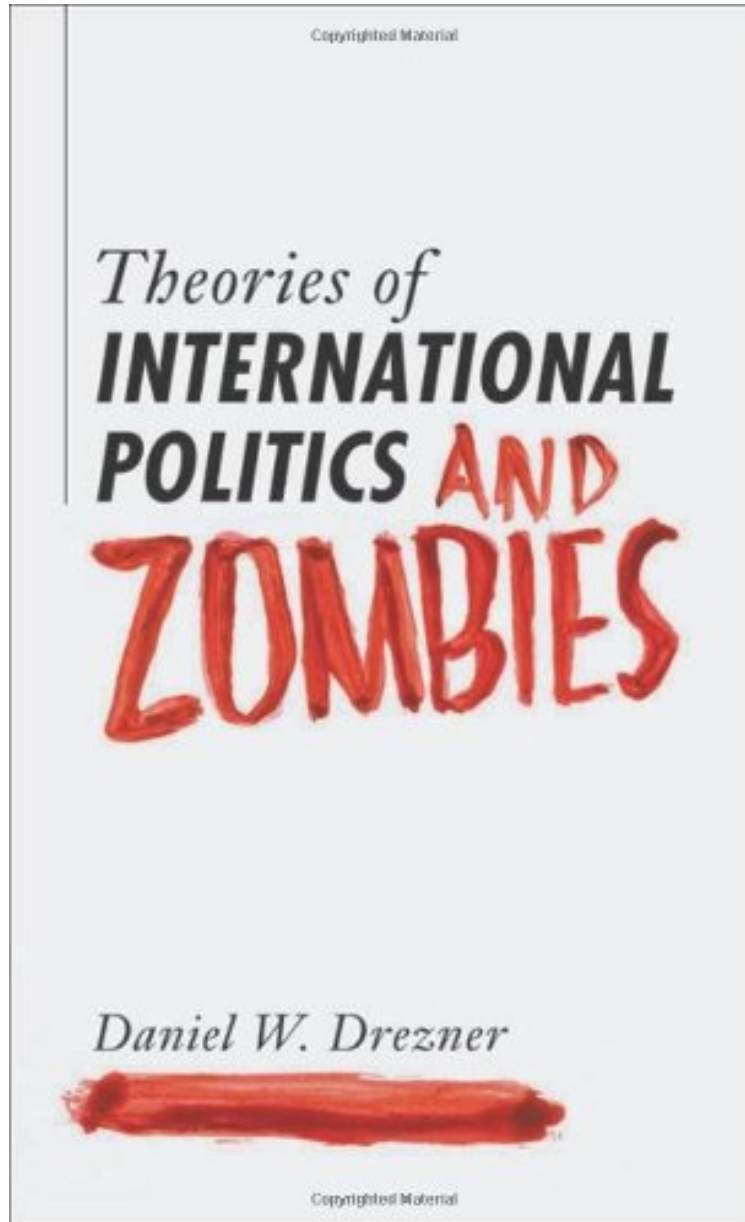


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## Theories of International Politics and Zombies

*Daniel W. Drezner*

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**Daniel W. Drezner : Theories of International Politics and Zombies** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Theories of International Politics and Zombies:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Different, fun context to explain IR theories By JN Theories of International Politics and Zombies was assigned in my Intro to International Relations course. I will be honest--I

bought the book in the beginning of the semester, read the first few pages, and put it away in disinterest. As the IR course has now ended, I've grasped a better understanding of theories and concepts of IR so I decided to give the book another shot. This book is a very easy, good read. It really helped me to further understand the different theories of international relations. Personally I am not a fan of the zombie entertainment that has flooded the market, however, the use of zombies to further explain theories of IR was quite helpful. I appreciate that these theories were explained in a different context as opposed to just reading a textbook. I'm glad I waited until the end of the semester to read because I understand the theories better now than I would have at the beginning of the semester. I think this book was a good way to recap what was learned over the semester and tied up any loose ends about theories of IR. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Refreshingly funny refresher By M. Escobedo I bought this book as soon as it came out, being a fan of Drezner's FP work, and I was surprised by how funny I found it. I didn't have trouble reading it, and I don't think it's terribly technical or difficult to understand, though some of the aspects of some of the theories (like the buckpassing or blood-letting tactics in realism) might benefit from prior knowledge. Three years later, this book appeared in the book list for a graduate seminar and I reread it. I still find it a very entertaining book and was surprised again at how effective it is at getting down the basics of the major paradigms in IR/PoliSci. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book was a great read. I've always found it interesting how the ... By Jonathan Valdez This book was a great read. I've always found it interesting how the idea of a zombie apocalypse is now being used to better understand a number of concepts, not just in the political realm. I was speaking to my friend, who is a psychology major, about this book and she began to tell me how students she participates in research with use this idea of a zombie apocalypse to help illustrate concepts in their research and in their courses. This book helped me a great deal in fully understanding theories in international relations, particularly differentiating between realism and liberalism as well as constructivism and other IR concepts. I read this book for my International Relations course but the concepts in this book extended to other classes as well. In my Theories of International Wars class, we spoke about the zero-sum game and non-zero sum game when learning about game theory. I used the book as supplemental instruction and it helped me better understand those concepts as well. Overall a great book.

