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978-1-107-02967-5 - Petro-Aggression: When Oil Causes War

Jeff D. Colgan

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Petro-Aggression

Oil is the world's single most important commodity, and its political effects are pervasive. Jeff Colgan extends the idea of the resource curse into the realm of international relations, exploring how countries form their foreign policy preferences and intentions. Why are some but not all oil-exporting "petrostates" aggressive? To answer this question, a theory of aggressive foreign policy preferences is developed and then tested, using both quantitative and qualitative methods. *Petro-Aggression* shows that oil creates incentives that increase a petrostate's aggression, but also incentives for the opposite. The net effect depends critically on its domestic politics, especially the preferences of its leader. Revolutionary leaders are especially significant. Using case studies including Iraq, Iran, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela, this book offers new insight into why oil politics has a central role in global peace and conflict.

JEFF D. COLGAN is an Assistant Professor at the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC, where his research focuses on international security and global energy politics. He has published work in several journals, including *International Organization*, the *Journal of Peace Research*, *Review of International Organizations*, and *Energy Policy*, and his article on petro-aggression in *International Organization* won the Robert O. Keohane award for the best article published by an untenured scholar. Dr Colgan has previously worked with the World Bank, McKinsey & Company, and The Brattle Group.

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