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978-0-521-76134-5 — History and Neorealism
Ernest R. May , Richard Rosecrance , Zara Steiner
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History and Neorealism

Neorealists argue that all states aim to acquire power and that state cooperation can therefore only be temporary, based on a common opposition to a third country. This view condemns the world to endless conflict for the indefinite future. Based upon careful attention to actual historical outcomes, this book contends that while some countries and leaders have demonstrated excessive power drives, others have essentially underplayed their power and sought less position and influence than their comparative strength might have justified. Featuring case studies from across the globe, *History and Neorealism* examines how states have actually acted. The authors conclude that leadership, domestic politics, and the domain (of gain or loss) in which they reside play an important role along with international factors in raising the possibility of a world in which conflict does not remain constant and, though not eliminated, can be progressively reduced.

ERNEST R. MAY was Charles Warren Professor of History at Harvard University and a renowned historian of international relations and foreign policy.

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Edited by

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This book is dedicated to the late Ernest R. May, co-author, colleague, and friend. Scholar and teacher, adviser to several American presidents, Ernest May represented the very best in the academic pantheon. With intense intellectual curiosity and respect for its complexity, he questioned history and sought alternative avenues to the so-called inevitability of outcomes. Policy-makers, he often remarked, know too little history and worse, misuse the history they do know. Those who knew Ernest May will always miss his brilliance and gentleness, humility and humor, and his capacity to see around corners and show the way.

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RICHARD ROSECRANCE and
ZARA STEINER

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