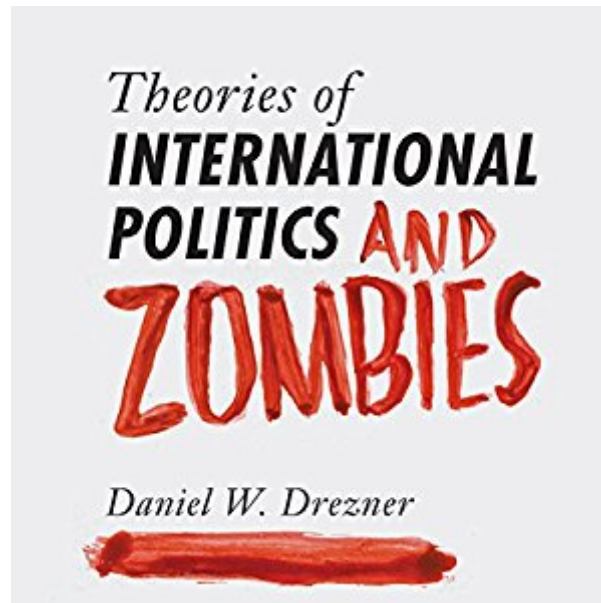


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# Theories Of International Politics And Zombies



## Synopsis

What would happen to international politics if the dead rose from the grave and started to eat the living? Daniel Drezner's groundbreaking book answers the question that other international relations scholars have been too scared to ask. Addressing timely issues with analytical bite, Drezner looks at how well-known theories from international relations might be applied to a war with zombies. Exploring the plots of popular zombie films, songs, and books, *Theories of International Politics and Zombies* predicts realistic scenarios for the political stage in the face of a zombie threat and considers how valid - or how rotten - such scenarios might be. Drezner boldly lurches into the breach and "stress tests" the ways that different approaches to world politics would explain policy responses to the living dead. He examines the most prominent international relations theories - including realism, liberalism, constructivism, neoconservatism, and bureaucratic politics - and decomposes their predictions. He digs into prominent zombie films and novels, such as *Night of the Living Dead* and *World War Z*, to see where essential theories hold up and where they would stumble and fall. Drezner argues that by thinking about outside-of-the-box threats we get a cognitive grip on what former U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld famously referred to as the "unknown unknowns" in international security. Correcting the zombie gap in international relations thinking and addressing the genuine but publicly unacknowledged fear of the dead rising from the grave, *Theories of International Politics and Zombies* presents political tactics and strategies accessible enough for any zombie to digest.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Theories of International Politics and Zombies was assigned in my Intro to International Relations course. I will be honest--I bought the book in the beginning of the semester, read the first few pages, and put it away in disinterest. As the IR course has now ended, I've grasped a better understanding of theories and concepts of IR so I decided to give the book another shot. This book is a very easy, good read. It really helped me to further understand the different theories of international relations. Personally I am not a fan of the zombie entertainment that has flooded the market, however, the use of zombies to further explain theories of IR was quite helpful. I appreciate that these theories were explained in a different context as opposed to just reading a textbook. I'm glad I waited until the end of the semester to read because I understand the theories better now than I would have at the beginning of the semester. I think this book was a good way to recap what was learned over the semester and tied up any loose ends about theories of IR.

I bought this book as soon as it came out, being a fan of Drezner's FP work, and I was surprised by how funny I found it. I didn't have trouble reading it, and I don't think it's terribly technical or difficult to understand, though some of the aspects of some of the theories (like the buckpassing or blood-letting tactics in realism) might benefit from prior knowledge. Three years later, this book appeared in the book list for a graduate seminar and I reread it. I still find it a very entertaining book and was surprised again at how effective it is at getting down the basics of the major paradigms in IR/PoliSci.

This book was a great read. I've always found it interesting how the idea of a zombie apocalypse is now being used to better understand a number of concepts, not just in the political realm. I was speaking to my friend, who is a psychology major, about this book and she began to tell me how students she participates in research with use this idea of a zombie apocalypse to help illustrate concepts in their research and in their courses. This book helped me a great deal in fully understanding theories in international relations, particularly differentiating between realism and liberalism as well as constructivism and other IR concepts. I read this book for my International Relations course but the concepts in this book extended to other classes as well. In my Theories of International Wars class, we spoke about the zero-sum game and non-zero sum game when learning about game theory. I used the book as supplemental instruction and it helped me better understand those concepts as well. Overall a great book.

Who knew that zombie theories could accurately help to explain political theories. Well, Drezner did, and in this book he uses the highly popular idea of zombies to explain concepts such as neo-realism, liberalism, constructivism and others IR concepts. He explains how people would react to zombie crises such as when explaining neoconservative theories he explains how "neocons" agree with liberal theories about democratic peace, then he goes on to clarify that "neocons" share the realist skepticism about International institutions. The zombie part comes in when he explains how "neocons" would respond to an up-rising of un-dead flesh eaters by using an aggressive and militarized response to ensure that humans would remain the dominant race (to ensure zombies wouldn't take over). The comparison of the two ideas (zombie and IR theories) made this book a fun yet academic read. As IR theories can get somewhat dry, this book grabs your attention when you read phrases such as "all we want to do is eat your brains". Instead of only referring to states, he uses zombies as a juxtaposition of what would happen in the IR system given a certain theory or idea. Although the idea of the book is very interesting as Drezner got more into some concepts I did have trouble following along and keeping interest. So as long as you go into reading this book knowing that it is more of an academic read than entertaining you will find it enjoyable! I would definitely recommend this book if you are taking any sort of IR or political theory class as it will be a good supplement to textbook reading!

When I first began this book I was not sure what to think. I was unsure of how Drezner was going to relate international politics to the controversial topic of zombies. Zombies have been a debated phenomenon for quite some time, despite having no factual evidence on their existence. Drezner refers to zombies as the "unknown" and states that they are very different from many other mythical creatures because they could not live in our society peacefully, rather they would take over and cause havoc. While this is true he also states at one point that zombies would help to eliminate the environmental crisis. Zombies do not require water, and therefore would not be utilizing this resource. Similar to how we do not know what will happen to our society, we do not know what would happen if zombies were to ever become present in our world. However, further educating ourselves can help us to prepare for anything. Advancements in technology can prepare us for what will happen in our world, for example in the event of a zombie apocalypse. This book was an interesting read because it took two seemingly unrelated topics and really made them seem very relatable. It definitely forced you to look at the topic in a different light. Would highly recommend for anyone interested in politics.

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