

Regions, power, and conflict

Type de contenu : Texte

Type de médiation : sans médiation

Type de support : Volume

Titre(s) : Regions, power, and conflict : constrained capabilities, hierarchy, and rivalry / William R. Thompson, Thomas J. Volgy, Paul Bezerra,... [et al.]

Auteur(s) : Thompson, William R.

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Publication : Singapore : Springer

Date de copyright : C 2022

Description matérielle : 1 vol. (VIII-293 p.) : ill., cartes, graph., diag., tabl. ; 24 cm

Collection : Evidence-based approaches to peace and conflict studies 6

ISBN : 978-981-19168-1-6

981-19168-1-0

978-981-19168-0-9

981-19168-0-2

978-981-19168-2-3

981-19168-2-9

978-981-19168-3-0

981-19168-3-7

EAN : 9789811916830 br.

Appartient à la collection : Evidence-based approaches to peace and conflict studies 20XX Singapour

Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd 6

Classification décimale Dewey : 327.101

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Note sur les bibliographies et les index : Bibliogr. en fin de chapitres. Notes bibliogr. Index

Note sur le contenu : 1. The Significance of Regional Analyses 2. The Case for Comparative Regional Analysis in International Politics 3. Borders, Rivalry, Democracy, and Conflict in the European Region, 1816-1994 4. In Search of Super Asia 5. Is There a Central Asia and Does It Matter ? 6. The Strength of Nations: Constrained Indicators and the Salience of Asymmetry in Conflict Relationships 7. Differences in Strength Across Regions 8. Conflict, Regions and Regional Hierarchies 9. Sources of Regional Conflict and Peace in the Empirical International Relations Literature: States, Dyads, and Beyond 10. Bad Neighborhoods in World Politics: Ethnic Political Exclusion, Weak States, and Interstate Territorial Disputes 11. Regions and World Order Preferences References

Résumé ou extrait : The three main levels of analysis in international relations have been the systemic, the national, and the individual. A fourth level that falls between the systemic and the national is the region. It is woefully underdeveloped in comparison to the attention afforded the other three. Yet regions tend to be distinctive theaters for international politics. Otherwise, we would not recognize that Middle Eastern interstate politics somehow does not resemble Latin American interstate politics or interstate politics in Southern Africa (although once the Middle East and Southern Africa may have seemed more similar in their mutual fixation with opposition to domestic policies in Israel and South Africa, respectively). This book, divided into three parts, first makes a case for studying regional politics even though it must also be appreciated that regional boundaries are also hazy and not always easy to pin down empirically. The second part examines power distributions within regions as an important entry point to studying regional similarities and differences. Two emphases are stressed. One is that regional power assessments need to be conditioned by controlling for weak states which are more common in some regions than they are in others. The other emphasis is on regional power hierarchies. Some regions have strong regional hierarchies while others do not. Regions with strong hierarchies operate much differently from those without them in the sense that the former are more pacific than the latter. The third part of the book focuses on regional differences in terms of conflict behavior, order preferences, rivalries, and rivalry termination.

Sujet - Nom commun : Relations internationales
Régionalisme