The literature on global redistributive justice deals primarily with the important-yet-unresolved issues of why global wealth redistribution may be morally justified or beneficial. However, philosophers and economists who address these issues often do not address the question of how such redistribution should take place.

While there is deep controversy as to whether affluent individuals and countries have an obligation to promote international distributive justice, there is a growing understanding that distributive considerations play an important role in international relations. Most international agreements have a distributive impact, which inevitably raises distributive questions and controversies. Given this impact, policymakers have to be attentive to international distributive considerations and may seek to promote some international redistribution to achieve certain moral and (more likely) political ends. Under certain realistic circumstances international tax redistributive efforts would offer a more effective redistributive option compared to other alternatives.

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