

GIFT EXCHANGE

Since Marcel Mauss published his foundational essay *The Gift* in 1925, many anthropologists and specialists of international relations have seen in the exchange of gifts, debts, loans, concessions, or reparations the sources of international solidarity and international law. Still, Mauss's reflections were deeply tied to the context of interwar Europe and the French colonial expansion. Their normative dimension has been profoundly questioned after the age of decolonization. A century after Mauss, we may ask: what is the relevance of his ideas on gift exchange and international solidarity? By tracing how Mauss's theoretical and normative ideas inspired prominent thinkers and government officials in France and Algeria, from Pierre Bourdieu to Mohammed Bedjaoui, Grégoire Mallard adds a building block to our comprehension of the role that anthropology, international law, and economics have played in shaping international economic governance from the age of European colonization to the latest European debt crisis.

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Grégoire Mallard is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at the Graduate Institute (Geneva). He is the author of *Fallout: Nuclear Diplomacy in an Age of Global Fracture* (2014) and co-editor of *Contractual Knowledge: One Hundred Years of Legal Experimentation in Global Markets* (2016). His publications focus on prediction, knowledge, and ignorance in global governance.

Cover picture: photo of a stock of the Compagnie forestière Sangha-Oubangui from author's private collection.

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THE TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY OF A POLITICAL
IDEA

GRÉGOIRE MALLARD

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies



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