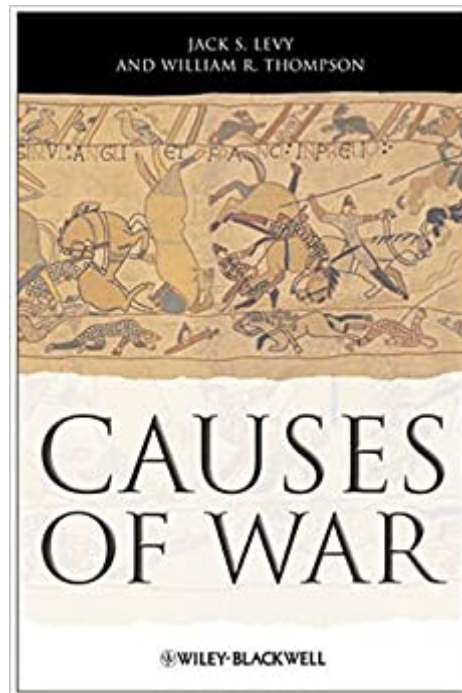




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# Causes Of War



## Synopsis

Written by leading scholars in the field, *Causes of War* provides the first comprehensive analysis of the leading theories relating to the origins of both interstate and civil wars. Utilizes historical examples to illustrate individual theories throughout Includes an analysis of theories of civil wars as well as interstate wars -- one of the only texts to do both Written by two former International Studies Association Presidents

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In summary, this book can be considered as a useful source specifically for international relations students and researchers, and it may also be of interest for scholars, policy makers and strategists." (Political Studies Review, 1 September 2011) "Along the way are examples from recent history that may surprise the reader. At the very least, every member of Congress and the State Department should study this report." (Book News Inc, November 2010)

"A very impressive book. The most systematic, thorough, and informative review of contemporary scientific theories on the causes of war in print. Highly recommended not only for students and scholars, but policy makers and others who need to know about war and its most likely causes." —John A. Vasquez, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign —"Levy and Thompson are very highly regarded as leading scholars of war, and this terrific book reflects that preeminence. Up-to-date and timely without being faddish, the volume covers a remarkable range of theories and

approaches, paying due attention to classic arguments in a contemporary context. Causes of War has a structure and clarity that will make this volume a joy to use in the classroom. The comprehensive coverage makes it an indispensable tool for every serious student of the topic.

—Colin Elman, Syracuse University

Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson in *Causes of War* don't propose a singular theory of war, but rather outline all the dominant theories of war. There's no argument such as "War is caused by x", rather these theories may have some relation to war. The text is written in a no nonsense manner discussing the pros and cons of war theories without passing judgment. *Causes of War* provides a suitable, if no thrills approach to the study of war. This book is most suited for the upper undergraduate or the graduate student seeking to unravel the complex puzzle that is modern warfare.

Very useful summary of the major hypotheses about the causes of war. Fair to notions with which they disagree, and impressively cogent explanations of very complicated hypotheses. The organization of the book is particularly good.

I'm a junior at college and needed this book for an international security class. I really liked the writing style and all of the theories were laid out in a way that was simple to understand.

perfect

Well written (by my professor). Took a previous class on the subject matter and I highly favor this particular text because it contains all the same information that you would need several various books to cover. Not a difficult read either!

Levy's and Thompson's "Causes of War" is by far the most approachable and concise overview of the 50 years of research in the causes of war by political scientists of both the traditionalist and quantitative schools. Benefiting from a clear writing style and an excellent structure built around the levels of analysis, the authors look at all major and some minor theories about the causes of interstate war by the level of analysis on which those theories hypothesize the causes operate. Thus they start with the systemic level looking at realism (pre-Waltzian, Waltzian, Defensive, Offensive, Neo-classical) Balance of Power Theory, Hegemonic Theories (Power Transition, Long-Cycle). They

move then to the Dyadic level, that is to the interactions between pairs of states, and look at International Rivalries, Steps to War model, Bargaining Model of War, Theories of Economic Interdependence and Conflict. At the monadic level (state and society) they look at Marxist-Leninist theories of Imperialism and War, Coalitional models, Diversionary theory of war, Democratic Peace theory, Culture and War (clash of civilizations). At the decision making level they look rational models of decision making, psychological models, Polyheuristic Theory, Crisis Decision-Making, Bureaucratic Politics and Organizational Process Models, and the Small Group Level of analysis. They finish off with a chapter summarising some of the applications of theories of interstate war to civil wars. This book is primarily a review of theories. While they refer to empirical studies, the authors do not pass judgments of adequacy, scientific legitimacy and so on. This is a great book for introducing one-self or others to the theories of the causes of war currently debated or once important in US political science. It is useful: 1) as a core book for a undergraduate level class on the I.R theories, or causes of war. 2) for a book around which to structure graduate level classes on War in political science departments 3) for policy makers as quick primer on the scientific knowledge about causes of war. If you are interested in the possible causes of war, the scientific method of studying human relations, or on comparing the findings of history to political science on the matter, this is an excellent book.

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