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OLIVER DADDOW



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Oliver Daddow is Reader in International Politics at the University of Leicester. His research interests are in interpretivist international relations, British foreign policy and discourse analysis: he is the author of *New Labour and the European Union: Blair and Brown's Logic of History* (Manchester University Press, 2011) and *Britain and Europe since 1945: Historiographical Perspectives on Integration* (Manchester University Press, 2004). He edited *Harold Wilson and European Integration: Britain's Second Application to Join the EEC* (Frank Cass, 2003). With Jamie Gaskarth he co-edited *British Foreign Policy: The New Labour Years* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), and with Mark Bevir and Ian Hall he co-edited *Interpreting Global Security* (Routledge, 2013). He has written book chapters and peer reviewed journal articles across his research interests, including in *International Affairs*, *Political Quarterly*, *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* and *Review of International Studies*.

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This book began life at the British International Studies Association conference at St Andrews in December 2005. It was during a chat with David Mainwaring in the publisher's exhibition that we spotted a potential gap in the market for a pedagogically inclined book aimed at students new not just to the study of IR in general but to the increasingly diverse field of IR theory in particular. I can safely say that had that conversation not taken place this book would certainly not have been written – such are the fortuitous vagaries of academic life. This substantially revised and rejigged version is the product of a series of meetings and discussions at conferences around the globe with my current editor, Natalie Aguilera. Natalie has been an equally inspirational editor, bringing a real zest to this updated edition that has helped see it through from my rough early ideas for change to the finished product. My thanks to everyone at Sage who, as usual, has worked so hard on the manuscript on my behalf, and to the six anonymous reviewers who gave detailed and constructive feedback on how to improve on the first edition of the text.

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INTRODUCTION: WHY YOU SHOULD BUY THIS BOOK

(Or: Why Have I Written it?)

I have written this book with one very clear aim in mind: to help students new to the study of International Relations Theory (IRT) find their way in to what can be a beguiling, complex, yet ultimately fascinating subject of study at university level. IRT is beguiling because there are so many different theoretical perspectives on offer, all claiming to offer important insights into what makes the world of international affairs 'tick'. How do we know which theory is 'best'? IRT is complex because it is often a brand new field of study for students, even those who come from a Politics or History background. Many school- and college-level courses deal with issues in international relations such as globalization, war and peace, but the 'theory' element is the vital addition that sets university-level programmes in International Relations apart. And no one *really* enjoys doing theory, do they? If nothing else, I hope this book helps you lose all fear of theory, theorizing and, yes, theorists!

And this is why IRT is fascinating. We might not realize it when we watch news reports about the Arab Spring, the War on Terror, or the crisis in the Eurozone, but underpinning all political and media coverage of global politics is a theoretical take on events. News media tell us which actors are important, frame how they are interacting on the global stage, speculate on their motivations for doing so and debate the possible outcomes of the decisions they make. Sometimes these are routine, day-to-day decisions, at other times they are hastily concocted in a crisis. The point is that in selecting to present the views of a few actors, in a certain way, and with an editorial slant that can cue you, the consumer of news,