

Democracies And Small Wars

Bruce M. Russett



Democracies And Small Wars:

Democracies and Small Wars Efraim Inbar, 2003 By their nature democracies clearly have greater constraints than autocratic regimes on their freedom of action as they have to meet constitutional legal and moral criteria in their use of force This collection analyses a number of case studies showing how democracies have won small wars **How Democracies**

Lose Small Wars Gil Merom, 2003-08-04 In this 2003 book Gil Merom argues that modern democracies fail in insurgency wars because they are unable to find a winning balance between expedient and moral tolerance to the costs of war Small wars he argues are lost at home when a critical minority mass shifts the center of gravity from the battlefield to the market place of ideas Merom analyzes the role of brutality in counterinsurgency the historical foundations of moral and expedient opposition to war and the actions states traditionally took in order to preserve foreign policy autonomy He then discusses the elements of the process that led to the failure of France in Algeria and Israel in Lebanon In the conclusion Merom considers the Vietnam War and the influence failed small wars had on Western war making and military intervention **Democracies**

and Small Wars Barry Cooper, Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute, 2009 **Regime Type and the Persistence of Costly Small Wars** Bradley Norman Nelson, 2008 Abstract This dissertation attempts to answer the following questions Why do powerful democracies repeatedly fail to cut their losses in costly small wars And why have democracies exhibited such behavior more often than nondemocracies Thus this dissertation links regime type with the tendency of powerful states to persist in costly small wars I argue that a two step model linking the incentives of political coalitions existing institutional constraints and war policy explains the variation in behavior between democracies and nondemocracies in small wars Within the model there are five variables three types of coalition incentives the type and probability of domestic punishment elite time horizons and the role of war propaganda and two domestic institutional constraints the number of veto players and the pace of policy change I hypothesize that the first three variables can push democratic political coalitions toward a dominant incentive to continue their investment in costly small wars And the two institutional constraints at times act as safety locks on the foreign policy process making it doubly difficult for democracies to cut their losses The empirical section of this dissertation consists of four case studies French Indochina War Iraqi Revolt of 1920 Soviet Afghan War and Sino Vietnamese War of 1979 Two cases examine powerful states persisting in a costly protracted small war and two cases investigate powerful states cutting their losses in asymmetrical conflicts The cases are used to determine whether my model of domestic politics accounts for the variation in state behavior in small wars As such I process trace the events and processes that contributed to various outcomes in each case The four case analyses provide considerable support for the two step model I consider the model as strongly passing empirical tests in three of the cases Indochina War Soviet Afghan War and Sino Vietnamese War and weakly passing the remaining case Iraqi Revolt of 1920 My research offers sixteen timely pertinent implications for academic scholarship and real world foreign policymaking These

implications directly target the two step model the three alternative explanations of this study as well as several ancillary yet important insights into international relations

How the Weak Win Wars Ivan Arreguín-Toft, 2005-12-08 How do the weak win wars The likelihood of victory and defeat in asymmetric conflicts depends on the interaction of the strategies weak and strong actors use Using statistical and in depth historical analyses of conflicts spanning two hundred years in this 2005 book Ivan Arreguín-Toft shows that independent of regime type and weapons technology the interaction of similar strategic approaches favors strong actors while opposite strategic approaches favors the weak This approach to understanding asymmetric conflicts allows us to make sense of how the United States was able to win its war in Afghanistan 2002 in a few months while the Soviet Union lost after a decade of brutal war 1979-89 Arreguín-Toft's strategic interaction theory has implications not only for international relations theory but for policy makers grappling with interstate and civil wars as well as terrorism

