



International Relations

By Eric B. Shiraev, Vladislav M. Zubok

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Using a three-part framework of Ideas, Arguments, and Contexts and Applications, *International Relations*, Second Edition, shows students how to think critically about issues and current events in world politics. Each chapter first describes key concepts and developments in the field (Ideas), then presents the main theoretical and analytical approaches (Arguments), and finally applies the main theories and approaches within the individual, state, and global contexts (Contexts and Applications). Historical information is woven throughout the text, and every chapter ends with an extended case study ("The Uses of History") that demonstrates how what we have learned from the past can influence our future actions. Three full chapters on key approaches--realism (chapter 2), liberalism (chapter 3), and constructivism and other alternative views (chapter 4)--introduce students to a broad spectrum of approaches, and each chapter integrates discussions of relevant theories and levels of analysis. Visual Reviews at the end of each chapter not only recap key points but include Critical Thinking questions that reflect the chapter learning objectives.

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Editorial Review

Review

"The text does an excellent job of grabbing the reader's attention with appropriate and interesting opening case narratives. It is also well organized and includes clear and concise learning objectives. The consistency of presentation/organization around theoretical paradigms and levels of analysis, in addition to the consistent inclusion of "learning goals," is the primary strength. Also important is the conversational tone and effort to develop introductory paragraphs that meet students where most of them are -- vaguely aware of the most popular, if not most important, cases." --Julian Emmons Allison, *UC Riverside*

"I believe Shiraev and Zubok, unlike the authors of most IR textbooks, made a wise decision to adopt a consistent chapter outline, which focuses on three basic and vitally important questions. This creative and unique approach helps to focus students' minds on the big picture, which is how to apply the different theoretical perspectives to reality. Shiraev and Zubok have done an exemplary job of applying IR theories to historical and contemporary reality, as well as applying IR theories in the individual, state, and global contexts." --Mir Zohair Husain, *University of South Alabama*

The text differentiates itself from others with the chapter learning objectives, which serves as a guidepost for the various discussions and lessons packed into each chapter. -Richard Aidoo, Coastal Carolina University

What makes this book different is its shorter focus and to-the-point perspective. It does not spend a lot of pages on ancillary empirical questions. It gets to the heart of the theoretical issues and brings in enough empirics to make the points required, but no more. This is a good thing... Lots of empirical examples to help provide context as to what IR is and how it is studied is helpful...I thought it subtly introduced a lot of important theoretical ideas without being bogged down in theoretical language that may be difficult for students to understand. -Marcus Holmes, College of William & Mary

Conceptually rich textbook with consistent structure bridging theory and empirical world. Not many textbooks have such consistent structure and rich conceptual content. -Mariam Dekanozishvili, Coastal Carolina University

"Shiraev and Zubok have produced a textbook that is rich with illustrations and case studies. It also does a commendable job of consistently addressing dominant concepts and theories in the academic literature (the three levels of analyses, the realist, liberalist, and constructivist views). This gives students a clear and consistent structure to navigate." --Laura Dodge, *George Mason University*

"This book is very thorough in its approach and considers cases from all around the globe. It serves as one of the best texts in the field." --Teh-Kuang Chang, *Ball State University*

About the Author

Eric B. Shiraev is Professor and Senior Research Associate in the Department of Public and International Affairs at George Mason University. Recent works include *Cross-Cultural Psychology, People and Their Opinions*, *The Soviet Union: Internal and External Perspectives on Soviet Society*, and *Counting Every Vote: The Most Contentious Elections In American History*.

Vladislav M. Zubok is Professor of History at the London School of Economics. Recent works include *Zhivago's Children: The Last Russian Intelligentsia*, *A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev*, and *Anti-Americanism in Russia: From Stalin to Putin*.

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