

# The Role Of Non-State Actors In The Modern System Of International Relations

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Received: 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025 | Received Revised Version: 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025 | Accepted: 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025 | Published: 08<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

Volume 08 Issue 01 2026 | Crossref DOI: 10.37547/tajpslc/Volume08Issue01-04

## Abstract

*The article analyzes the role of non-state actors in the modern system of international relations in the context of the processes of globalization and transformation of world politics. The thesis is substantiated about expanding the composition of participants in international processes beyond the borders of nation states, including international non-governmental organizations, transnational corporations, transnational networks, the media, as well as individual influential actors. It is shown that non-state actors have a significant impact on the formation of the international agenda, political decision-making processes, regulation of global problems and the development of multi-level governance mechanisms. Particular attention is paid to analyzing the forms and directions of interaction of non-state actors with states and intergovernmental organizations, as well as identifying the contradictory nature of their activities, combining elements of cooperation and competition. A conclusion is drawn about the trend of a steady increase in the role of non-state actors in world politics, which necessitates a revision of traditional theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of international relations and taking into account new forms of global political interaction.*

**Keywords:** Non-state actors, international relations, globalization, world politics, international non-governmental organizations, transnational corporations, multi-level governance, international interaction.

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**Cite This Article:** Tohirjanov Qobuljon Qodirjon ugli, & Odiljonov Komronbek Komil ugli. (2026). The Role Of Non-State Actors In The Modern System Of International Relations. The American Journal of Political Science Law and Criminology, 8(01), 27–29. <https://doi.org/10.37547/tajpslc/Volume08Issue01-04>

## 1. Introduction

The modern system of international relations is undergoing profound structural changes due to the processes of globalization, informatization and the complication of the world political architecture. Under these conditions, the traditional state-centric paradigm, which has long dominated the theory and practice of international relations, is gradually losing its explanatory sufficiency. Along with nation states, non-state actors, whose activities significantly influence the dynamics of international processes, are beginning to play an

increasingly significant role in world politics [1; 2].

Non-state actors in modern scientific literature refer to international non-governmental organizations, transnational corporations, transnational networks, the media, think tanks, and individuals with significant political, economic or symbolic capital [3]. Their active participation is manifested in such areas as international security, humanitarian action, global economic regulation, protection of human rights and shaping the international agenda.

The relevance of studying the role of non-state actors is determined by the fact that they not only complement the activities of states and intergovernmental organizations, but also in some cases act as independent centers of influence capable of transforming decision-making mechanisms at the international level [4]. How notes J. Nye, modern world politics is characterized by a shift in emphasis from «hard power» states to forms «soft power» in the implementation of which non-state actors play a key role [5].

At the same time, the influence of non-state actors is contradictory. On the one hand, they contribute to the development of multi-level global governance and expanded international cooperation, on the other hand — can increase inequality, undermine state sovereignty and create new challenges to international stability [6]. In this regard, there is a need for a comprehensive scientific analysis of their place and functions in the modern system of international relations.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the role of non-state actors in the transformation of world politics, as well as to identify the main forms and mechanisms of their interaction with states and intergovernmental organizations in the context of globalization.

## 2. Method

In modern studies of international relations, to analyze the role of non-state actors, a set of interdisciplinary and multi-level methods is used to identify the specifics of their functioning and impact on global political processes.

One key approach is the systemic method, which views international relations as a holistic, dynamic system in which non-state actors act as important structural elements interacting with states and international organizations. This method allows us to determine the place and functions of non-state actors in a multi-level architecture of global governance.

Institutional analysis aimed at studying the formal and informal institutionalization of the activities of non-state actors, as well as their participation in the development of international norms, agreements and regimes, is widely used. Within the framework of this approach, special attention is paid to mechanisms for legitimizing their activities and interaction with intergovernmental structures.

The network approach is used to explore transnational linkages and communication channels through which non-state actors form global coalitions, promote values and influence decision-making processes. This method allows us to identify horizontal forms of interaction that go beyond hierarchical government structures.

Additionally, content analysis is used to explore the discursive influence of non-state actors through the media, official statements, reports from international organizations and digital platforms. In combination with the comparative method, it provides an opportunity to identify differences in the role and effectiveness of non-state actors in different regions and political contexts.

The integrated use of these methods provides a comprehensive analysis of the phenomenon of non-state actors and allows us to more accurately assess their growing importance in the modern system of international relations.

## 3. Recommendations

Based on the analysis, it seems appropriate to formulate the following scientific and practical recommendations:

- Develop comprehensive theoretical models that take into account the interaction of state and non-state actors in conditions of multi-level global governance.
- Strengthen legal and regulatory regulation of the activities of non-state actors at the international and national levels in order to increase transparency and responsibility of their participation in world politics.
- Expand the mechanisms of institutional dialogue between states, international organizations and non-state structures when solving global problems.
- To make more active use of the potential of international NGOs and expert networks in the field of preventive diplomacy, sustainable development and humanitarian cooperation.
- Continue empirical research aimed at assessing the real influence of non-state actors on international political decision-making processes.

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