How Wars Are Won and Lost John A. Gentry, 2011-11-10 This provocative book seeks to answer a most crucial and embarrassing question concerning the U.S. military why the United States is so often stymied in military confrontations with seemingly weaker opponents despite its superpower status This fascinating book examines a question that continues to puzzle soldiers statesmen and scholars why do major powers including the ostensible superpower United States repeatedly perform poorly against seemingly overmatched adversaries And what can they and the United States do to better achieve their military objectives How Wars are Won and Lost Vulnerability and Military Power argues that beyond relying solely on overwhelming military might the United States needs to focus more on exploiting weaknesses in their adversaries such as national will resource mobilization and strategic miscues just as opposing forces have done to gain advantage over our military efforts The author tests the vulnerability theory by revisiting six conflicts from the Philippine War of 1899-1902 to the ongoing actions in Iraq and Afghanistan showing again and again that victory often depends more on outthinking the enemy than outmuscling them

When Bad States Win Jeffrey Treistman, 2022-07-19 There is a common assumption that the promotion of democracy and economic development are the most effective means of quelling widespread political unrest within a country Many believe that free and fair elections health care education and employment will help secure the hearts and minds of citizens By contrast the violation of human rights and international law is presumed to be counterproductive engendering political protest and violent rebellion When Bad States Win challenges the belief that democratic institutions and economic growth are effectual tools in countering insurgencies Jeffrey Treistman uses a mixed methods approach to examine the conditions in which governments have violated human rights and attacked civilians to effectively suppress political dissent His research suggests that moderate levels of violence against civilians tend to backfire and only provoke widespread resentments that lead to the overthrow of a central government however when pursued to extremes brutal repression and indiscriminate violence against civilians can effectively defeat a rebellion As a result bad states may sometimes win As the number of democratic states in the world continues to decline violence and authoritarian

rule are on the rise A thought provoking and timely analysis When Bad States Win offers important insight into how democratic states can respond to human rights violations in regions in crisis

War on the Ballot Andrew Payne, 2023-07-18 Winner 2024 Richard E Neustadt Book Prize American Politics Group Political Studies Association The president of the United States is at once holder of the highest elected office and commander in chief of the armed forces How do upcoming elections influence presidents behavior during wartime How do presidents balance perceptions of the national interest with personal political interests War on the Ballot examines how electoral politics shaped presidential decisions on military and diplomatic strategy during the wars in Korea Vietnam and Iraq Drawing on a wealth of declassified documents and interviews with senior officials and military officers Andrew Payne reveals the surprisingly large role played by political considerations during conflicts He demonstrates how the exigencies of the electoral cycle drove leaders to miss opportunities to limit the human and financial costs of each war gain strategic advantage or sue for peace sometimes making critical decisions with striking disregard for the consequences on the ground Payne emphasizes the importance of electoral pressures throughout the full course of a conflict not just around the initial decision to intervene He shows how electoral constraints operate across different phases of the political calendar going beyond the period immediately preceding a presidential election Offering a systematic analysis of the relationship between electoral politics and wartime decision making this book raises crucial questions about democratic accountability in foreign policy

Airpower in Small Wars James S. Corum, Wray R. Johnson, 2003 The use of airpower in wartime calls to mind the massive bombings of World War II but airplanes have long been instrumental in small wars as well Ever since its use by the French to put down rebellious Moroccan tribes in 1913 airpower has been employed to fight in limited but often lengthy small conflicts around the globe This is the first comprehensive history of airpower in small wars conflicts pitting states against non state groups such as insurgents bandits factions and terrorists tracing it from the early years of the twentieth century to the present day It examines dozens of conflicts with strikingly different scenarios the Greek Civil War the Philippine Anti Huk campaign French and British colonial wars the war in South Vietnam before the American escalation counterinsurgency in southern Africa Latin American counter guerrilla operations and counterinsurgency and counterterrorist campaigns in the Middle East over the last four decades For each war the authors describe the strategies employed on both sides of the conflict the air forces engaged and the specific airpower tactics employed They discuss the ground campaigns and provide the political background necessary to understand the air campaigns and in each case they judge the utility of airpower in its broadest sense In their historic sweep they show how forms of airpower evolved from planes to police helicopters aircraft of the civilian air reserve and today s unmanned aircraft They also disclose how small wars after World War II required new strategies operational solutions and tactics By taking this broad view of small war airpower the authors are able to make assessments about the most effective and least effective means of employing airpower They offer specific conclusions ranging from the importance

of comprehensive strategy to the need for the United States and its allies to expand small wars training programs Airpower in Small Wars will be invaluable for educating military professionals and policy makers in the subject as well as for providing a useful framework for developing more effective doctrine for employing airpower in the conflicts we are most likely to see in the twenty first century

