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Representation and Power in International Organization: The Operational Constitution and Its Critics

Jacob Katz Cogan 209

After World War II, representation in international organizations evolved through the use of formal and informal arrangements that reconciled conflicting representational principles and interests. This “operational constitution” sometimes moderated regional tensions but most often rewarded power. After elucidating this regime, the author examines contemporary stresses placed on it by those who assert that it does not reflect current power dynamics and those who repudiate informality and preferences, and considers the operational constitution’s future in light of these challenges.

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