



GRZEGORZ W. KOLODKO, an intellectualist and policymaker, was Poland's deputy prime minister and minister of finance from 1994 to 1997 and from 2002 to 2003. He is now a professor of political economy at Kozminski University in Warsaw and the author of nearly forty books and dozens of research papers. He enjoys marathon running and photography, and as a devoted globetrotter, he's explored close to one hundred fifty countries.

Jacket image: Krzysztof Grazawski
Jacket design: Fifth Letter

Columbia University Press / New York
www.cup.columbia.edu

PRAISE FOR

TRUTH, ERRORS, AND LIES

"Grzegorz W. Kolodko has written an extraordinarily wide-ranging and thought-provoking book. It is easy to disagree with parts of his argument, yet the book makes plain not only the scale of the challenges humanity now confronts but also the potential for humane, pragmatic, and cooperative solutions." *—Martin Wolf, chief economics commentator for the Financial Times*

"Kolodko's writings are always an important starting point for debate and discussion about the political economy of globalization." *—Francis Fukuyama, author of The End of History*

"Kolodko has been an important player in the transition of the Polish economy and has wide experience and original insights into themes and trends in the international economy. Every reader with an interest in economic development can benefit from reading this book." *—Robert A. Mundell, Nobel laureate in economic sciences*

"This huge canvas depicting recent developments in economic policy is an outcry against the neoliberalism that dominated policymaking in the last quarter of the twentieth century and a hopeful assessment of the departures in economic thinking over the past two decades. Although I do not agree with Kolodko that the neoliberals have a monopoly on lying and the neo-left are pure in heart, I believe this book is a valuable meditation on the heterodox approach to economic policy now springing up across the world." *—Edmund S. Phelps, Nobel laureate in economic sciences*

"*Truth, Errors, and Lies* distills lessons for development learned from a whole life of work and observations by a thinker and practitioner of economic transition and real-world politics." *—Justin Yifu Lin, chief economist and senior vice president of the World Bank*

"Kolodko astounds the reader with his erudition and, something of immeasurable value in a book on economics, never permits him to become bored. Thanks to the successful marriage of economics, history, sociology, politics, and literature, *Truth, Errors, and Lies* is light reading but not devoid of theoretical gravity, ideal for the beach and, at the same time, just right for a university seminar." *—Le Monde Diplomatique*

Printed in the U.S.A.

ISBN: 978-0-231-15068-2
9 780231 150682

KOLODKO

Truth, Errors, and Lies

POLITICS AND ECONOMICS
IN A VOLATILE WORLD

Truth, Errors, and Lies

**POLITICS AND ECONOMICS
IN A VOLATILE WORLD**

"One of the most acute observers of the international economy." *—Francis Fukuyama, author of The End of History*

GRZEGORZ W. KOLODKO, one of the world's leading authorities on economics and development policy and a key architect of Poland's successful economic reforms, applies his far-reaching knowledge to the past and future of the world economy, introducing a framework for understanding our global situation that transcends any single discipline or paradigm.

Deploying a novel mix of scientific evaluation and personal observation, Kolodko begins with a brief discussion of misinformation and its perpetuation in economics and politics. He criticizes the simplification of complex economic and social issues and investigates the link between developments in the global economy and cultural change, scientific discoveries, and political fluctuations. Underscoring the necessity of conceptual and theoretical innovation in understanding our global economic situation, Kolodko offers a provocative study of globalization and the possibility of coming out ahead in an era of worldwide interdependence. Deeply critical of neoliberalism, which sought to transfer economic control exclusively to the private sector, Kolodko explores the virtues of social-economic development and the new rules of the economic game. He concludes with a look at our near and distant future, questioning whether we have a say in its making.



GRZEGORZ W. KOLODKO