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# Introduction to International Relations: Theory and Practice

*By Joyce P. Kaufman*



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This clear and concise text takes as its starting point the theoretical frameworks that are the foundation of current international relations. Kaufman explains the traditional theories, but also makes a place for understanding the areas that lie outside of or cannot be explained by those approaches. Although levels of analysis are the primary unifying force, the book also assesses what this approach does not explain about the contemporary international system.



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### Editorial Review

#### Review

Joyce Kaufman's *Introduction to International Relations: Theory and Practice* is an excellent choice for the introductory classroom. In an invigorating approach to IR, it provides students with the concepts they need to understand the world around them while not limiting them to one perspective. (Eric K. Leonard, Henkel Family Chair in International Affairs, Shenandoah University)

*Introduction to International Relations* is a textbook suitable for an introductory international relations course. The author begins the first chapter by describing the different levels of analysis and concludes by defining globalization and noting how it impacts the study of international relations. In chapter 2 the main international relations theories (i.e., realism, liberalism, constructivism, Marxism, and feminism) and their variants are introduced. The author does a good job of describing and providing critiques of each theory. Chapter 3 explains the state level including the Treaty of Westphalia, balance of power and alliances, national interest, war, and peace. Actions inside of states are the focus of chapter 4, which includes an explanation of government, culture, ethnic conflict, and the role of the individual. Nonstate actors are examined in chapter 5, including intergovernmental organizations (with emphasis on the UN, NATO, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and the EU), NGOs, and multinational corporations. The final chapter seeks to provide real-world examples of the key concepts and issues inherent in international relations by examining how states in the system can solve problems concerning the environment, human rights, and immigration. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-division undergraduate collections. (CHOICE)

#### About the Author

**Joyce P. Kaufman** is professor of political science and director of the Center for Engagement with Communities at Whittier College.

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