What would happen to international politics if the dead rose from the grave and started to eat the living? Daniel Drezner's groundbreaking book answers the question that other international relations scholars have been too scared to ask. Addressing timely issues with analytical bite, Drezner looks at how well-known theories from international relations might be applied to a war with zombies. Exploring the plots of popular zombie films, songs, and books, *Theories of International Politics and Zombies* predicts realistic scenarios for the political stage in the face of a zombie threat and considers how valid--or how rotten--such scenarios might be. Drezner boldly lurches into the breach and "stress tests" the ways that different approaches to world politics would explain policy responses to the living dead. He examines the most prominent international relations theories--including realism, liberalism, constructivism, neoconservatism, and bureaucratic politics--and decomposes their predictions. He digs into prominent zombie films and novels, such as *Night of the Living Dead* and *World War Z*, to see where essential theories hold up and where they would stumble and fall. Drezner argues that by thinking about outside-of-the-box threats we get a cognitive grip on what former U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld famously referred to as the "unknown unknowns" in international security. Correcting the zombie gap in international relations thinking and addressing the genuine but publicly unacknowledged fear of the dead rising from the grave, *Theories of International Politics and Zombies* presents political tactics and strategies accessible enough for any zombie to digest.

From Publishers Weekly Drezner (*All Politics Is Global*), a Tufts professor of international politics, comes up with an intriguing intellectual conceit to explain various schools of international political theory. He imagines a world overrun with zombies and considers the likely responses of national governments, the U.N. and other international organizations, and nongovernment organizations (NGOs). He examines possible reactions through the lens of seven theoretical approaches including realpolitik, liberalism, neoconservatism, and bureaucratic politics. After considering the efficacy of each approach in combating the zombie hordes, Drezner weighs their flaws and concludes that given the limitations of human reason and a highly fluid situation, all theories are "more circumscribed than international relations theorists proclaim in their scholarship." Drezner is fascinated with zombies he's seen all the movies and read the books and writes with clarity, insight, and wit. For example, he notes that as zombies bite humans, who then become zombies, human-zombie "alliances of convenience" might be possible, "that NGOs would arise "devoted to the defense of the living dead," and that neoconservative "shock-and-awe" military approaches probably wouldn't impress the undead zombies. This slim book is an imaginative and very helpful way to introduce its subject who knew international relations could be this much fun? (Mar.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. Honorable Mention for the 2011 PROSE Award in Government Politics, Association of American Publishers" Drezner . . . comes up with an intriguing intellectual conceit to explain various schools of international political theory. He imagines a world overrun with zombies and considers the likely responses of national governments, the U.N. and other international organizations, and nongovernment organizations (NGOs). . . . This slim book is an imaginative and very

helpful way to introduce its subject--who knew international relations could be this much fun?"--Publishers Weekly

"A light, breezy volume, TIPZ is a valuable primer in international relations theory for laypeople, and thank God for that--it's been a long time coming. But Drezner's real genius is that he's written a stinging postmodern critique of IR theorists themselves, applying the full force of their structured reasoning to topics as diverse as Michael Jackson's breakdancing zombies, Peter Jackson's lesser film canon, and romantic zombie comedy flicks--'rom zom coms,' as he puts it. It's both a pedagogical text and a lampoon of pedagogy. . . . Theories of International Politics and Zombies is one hell of an important tome."--Adam Weinstein, Mother Jones

"Besides offering a condensed and accessible survey of how various schools of international-relations theory would respond, he reviews the implications of a zombie crisis for a nation's internal politics and its psychosocial impact. He also considers the role of standard bureaucratic dynamics on managing the effects of relentless insurgency by the living dead. While a quick and entertaining read, Theories of International Politics and Zombies is a useful introductory textbook on public policy--as well as a definitive monograph for the field of zombie studies."--Scott McLemee, Inside HigherEd

