

Preface and Acknowledgments

ON APRIL 1, 2005, a group of leading experts from academia, industry, and the nonprofit sector met in New Haven, Connecticut, at the Yale Law School, under the auspices of the Yale Information Society Project (ISP). For the next two and a half days they discussed, presented, and argued the implications of global flows of information that were rapidly transforming the global society. The Conference on the Global Flow of Information featured lively panels and presentations on topics as varied as governance, economics, culture, politics, science, and warfare—how the global flows of information affect these areas, and how these in turn affect global flows. At the end of the conference it was decided that the best articles would be chosen to be compiled and edited into a book, to be published by New York University Press. Accordingly, fourteen papers were selected by the editors, and the respective authors were invited to revise and resubmit their work for the book.

That was the beginning of this volume. It has been five years in the making. Unfortunately, a variety of circumstances conspired to slow down progress on the book. But finally, thanks to the persistence of the Yale ISP's founder-director, Jack Balkin, and executive director, Laura DeNardis, we (the editors) made a determined push in 2009 to get the book finished within a year. Of course, by then some of the papers had become dated and had to be returned to the authors for further revision. The authors of one of the articles pulled out. One of the authors unfortunately suffered an untimely death. But despite these setbacks, almost all of the original authors remained committed to the process—a testament to the temporal relevance of the topic. The revised chapters began arriving, and the final book began to take shape by the end of 2009. What you hold in your hand is the result of this long process.

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A book such as this does not happen just as a result of the efforts of its editors. Numerous actors have played critical roles in the final outcome and should be recognized. First, we thank all of the authors for their unstinting support, understanding, and patience; without them, there would be no book to speak of. Also, without the constant support and encouragement of Jack Balkin and Laura DeNardis, the book would never have made it to the publisher. Thank you both. We also thank Deborah Gershenowitz, senior editor at NYU Press, for her patience through all the years this book was in the making. We appreciate her efforts at shepherding it through the editorial process. Finally, we thank all the fellows and staff of the Yale ISP—a truly dynamic combination of pragmatists, idealists, and thinkers who offered constant feedback and other support throughout the book’s development. Thank you all, once again, and we hope you enjoy reading this book.

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