**VandVandenbergh, Michael P., and Jonathan M. Gilligan. *Beyond Politics: The Private Governance Response to Climate Change*. Cambridge, United Kingdom; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2017.**

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Amid the age of globalization, marketization, and decentralization of environmental governance, scholarship on private environmental regime has proliferated over the past decades and greatly influenced the discourse in international environmental politics. Among such literature, the book aims to argue for the benefits of private governance on climate change, in response to the various functional issues of conventional government public policy have been raised. As expressed in the title of the book, “Beyond Politics,” the authors particularly emphasize the emerging conceptual shift of global climate governance – from the traditionally dominant government policy to the new form of governance by the private sector, such as corporations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals including households and consumers. The authors’ work adds to the growing awareness of the role of private environmental governance by demonstrating numerous examples of private climate governance and develop a theory to explain the growing demand of the new regime.

This extraordinarily ambitious book starts with a comprehensive description of climate change science and social impacts, followed by history of action and inaction due to various political, social, and psychological barriers and an extensive number of scholarly perspectives on governance challenge, along with numerous cases of private voluntary activities by corporations, NGOs, and individuals. The authors' work will be highly utilized in advancing environmental governance studies both theoretically and practically. The book, therefore, should be read not only by scholars from the various field of studies, such as political science, law, economics, and psychology, but also by business persons in various industrial sectors and, needless to say, environmental activists and students.

Throughout their discussion, the authors evaluate opportunities and benefits of private governance from the perspective of (1) how much emission reduction would be possible if all household and corporate behavior change occurred (“technical potential”); (2) how much behavioral change can be expected (“behavioral plasticity”); and (3) to what extent private voluntary initiatives are accepted and implemented (“initiative feasibility”). The authors assert that voluntary initiatives based on corporations, NGOs and individuals’ motivation, together with carefully designed private initiatives and continuously developed new technologies, make private climate governance “promising” for the problem mitigation, even when it is absent of the coercive power and resources of government. Whereas public governance approach is often inflexible, bureaucratic, slow in implementation, and restricting business and consumer activities by command and control regulatory framework, private governance is economically and politically more feasible, promotes environmental innovation, and fast and flexible in making. Moreover, private governance can leverage the international trade system for expanding pressure for climate mitigation across borders where national governments are out of reach in regulating economic actors.

Indeed, hundreds of initiatives, standards, code of conducts are collectively pressuring global business activities and creating new social values as the authors discuss. The additional research agenda suggested below would help farther inspire readers for their climate policy engagement. First of all, even though the data and cases about voluntary practices by the private sectors provided in the book (between Chapters 4 and 7) are countless, they are somewhat anecdotal, and the entire picture of the proliferation of private regimes and its efficacy that the authors aim to argue are hard to be deduced. An expanded sector-based analysis could help here to clear potential selection bias in the theoretical generalization because the environmental impact of business activities tremendously varies based on industry – from IT, services, manufacturing, to infrastructure, and extractive industries.

Secondly, more extensive analysis of risk and limitation of private governance would enhance the readers’ learning to strategize policy-making and to make the roadmap more promising. Fixing market failure – such as negative externality, information asymmetry, monopolistic competition, and moral hazard – by using the same market system is plausibly very challenging. Private actors, especially corporations and consumers, are both contributors and troublemakers at the same time in terms of creating a sustainable world. While they provide innovation and ideas for efficient resource use, they are the very cause of pollution and overconsumption. Similarly, increasingly freer global trade activities, which can be an effective tool for promoting higher environmental standards in global product chains, is also the very system that proliferated race to bottom problems in every corner of global society and ecosystems.

Finally, analysis of the correlation between public and private governance, rather than disconnecting the two, may give more positive inspirations to readers. Small government approach is not necessarily faster and efficient, and large government approach is not always restricting corporate and household activities. National governments fund environmental infrastructure and promote technological and economic innovation, such as upgrading energy grid to lower energy costs and incentivizing fuel-efficient automobile manufacturers and buyers by reducing taxes and regularizing priority traffic lanes. International government organizations also pose a normative influence on corporate and consumers’ ecological decision-making. Private actors’ value is inevitably embedded in the political and social system, and those two may not be disconnected from each other.