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## Losing Control?: Sovereignty in the Age of Globalization (Leonard Hastings Schoff Lectures)

*Saskia Sassen*

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**Saskia Sassen : Losing Control?: Sovereignty in the Age of Globalization (Leonard Hastings Schoff Lectures)**  
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Losing Control?: Sovereignty in the Age of Globalization (Leonard Hastings Schoff Lectures):

12 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Mostly Fluff  
By Hiroo Yamagata  
I was very much disappointed by this book. She talks about "globalization", yet never shows exactly what she means by this, and most of her arguments rely on anecdotes. Her argument goes like this; There's more overseas production, there are huge multi-nationals, and there's an international capital market, and then there are international issues that goes beyond the national boundaries.

Therefore, the sovereign nation is losing power. While these are all true, the most important question is; to what extent? She never addresses this, and so, the whole book amounts to not much than some trendy talk of "Oh the world is global now and everything's different". So, forget this book. There's nothing in this book that is not thoroughly and plainly explained by, say, Paul Krugman's "Pop Internationalism" or even his "Age of Diminished Expectations". These books provide much better value and information for our money. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Basics for the Beginner -- Still Great Work By Bocasdeltorro Okay, so as a previous reviewer said, this is hardly the most dense and detailed study... but not every text needs to be. Sassen is one of the most brilliant thinkers working on the issues, contexts and problems of "globalization" today (no matter if you ultimately agree with her views or not, you cannot deny her grasp of the issues. She is a creative thinker not afraid to let her work show her growth as a scholar and practical worker on world issues. This may not be her finest work, and it is not her most recent, but it is a great primer for those who want to understand the basics of the new "global" order(s) of things without resorting to "XYZ for Idiots/for Dummies" books. From here, you can go on to agree or disagree with her conclusions and predictions with a decent grasp of what is going on... so, in that sense, this is a fine book.

-- Urban Studies

.com In a world of free trade, the Internet and mass migration, national borders seem to matter less and less. What implications does this hold for citizenship, sovereignty and other old-fashioned features of political and economic life? Sassen says that we're headed for a future of international mediating organizations like the United Nations and the European Community. She hesitates to make sweeping judgments, but ably lays out the possible contours of the next world order. A good companion to Kenichi Ohmae's *The End of the Nation State*. Sassen is particularly concerned with the transformation wrought by globalization on the national state and its basic attributes: sovereignty, exclusive territoriality, and citizenship. She does a fine job of outlining the positive and negative aspects of this process. (World Affairs) Sassen writes with a clarity that sacrifices none of the complexity of the issues she addresses. (Choice) From the Inside Flap The past decade has seen great changes in the way business is transacted across national borders. Because of unprecedented advances in telecommunication and computer networks, money is transferred in electronic space. U.S. firms such as Ford, IBM, and Exxon now employ well over fifty percent of their workers overseas, ranking both domestic workers who argue that jobs are being exported while unemployment soars at home and activists who contend that wealthy corporations are exploiting low-wage workers in Third World nations. And as immigration levels soar, the very concept of citizenship has moved to the top of political agendas around the world. What determines the flow of labor and capital in this new global information economy? Who has the capacity to coordinate this new system, to create a measure of order? And what happens to territoriality and sovereignty, two fundamental principles of the modern state? *Losing Control?* is a major addition to our understanding of these questions. Examining the rise of private transnational legal codes and supranational institutions such as the World Trade Organization and universal human rights covenants, Saskia Sassen argues that sovereignty remains an important feature of the international system, but that it is no longer confined to the nation-state. Sassen argues that a profound transformation is taking place, a partial denationalizing of national territory seen in such agreements as NAFTA and the European Union. Two arenas stand out in the new spatial and economic order: the global capital market and the series of codes and institutions that have mushroomed into an international human rights regime. As Sassen shows, these two quasi-legal realms now have the power and legitimacy to demand account-ability from national governments, with the ironic twist that both depend upon the state to enforce their goals. From the economic policy shifts forced by the Mexico debt crisis to the recurring battles over immigration and refugees around the world, *Losing Control?* presents an incisive review of the affairs that are radically altering the landscape of governance in the era of globalization.