

Consensus requirements produce paralysis

Educational reference. Institutions matter most for coordination problems and least where core security interests are at stake.