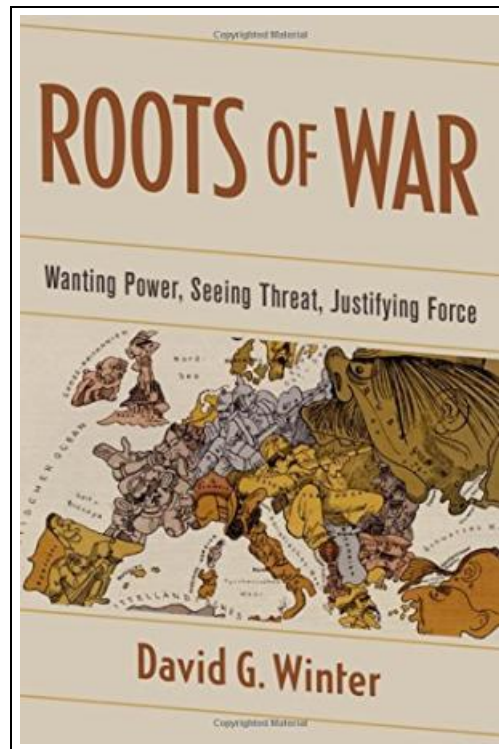


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Reviews

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ROOTS OF WAR: WANTING POWER, SEEING THREAT, JUSTIFYING FORCE (HARDBACK)



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Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2017. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Ever since Thucydides pondered reasons for the outbreak of the Peloponnesian War, writers, philosophers, and social scientists have tried to identify factors that promote conflict escalation: for example, history (tomorrow s wars are often rooted in yesterday s conflicts), changing balance of power among nations, or domestic political forces. In the end, however, these causes are constructed by human beings and involve the memories, emotions, and motives of both the leaders and the led. In July 1914, the long-standing peace of Europe was shattered when the Sarajevo assassinations quickly escalated to World War I. In contrast, at the height of the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis could have easily plunged the world into a thermonuclear world war, but was ultimately peacefully resolved. Why the different outcomes? In *Roots of War: Wanting Power, Seeing Threat, Justifying Force*, David G. Winter identifies three psychological factors that contributed to the differences in these historical outcomes: the desire for power, exaggerated perception of the opponent s threat, and justification for using military force. Several lines of research establish how these factors lead to escalation and war: comparative archival studies of war and peace crises, laboratory experiments on threat perception, and surveys of factors leading people to believe that a particular war is just. The research findings in *Roots of War* also demonstrate the importance of power in preserving peace through diplomatic interventions, past and present.



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