

## **Turmoil and order in regional international politics**

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Note sur le contenu : Comparative Regional Analysis in an Era of Heightened Regional Salience Sources of Peace and Conflict Within Regions Whose Status Quo Is It, Anyway ? Regions, Hierarchies, and Satisfaction Asymmetric Rivals, State Capacity, and Regional Peace Regional Variation in Strategic Positional Rivalries Regions of Rivalry: Dominance Vacuums and Rivalry Prevalence Societal Heterogeneity, Weak States and Internal Conflict: Evaluating One Avenue to Territorial Peace and Instability Petroleum, Petrostates and Interstate Conflict: How Strong Are Some of the Relationships ?

Sources of Order Within Regions In Search of Common Grounds: A Preliminary Ordering of the Study of Regional Orders Intra-regional Trade and Regional Exposure to the Global Economy: Implications for Cooperation and Conflict States, Nations and Great-Power Expansion in their Neighborhood: Explaining the Russian War against Ukraine All That Glitters Is Not Gold: Comparing Regional Peace in the Caucasus and Central Asia Impact of the Rise of Eurasia on Grand Strategy for the 21st Century

Résumé ou extrait : This edited book complements and follows up on the book, Thompson and Volgy et al, *Regions, Power and Conflict: Constrained Capabilities, Hierarchy, and Rivalry*. It is predicated in part on the paucity of published material available on comparing regional international politics. Monadic, dyadic, and systemic approaches all have their uses and have been exploited extensively. The same cannot be said about comparative regional analysis. The premise is that a great deal of international politics takes place within regional parameters. Most states simply lack the capability or interest in devoting many resources to extra-regional affairs. Yet each region is distinctive. In some, military coups remain common while they have died out as a form of political practice in others. A few have been highly conflictual and then become more pacific, while others persist in their conflict intensity. Some have powerful neighbors with intervention tendencies, while others are surrounded by relatively weak states. Some are rich; others are poor. The point is that regions, all with proper names, have attributes that can be harnessed through comparison to explain why regional behavior differs greatly across the planet. The aim is to replace the proper names with the leading variables that appear to drive behavior. For instance, to shrug and say that the Middle East for you does not take us very far. Replacing the Middle East label with conceptualization about how a set of small, weak, autocratic states behave subject to high penetration by major powers might take us farther than shrugging off regional identity. We have good reasons to think that comparative regional analysis can deliver an explanatory value-added product just as much as alternative levels of analysis can. Ultimately, we might desire to integrate separate levels of analysis, rather than segregating them. But in the short term, we need to encourage comparative regional analysis because it is the least developed perspective. Why that might be the case can be debated, but it stems in part from our disciplinary tendencies for some analysts to specialize in regional behavior largely in a descriptive vein while others prefer to focus on explaining universal behavior. Comparative regional behavior tends to be squeezed out by regional scholars who suspect generalization about behavior and universal scholars who suspect particular contexts such as regions. Comparative regional analysis requires analysts who are willing to explore generalization but acknowledge regional contexts more explicitly than is customary. At the same time, more general substitutes for those regional labels must be introduced if explanatory headway is to be achieved.

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