## A Global Political Economy of Intellectual Property Rights

The new enclosures?

**Christopher May** 



London and New York

## **Contents**

	- Series eations prejace	1X
	Acknowledgements	xi
	Introduction	1
	The emerging information society 2	
	Property in knowledge 6	
	Property, intellectual property, political economy 11	
	The argument in outline 14	
1	On institutions and property	16
	Property as an institution 18	
	Justificatory schemata of property 22	
	Institutions as structures of knowledge 29	
	A model of change in the global political economy 39	
	A critique of intellectual property rights 42	
2	Developing intellectual property	45
	Characterising property 45	
	From property to intellectual property 47	
	Of authors and markets 50	
	Leasehold as a model for intellectual property? 54	
	Trade secrets, contracts and tacit knowledge 57	
	A set agenda 59	
	Disposing of intellectual property? 61	
	The thin line between public and private 65	
3	TRIPs as a watershed	67
	An outline of the TRIPs agreement 68	
	The importance of the agreement 72	

	Likely implications of the TRIPs agreement 76	
	The emergence of TRIPs 80	
	The triumph of the knowledge structure 85	
4	Sites of resistance: patenting nature, technology and skills?	91
	General and immanent critiques of IPRs 92	
	Some problems with intellectual property 98	
	Intellectual property – but not for me? 125	
5	Sites of consolidation: legitimate authorship?	127
	Key knowledge industries 128	
	Piracy, piracy everywhere 150	
	And real individuals? 157	
6	Between commons and individuals	162
	The global information society 164	
	Re-enlarging social utility 167	

182

185

196

Re-balancing individuals' rights 172 A change is going to come 178

viii Contents

Notes

Index

References