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Book Review: The End of Authority: How a Loss of Legitimacy and Broken Trust are Endangering Our Future, by Douglas E. Schoen

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Schoen, Douglas E. **The end of authority: how a loss of legitimacy and broken trust are endangering our future.** Rowman & Littlefield, 2013. 261p index afp ISBN 9781442220317, \$26.00; ISBN 9781442220324 ebook, \$25.99.

In this magisterial work, Schoen, best known as a high-powered pollster and political analyst, presents a provocative and powerfully argued thesis that governments face a crisis of authority that undermines their ability to generate loyalty and support. So profound is this situation that "we face a crisis that threatens the political and economic foundations of the global order," he says. Schoen argues that "the crisis of authority stems from the failure of institutions, especially of government but also of business to provide effective leadership." The consequence, Schoen writes, is that "the loss of trust is rendering us, in a collective sense, impotent and inactive in the face of enormous global challenges." Schoen calls on readers to "reform and improve international institutional leadership," to "strengthen nation-state governance," and to "direct specific reform and relief efforts ... in order to ensure that the benefits ... reach the people for whom they're intended." This book is data rich, and the author never gets out ahead of the evidence. If Schoen's thesis is true, the global crisis of leadership is more of a threat than climate change or international conflicts.

—M. A. Genovese, *Loyola Marymount University*

Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readership levels.