



International Politics of Recognition

By Thomas Lindemann, Erik Ringmar

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The origins of international conflict are often explained by security dilemmas, power-rivalries or profits for political or economic elites. Common to these approaches is the idea that human behaviour is mostly governed by material interests which principally involve the quest for power or wealth. The authors question this truncated image of human rationality. Borrowing the concept of recognition from models developed in philosophy and sociology, this book provides a unique set of applications to the problems of international conflict, and argues that human actions are often not motivated by a pursuit of utility maximisation as much as they are by a quest to gain recognition. This unique approach will be a welcome alternative to the traditional models of international conflict.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Thomas Lindemann is Professor of Political Science at Artois University and Visiting Professor at Paris I-Sorbonne and Sciences Paris. He has recently published *Penser la guerre: L'apport constructiviste* (l'Harmattan, 2008) and *Causes of War: The Struggle of Recognition* (ECPR Press, 2010).

Erik Ringmar is Chaired Professor in the History and Theory of International Relations at Shanghai Jiaotong University, Shanghai, China. He has recently published *The Mechanics of Modernity in Europe and East Asia: The Institutional Origin of Social Change and Stagnation* (Routledge, 2009) and *Liberal Barbarism and the Destruction of the Palace of the Emperor of China* (Paradigm, 2010).

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