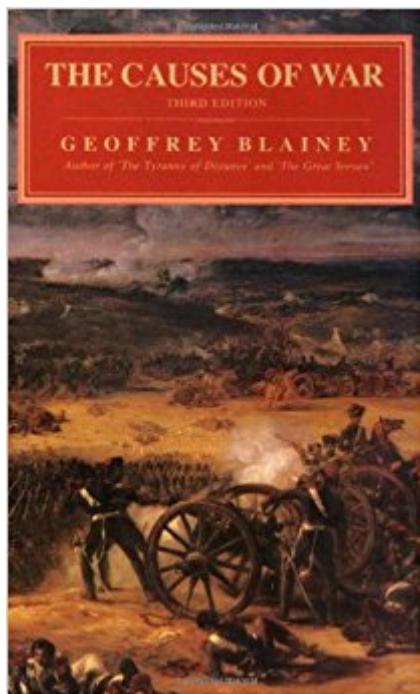


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The Causes Of War



Synopsis

This new edition of the highly acclaimed study on the causes of war has been expanded and updated to include a complete discussion of World War II and the road towards nuclear war. Analyzing all international wars since 1700, this widely quoted work solves the riddle of why some wars are long and some are short, and demonstrates how the outbreak of peace offers insight into the outbreak of war. Proving that war and peace are alternating phases of a relationship between rival nations, it offers a crucial, new understanding of international armed conflict.

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Customer Reviews

This new edition of the highly acclaimed study on the causes of war has been expanded and updated to include a complete discussion of World War II and the road towards nuclear war. Analyzing all international wars since 1700, this widely quoted work solves the riddle of why some wars are long and some are short, and demonstrates how the outbreak of peace offers insight into the outbreak of war. Proving that war and peace are alternating phases of a relationship between rival nations, it offers a crucial, new understanding of international armed conflict.

He gives some good points that underline many conflicts. It is sometimes difficult to pull out what exactly he means, but when you find it most of the points are very good. He also presents empirical/statistical evidence for some of his cases along with numerous specific conflicts to further his point. My only problem with the book was that he takes an opposing theory and finds one instance where the theory doesn't quite work and calls it dead. He then says presents his theory in

the end and says it won't fit all situations. All in all, still a great read.

This is one of the classic works in its field, and one with practical applications in international relations and national security. Blainey, a conservative social historian, writes one of the best non-ideological, empirically based analyses of why nation-states go to war -- and peace. Logically, the causes for going to war should be mirrored in the reasons why nations make peace at the end of war. Blainey explains why Kissinger's "balance of power" notions are not rules, or even guiding principles. For anyone majoring in international relations, and especially for anyone who wants to become a practitioner, this book is a must-read.

When I read this book, I feel like I am taken back into high school where I am learning about history. It kind of feels like a sparknotes of US history. Nothing really stood out to me. To me it the content seems rather dry due to use of language and the style it is written. The only reason I thought to get this book was it was a book on some famous person's to read list.

Mr. Blainey creates an interesting abacus paradigm, which he uses to explain why wars occur. Some of the factors, that are modeled as column on the abacus, are the perceived power of the antagonists, the perceived availability of allies, and a grab bag of 'other causes' such as distracting the populous from domestic concerns. These factors have different weight for different nations. Wars are caused when the sum of the factors for war exceed a certain threshold that can also vary from case to case. One other interesting thought he inspects is the method in determining the causes of wars. Traditionally he argues the cause of war was determined by what goes on prior to the war. This is more difficult, because these factors are colored by the perceptions of the various actors, and often contain misconceptions. The true causes of war can be determined after the war, when the true war power of the combatants are revealed by the win/loss column

I will recommend it to my friend. my father this it is the best , i love the product, it is very well balanced, has lot of weight to it, and it is very sharp. it cuts through bread so easily and makes perfect slices. quality. I'll be buying again. awesome and very well. fine.

I recently took a class on war, and this book was used as one of the textbooks. After reading this book, my entire preception of war has changed. Mr. Blainey has shown me so much that I never even thought about before. Not only that, but he exposes several myths about wars. For example,

some people believe that wars can happen by accident. Blainey even puts up a good argument for it, but in the end, he explains why that is folly. It is truly an excellent book that I would recommend to anyone interested in war.

In my senior history class, we had to read either this book or *Why Nations Go to War* by John Stoessinger. We've been discussing the causes of war and the common misconceptions that different historians have held. I found Blainey to be precisely on the mark in his analysis. The information he presents is hard to refute. However, I felt he made his point a little too well, if you know what I mean. I found myself stuck in example after example. After an interesting first 150 pages, I found myself dreading finishing it. It's just too bland for my taste. If I were you, especially if you're in Dr. Igo's class like I am, I would read the first 7 or 8 chapters, read the first page and the last page of the other chapters, and read the summary at the end of the book. That's all you really need to know.

It was the principal textbook for a Causes of War class I took. It is very well-written. If you want to understand what really causes war and what people think causes war but doesn't, you should read this book. Blainey provides a great deal of evidence for the claims he makes and gives the arguments of the notions he disputes.

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