Beating Goliath Jeffrey Record,2007 *Beating Goliath* examines the phenomenon of victories by the weak over the strong more specifically insurgencies that succeeded against great powers Jeffrey Record reviews eleven insurgent wars from 1775 to the present and determines why the seemingly weaker side won He concludes that external assistance correlates more consistently with insurgent success than any other explanation He does not disparage the critical importance of will strategy and strong side regime type or suggest that external assistance guarantees success Indeed in all cases some combination of these factors is usually present But Record finds few if any cases of unassisted insurgent victories except against the most decrepit regimes Having identified the ingredients of insurgent success Record examines the present insurgency in Iraq and whether the United States can win In so doing Record employs a comparative analysis of the Vietnam War and the Iraq War He also identifies and assesses the influence of distinctive features of the American way of war on the U S forces performance against the Iraqi insurgency Make no mistake insurgent victories are the exception not the rule But when David does beat Goliath the consequences can be earth shattering and change the course of history Jeffrey Record s persuasive logic and clear writing make this timely book a must read for scholars policymakers military strategists and anyone interested in the Iraq War s outcome

Democracies and Small Wars ,2009 **The Pax Americana and the Middle East** Bradley A. Thayer,2003 **Penn State International Law Review** ,2003 **Arab Armies** Hillel Frisch,2003 *The Journal of Military History* ,2004 **Naval War College Review** ,2005 *Paying the Human Costs of War* Christopher Gelpi,Peter Feaver,Jason Aaron Reifler,2009 The book finds that the most important consideration for the public is the expectation of success If the public believes that a mission will succeed the public will support it even if the costs are high When the public does not expect the mission to succeed even small costs will cause the withdrawal of support Providing a wealth of new evidence about American attitudes toward military conflict *Paying the Human Costs of War* offers insights into a controversial timely and ongoing national discussion

Universal Economics Gerard Radnitzky,1992 At the end of the 50s economics had begun its imperialist phase spreading the economists theory of behavior to the entire domain of the social sciences see e g the predecessor to this volume Radnitzky G and Bernholz P eds *Economic Imperialism* Paragon House 1987 which presents samples Political economy the new institutional economics and constitutional economics broadened attention to an open ended array of social and political problems The *Economic Approach* offers a coherent analytic framework to express the unity underlying the structure of problems appearing over the whole of man s experience and hence it opens an opportunity for a unified approach With respect to the human realm it is in Dr Radnitzky s view Basically an invitation to straight thinking What gives economics this imperialist power is the fact that its key concepts such as scarcity competition

opportunities costs are applicable to all human phenomena and in fact to all of life In this sense we may speak of Universal Economics The contributions to the volume examine what has so far been achieved by applying the Economic Approach outside the traditional field of economics Some of these include applying it in the life sciences Michael T Ghiselin in the social sciences James S Coleman in the analysis of politics Peter C Ordeshook and Vincent Ostrom by applying it to law Alan Schwartz to history Roger Meinert and Stanley L Engerman in the analysis of conflict Gordon Tullock Jack Hirshleifer and Anthony de Jasay and to international relations Peter Bernholz Each of the major papers is followed by a commentary from one or two renowned scientists and scholars

International Security and Conflict Bruce M. Russett, 2008 A collection of articles and papers that presents a variety of perspectives on key topics in international security and conflict It draws on international scholars working from different kinds of theories realist liberal institutionalist and constructivist and research methods to ask why nation states may fight violently or stay at peace

The Fortnightly Review, 1918

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