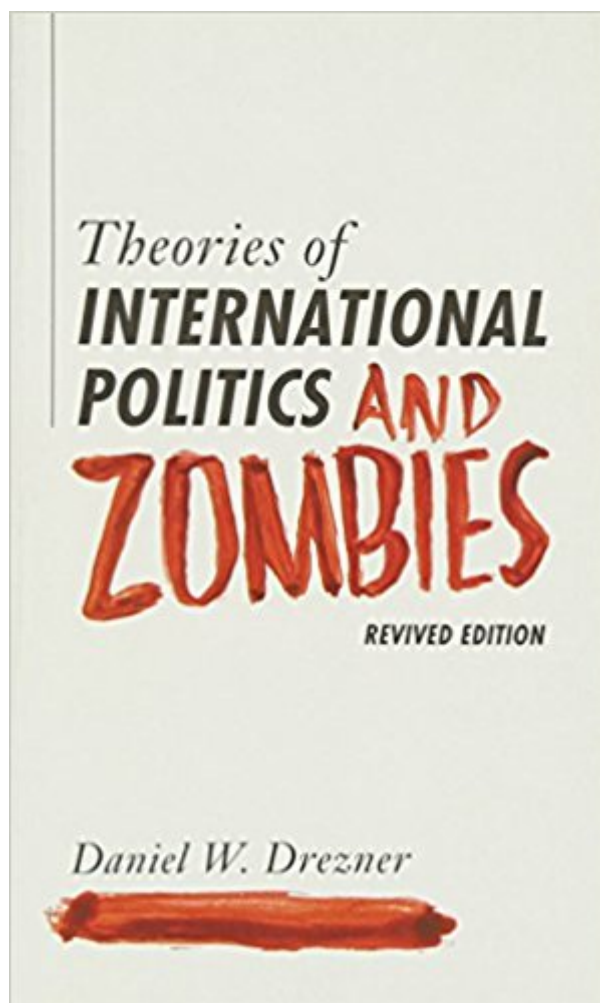


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Theories Of International Politics And Zombies: Revived Edition



Synopsis

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. This newly revived edition includes substantial updates throughout as well as a new epilogue assessing the role of the zombie analogy in the public sphere.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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

"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

"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*"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*"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*"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 exposé than Drezner, whose bio credentials list him as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Zombie Research Society."--Fangoria"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*"[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 Review*"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 Review*

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.

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.

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.

Who knew that zombie theories could accurately help to explain political theories. Well, Drezner did, and in this book he uses the highly popular idea of zombies to explain concepts such as neo-realism, liberalism, constructivism and others IR concepts. He explains how people would react to zombie crises such as when explaining neoconservative theories he explains how "neocons" agree with liberal theories about democratic peace, then he goes on to clarify that "neocons" share the realist skepticism about International institutions. The zombie part comes in when he explains how "neocons" would respond to an up-rising of un-dead flesh eaters by using an aggressive and militarized response to ensure that humans would remain the dominant race (to ensure zombies wouldn't take over). The comparison of the two ideas (zombie and IR theories) made this book a fun yet academic read. As IR theories can get somewhat dry, this book grabs your attention when you read phrases such as "all we want to do is eat your brains". Instead of only referring to states, he uses zombies as a juxtaposition of what would happen in the IR system given a certain theory or idea. Although the idea of the book is very interesting as Drezner got more into some concepts I did have trouble following along and keeping interest. So as long as you go into reading this book knowing that it is more of an academic read than entertaining you will find it enjoyable! I would definitely recommend this book if you are taking any sort of IR or political theory class as it will be a good supplement to textbook reading!

When I first began this book I was not sure what to think. I was unsure of how Drezner was going to relate international politics to the controversial topic of zombies. Zombies have been a debated phenomenon for quite some time, despite having no factual evidence on their existence. Drezner refers to zombies as the "unknown" and states that they are very different from many other mythical creatures because they could not live in our society peacefully, rather they would take over and cause havoc. While this is true he also states at one point that zombies would help to eliminate the environmental crisis. Zombies do not require water, and therefore would not be utilizing this resource. Similar to how we do not know what will happen to our society, we do not know what would happen if zombies were to ever become present in our world. However, further educating ourselves can help us to prepare for anything. Advancements in technology can prepare us for what will happen in our world, for example in the event of a zombie apocalypse. This book was an interesting read because it took two seemingly unrelated topics and really made them seem very relatable. It definitely forced you to look at the topic in a different light. Would highly recommend for anyone interested in politics.

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