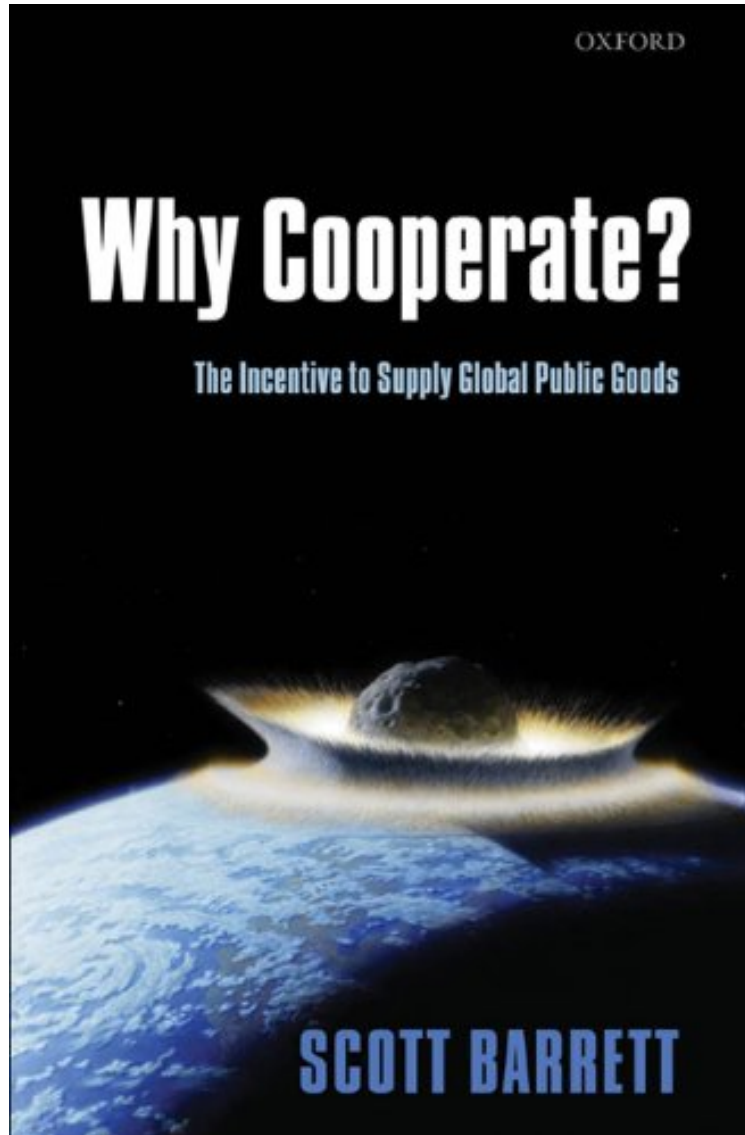


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## Why Cooperate?: The Incentive to Supply Global Public Goods

*Scott Barrett*

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**Scott Barrett : Why Cooperate?: The Incentive to Supply Global Public Goods** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why Cooperate?: The Incentive to Supply Global Public Goods:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A worthy successor to Environment and Statecraft By Daniel H. Cole In his previous book, Environment and Statecraft, Scott Barrett elaborated an extremely useful game theory-based approach to international treaty-making. In his new book, Why Cooperate?, Barrett once again applies game theory, in an accessible and convincing way, to several different international cooperation or coordination issues, including climate change, disease eradication, and catastrophe avoidance (e.g., asteroid strikes). Perhaps the book's most

important contribution is to unpack the concept of "global public good," by illustrating that different types of global public goods have different properties that (a) make them easier or more difficult to provide and (b) require different approaches to resolving collective action problems. In the first three chapters, Barrett identifies and compares three general types of global public goods: "single best effort" goods; "weakest link" goods; and "aggregate effort goods." In the rest of the book, he addresses the different issues that confront international efforts to provide those various goods. The book is an extremely valuable contribution to several different literatures, including game theory, international relations, climate change, and economic development. Barrett's clear and engaging prose makes it accessible and useful for advanced scholars and casual readers alike. VERY highly recommended.

Climate change, nuclear proliferation, and the threat of a global pandemic have the potential to impact each of our lives. Preventing these threats poses a serious global challenge, but ignoring them could have disastrous consequences. How do we engineer institutions to change incentives so that these global public goods are provided? Scott Barrett provides a thought provoking and accessible introduction to the issues surrounding the provision of global public goods. Using a variety of examples to illustrate past successes and failures, he shows how international cooperation, institutional design, and the clever use of incentives can work together to ensure the effective delivery of global public goods.