"If the dynamics of international politics have conventionally been understood in terms of the quick and the dead, Daniel Drezner invites us to consider another way of being--undead, or 'differently animated.' This ontological category emerges from the world of popular culture in which the 'zombie canon has a distinctive place. In drawing together the interpretation of popular culture and international politics, Drezner provides much food for thought--the food in this case being human flesh, of which zombies are notoriously fond. . . . [D]rezner elucidates the often-arcane world of international theory in an interesting and highly amusing way. He also shows how close the relationship between politics and popular culture is, how the latter can convey social and political critique in the most unlikely ways, and why satire remains such an important form of that critique."--Stephanie Lawson, Times Higher Education

"Juxtaposing George A. Romero with Donald Rumsfeld to make real-world 'predictions,' Daniel W. Drezner's Theories of International Politics Zombies . . . explores feasible scenarios for the political stage contrasted with an undead threat, the objective being to render just 'how valid--or how rotten--such scenarios might be.' No man seems better qualified for this expos than Drezner, whose bio credentials list him as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Zombie Research Society."--Fangoria

"In addition to wargaming various zombie scenarios, Drezner's book serves as an entertaining primer on the distinctions between several theories of international politics."--Katherine Mangu-Ward, Reason

"In the end, Drezner's task is to lead a tour through academic Graceland, pretending political theories are serious business, while mocking academia's obsession with political theories, which any person with common sense knows too often fail to predict real world outcomes. A political science book about zombies is funny not because of the zombies, but because political science treats them like everything else. The juxtaposition of the two brings out the best in both."--Jessica Palmer, Biophemera blog

"[Theories] of International Politics and Zombies is clever, nicely dissecting the strengths and weaknesses of different theories and offering observations about how, for instance, constructivists should destroy all previously published-zombie-apocalypse movies, lest people actually act as selfishly as most characters in those films do. While most zombie narratives start after government has failed, Drezner is far more optimistic that through cooperation, humanity would survive a zombie outbreak."--Samantha Nelson, A.V. Club

"Smart, funny, creative, and thought provoking, Theories of International Politics and Zombies is a worthwhile and engaging read, and is essential reading for all political leaders if the fight against zombies is ever to be won."--Sara Yasin, LSE British Politics and Policy blog

"[A]n amusing primer on IR theory, a comprehensible introduction to the tenets of liberalism, neo-conservatism, social constructivism, bureaucratic politics, realpolitik, and insight into their plausible responses to a new type of threat."--San Francisco Book

"It's attractive quality is, of course, its flesh-eating meta-theme, but the work is successful for its clear, comparative introduction to international relations theory. . . . Drezner's work frequently leaves the reader hungry for more discussion."--Choice

"Overall, this is an accessible first introduction for students unfamiliar with the philosophical side of international relations."--Christopher Housenick, Political Studies

"Drezner's easy prose and simple explanations will make his book a favorite among college students, and academics will appreciate his consistent references and bibliography. The simplicity of the book and the theme of zombies will likely make international politics less intimidating and more accessible to beginners."--Anna B. Creagh, Leonardo

From the Back Cover

"One of the most creative books about international relations you will ever read and one of the smartest."--Peter Beinart, author of The Icarus Syndrome

"Bless Dan Drezner for this book which punches huge holes in the hokum of American foreign policy thinking. Our theories in this business have been thin and often very costly, and if it takes Drezner's 'zombie attack' to puncture their bloat, so be it. Besides, the book is fun."--Leslie H. Gelb, president emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations and former New York Times columnist

"Drezner is to the zombie attack what Thucydides is to the Peloponnesian War--he is its great chronicler. As witty as he is insightful, Drezner has taken old ideas and traditions in international relations and brought them back to life."--G. John Ikenberry, Princeton University

"This book fills a gnawing gap in the international relations literature and adds flesh to those bones by communicating key international relations theories in a fresh, fun, and effective way."--Daniel Nexon, Georgetown University

"This interesting, thoughtful, and engaging book nicely integrates the classics of zombie work with theories of international politics to make sense of human--and nonhuman--behavior. This is the only international politics textbook that will make students frequently laugh and think at the same time. Indeed, this textbook is food for brains,

which may, of course, only attract more zombies."--Stephen Saideman, McGill University