A Theory of World Politics

In this book, Mathias Albert develops an ambitious theoretical framework that describes world politics as a specific social system set within the wider political system of world society. Albert’s analysis of the historical evolution and contemporary form of world politics takes the theory of social differentiation as its starting point. World politics is a specific, relatively recent form of politics, and Albert shows how the development of a distinct system of world politics first began during the long nineteenth century. The book goes on to identify the different forms of social differentiation that underlie the variety of contemporary forms of organising political authority in world politics. Employing sociological and historical perspectives, A Theory of World Politics also reflects critically on its relation to accounts of world politics in the field of International Relations and will appeal to a wide readership in a range of fields.

Mathias Albert is Professor of Political Science at Bielefeld University, Germany.
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MATHIAS ALBERT
Bielefeld University
For Greta and Ragnar
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