

Non-Western International Relations Theory: Perspectives On and Beyond Asia (Politics in Asia)

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Given that the world has moved well beyond the period of Western colonialism, and clearly into a durable period in which non-Western cultures have gained their political autonomy, it is long past time that non-Western voices had a higher profile in debates about international relations, not just as disciples of Western schools of thought, but as inventors of their own approaches. Western IR theory has had the advantage of being the first in the field, and has developed many valuable insights, but few would defend the position that it captures everything we need to know about world politics.

In this book, Acharya and Buzan introduce non-Western IR traditions to a Western IR audience, and challenge the dominance of Western theory. An international team of experts reinforce existing criticisms that IR theory is Western-focused and therefore misrepresents and misunderstands much of world history by introducing the reader to non-Western traditions, literature and histories relevant to how IR is conceptualised.

Including case studies on Chinese, Japanese, South Korean, Southeast Asian, Indian and Islamic IR this book redresses the imbalance and opens up a cross-cultural comparative perspective on how and why thinking about IR has developed in the way it has. As such, it will be invaluable reading for both Western and Asian audiences interested in international relations theory.

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Non-Western International Relations Theory: Perspectives On and Beyond Asia (Politics in Asia) From Routledge Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2630016 in Books
- Published on: 2010-02-07
- Released on: 2009-12-21
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.00" h x .58" w x 8.50" l, .90 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

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Review
"This book adds a critically needed voice that specifies areas of deficiency and methods which may allow for alternative and reasonable disciplinary guidance that can finally address the historical inequity within the study of IR. The authors provide key insights to a problematic theme regarding how to overcome “colonization of the mind” by the limiting and framing scopes of inquiry so as to essentially set an agenda with regard to an entire disciplinary field of academia and its requisite effects." - William J. Jones, Mahidol University International College; Journal of International and Global Studies Volume 4, Number 1, (November 2012).

About the Author

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