



Culture and Security: Symbolic Power and the Politics of International Security (New International Relations)

Michael Williams

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This book examines the role of culture in contemporary security policies, providing a critical overview of the ways in which culture has been theorized in security studies.

Developing a theoretical framework that stresses the relationship between culture, power, security and strategy, the volume argues that cultural practices have been central to transformations in European and US security policy in the wake of the Cold War – including the evolution of NATO and the expansion of the EU. Michael C. Williams maintains that cultural practices continue to play powerful roles in international politics today, where they are essential to grasping the ascendancy of neoconservatism in US foreign policy.

Investigating the rise in popularity of culture and constructivism in security studies in relation to the structure and exercise of power in post-Cold War security relations, the book contends that this poses significant challenges for considering the connection between analytic and political practices, and the relationship between scholarship and power in the construction of security relations.

Culture and Security will be of interest to students and researchers in the fields of international relations, security studies and European politics.

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