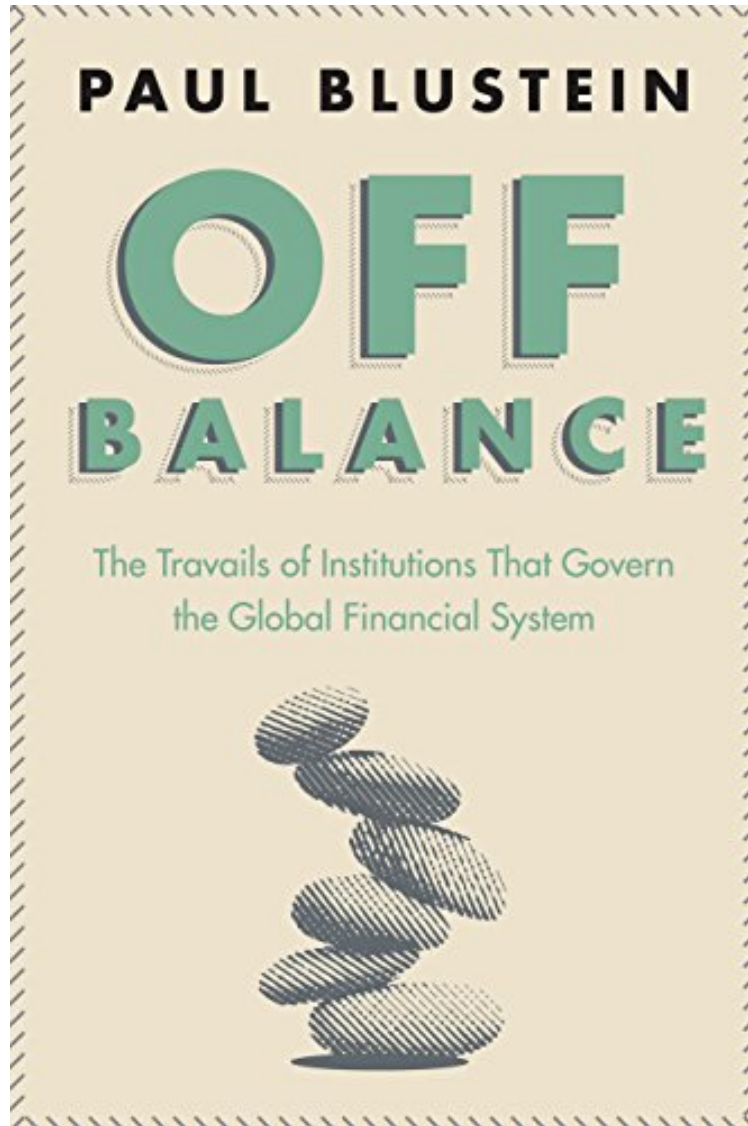


Off Balance: The Travails of Institutions That Govern the Global Financial System

Paul Blustein

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Paul Blustein : Off Balance: The Travails of Institutions That Govern the Global Financial System before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Off Balance: The Travails of Institutions That Govern the Global Financial System:

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only critique, and it is not the authors' fault, is that the subject is a bit dry and so only the most interested and committed readers may stick with it.

Award-winning journalist and author Paul Blustein has received wide acclaim for his books about the inner workings of international economic institutions, notably the International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization. In *Off Balance*, he weaves a compelling narrative that details the failings of such institutions in the global financial crisis that erupted in 2008. Based on interviews with scores of policy makers and on thousands of pages of confidential documents to which Blustein obtained exclusive access, the book focusses mainly on the IMF and the Financial Stability Forum in the run-up to and early months of the crisis. Blustein exposes serious weaknesses in these and other institutions, which lead to sobering conclusions about the governability of the global economy.

"Much of the world's ability to mitigate the consequences of its periodic financial crises depends on the capacity of its multilateral institutions to bridge the gap between the sovereignty of nations and the inevitable globalization of their economies. Paul Blustein's extensive experience and his ability to explain the complex in human terms drives this point home in no uncertain terms." The Right Honourable Paul Martin, former Prime Minister of Canada