**Summary: Seeking (in)Stability in an (in)Stable World**

This book develops a **typology of global order stability** by reframing “stability” not as the absence of change or conflict, but as the *structural durability of rules, norms, and institutional expectations* over time. The book challenges simplistic definitions of order (e.g., peace = stable; war = unstable) and argues that **instability can emerge within “stable” systems**, and vice versa.

The core typology introduces **four types of order**:

1. **Durable Stability** – Norms, institutions, and power align over time (e.g., Pax Americana in the mid–Cold War).
2. **Volatile Stability** – Institutions appear stable but rest on fragile consensus or coercion (e.g., postcolonial Cold War client states).
3. **Orderly Instability** – Rules are under contestation, but institutional channels remain functional (e.g., EU-Brexit negotiations).
4. **Chaotic Instability** – Fundamental norms collapse without replacement (e.g., post–WWI Weimar Germany or U.S. withdrawal from arms control treaties).

The author draws on historical and contemporary examples—including the League of Nations, the U.S.-China strategic rivalry, and global climate governance—to show that **stability is not inherently good**, and **instability is not always collapse**. Sometimes, instability is necessary for justice (e.g., decolonization), while stability may mask repression.

The book also critiques realism’s obsession with power polarity and liberalism’s reliance on institutionalism, arguing instead for **a layered model**: power, legitimacy, norm coherence, and institutional adaptability must be analyzed together. Structural shifts (such as technological change or legitimacy crises) can induce “recursive instability,” where attempts to restore order exacerbate disruption.

**Conclusion:** The book offers a framework for understanding how global orders persist, unravel, or transform—not as linear progressions, but as **contested, recursive, and structurally contingent** processes. This typology is intended to aid analysts and policymakers in navigating **a world where disruption is not always decay—and stability is not always virtue**.