This new textbook presents security studies as a branch of international relations theory, providing readers with critical conceptual tools to develop their expertise. The author evaluates the claims of rival theories – realism, neorealism, liberal institutionalism, classical economic liberalism, and Marxism – to explain why international actors choose or eschew force and coercive threats in order to elicit favorable outcomes in their interdependent exchanges. Also discussed are behaviorism and constructivism, contesting approaches to validate prevailing security paradigms. The author argues that only an interdisciplinary approach to security, drawing on the insights of each perspective, can meet the rigorous requirements of testable theory and the practical needs of actors in an increasingly globalizing world. The book will provide students, practitioners and scholars of international relations and security studies with a valuable new survey of the subject, and includes essay questions and guides to further reading.

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This series of textbooks aims to provide students with authoritative surveys of central topics in the study of International Relations. Intended for upper level undergraduates and graduates, the books will be concise, accessible and comprehensive. Each volume will examine the main theoretical and empirical aspects of the subject concerned, and its relation to wider debates in International Relations, and will also include chapter-by-chapter guides to further reading and discussion questions.

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Security and International Relations

Edward A. Kolodziej
To Zachary, Sander, Colin, Aiden, Charlie and Quinn

– in hope of a peaceful future

And in memory of Peter, 3 March 2005
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