An Introduction to International Relations
Australian Perspectives

An Introduction to International Relations: Australian Perspectives provides comprehensive coverage of its subject while capturing distinctively Australian perspectives and concerns. Designed specifically for Australian undergraduate students, this textbook brings together leading Australian scholars to present lively introductory analyses of the theories, actors, issues, institutions and processes that animate international relations today.

An Introduction to International Relations: Australian Perspectives introduces students to the main theoretical perspectives before covering an extensive range of topics with historical, practical and normative dimensions.

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An Introduction to International Relations

Australian Perspectives

Edited by
Richard Devetak, Anthony Burke and Jim George
For Chiara

For Jenny, Nikos, Sophia

For Sara, Joanna and Pablo . . . with love
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Preface and Acknowledgments

This textbook grew out of a sense that Australian students studying Introduction to International Relations courses were not particularly well served by the textbook offerings available. Scores of textbooks exist, many of them excellent in their own ways, but none is specifically tailored to the concerns of Australian students and the broad menu of topics covered in their undergraduate courses. Conversations with colleagues teaching introductory courses around the country led us to the view that a large textbook written specifically for Australian students, by Australian scholars and teachers, would be welcome. Additionally, it would serve as another means of building the Australian discipline of International Relations. The Australian discipline has always produced important and internationally recognised scholarship, but it has generally remained fragmented, lacking a sense of common spirit. In recent years just such a spirit has grown up in the discipline and An Introduction to International Relations: Australian Perspectives is both a reflection of and a contribution to this development. Indeed, some of the original conversations on the potential of a textbook like this took place at the first Oceanic Conference on International Studies (OCIS), hosted by the ANU in July 2004. We hope that future OCIS delegates will be able to say that this textbook helped provide a foundation on which they further developed their knowledge of and passion for what must be one of the most perennially exciting disciplines in the social and human sciences – International Relations.

There are a number of people we need to thank. A handful of people were directly and actively instrumental to the production of this textbook. First, we must thank Kim Armitage at Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, who enthusiastically supported the textbook from its inception. She also diligently helped in conceiving the textbook’s format and ensuring it would meet students’ needs most effectively. We thank her for seeing the potential and importance of such a textbook for Australian students and in providing the essential support and encouragement. Susan Hanley assumed responsibility for the textbook at CUP when Kim took maternity leave. We thank her and Kate Indigo for their patience and professionalism in steering this unwieldy manuscript through the latter stages of its production. We are also very grateful to Anna Crago for her excellent copyediting work in polishing the final manuscript. She was meticulous in spotting errors and inconsistencies and extremely helpful in making stylistic improvements to the text. Thank you also to Tony Fankhauser for his excellent maps.

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Preface and Acknowledgments

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and excellent proofreading skills. Anthony and Jim would like to thank Richard, whose work in conceiving, guiding and finalising this book was so important.

There is a collection of other people we would like to thank also. They may not have had a direct hand in the textbook, but indirectly they have contributed to it. First of all, our teachers, without whom we would not ourselves be teaching, let alone editing textbooks for the next generations of Australian students. Richard would like to acknowledge his debt of gratitude to Andrew Linklater, Peter Lawler, and Hidemi Suganami. They will, he hopes, see the mark their inspirational examples have left on him in the chapters he has written for this textbook. Anthony thanks Caroline Graham, Jim George, Mike McKinley, Jindy Pettman, Lorraine Elliott, Graeme Cheeseman, Greg Austin, Bill Tow, Greg McCarthy, Pal Ahluwalia, Paul Nursey-Bray, Carol Johnson and Christine Beasley, who taught him to understand and care about global politics, and who helped him immeasurably as he first began to teach it. Jim remembers with gratitude the inspiration offered both directly and indirectly by Ian Clark, Richard Higgott, Andrew Linklater and Jim Richardson. We would also like to extend thanks to someone who has worked tirelessly and energetically to build the discipline’s Australian identity, Chris Reus-Smit. Chris has been a constant source of moral and intellectual encouragement and, more importantly, leadership, for which we thank him.

We must also thank our students. Students of Introduction to International Relations courses at the Australian National University, Monash University, and the Universities of Adelaide, New South Wales and Queensland, where we have taught in recent years, have all contributed to this textbook. It is they who make the teaching so enjoyable by their intellectual curiosity and thirst for learning.

We would also like to thank the contributors who gave their time and effort to this textbook. In a time of the government’s Research Quality Framework, it is gratifying that colleagues still see the importance of providing quality textbooks for students. Richard would like to mention his gratitude to Robyn Eckersley and Marianne Hanson who provided encouragement and useful feedback on early ideas, and to several other colleagues teaching Introduction to International Relations courses who kindly shared their course guides with him with a view to organising the book’s contents and structure. He would also like to thank his co-editors, Anthony and Jim, for their readiness to take on this ambitious project and to make it work so well.

Finally, we would like to thank friends and family who have had to suffer our distraction over the past couple of years. Richard would like to register the unpayable debt he owes to his wife Naomi and daughter Chiara for their loving encouragement and tolerance, especially in the final stages of the manuscript’s preparation. Anthony thanks his wife Jenny, who was ever supportive even as she chided him gently for taking too much on, and dedicates the book to her and his young twins, Nikos and Sophia, who hopefully will grow into a better world than they were born into. Jim wants to thank Joanna, in particular, for her love and support when it was needed most.

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