

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910786873503321
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Titolo	Explaining foreign policy : international diplomacy and the Russo-Georgian War // Hans Mouritzen, Anders Wivel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Boulder, Colorado ; ; London, [England] : , : Lynne Rienner Publishers, , 2012 ©2012
ISBN	1-58826-969-8 1-58826-835-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (235 p.)
Disciplina	947.5808/6
Soggetti	International relations
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	<p>""Book Title""; ""Table of Contents""; ""List of Tables and Figures""; ""Preface""; ""1-Explaining Foreign Policy""; ""Figure 1.1 Map of Georgia""; ""Foreign Policy Explanations: Competitive or Complementary?""; ""Explaining Much by Little""; ""Realism and Foreign Policy""; ""The Spatial Blindness of Modern Realism""; ""Structure of the Volume""; ""Historical Roots of the 2008 Conflict""; ""Notes""; ""2-A New Explanatory Framework""; ""Foreign Policy Profiles and Strategies""; ""Figure 2.1 Foreign Policy Profiles and Their Underlying Strategies""; ""What Is an a€œInterestinga€? Explanation?""</p> <p>""Methodology and Explanatory Levels""""Figure 2.2 Theories and Typical Explanations at Three Explanatory Levels""; ""Epistemology and Reality""; ""What Is a a€œSatisfactorya€? Explanation?""; ""The Systemic Explanatory Level""; ""The Interstate Explanatory Level""; ""Figure 2.3 Basic System Types""; ""The Intrastate Explanatory Level""; ""Figure 2.4 The Twofold Reasoning of the Luxury Theory""; ""Figure 2.5 Foreign Policy Roles for Intrastate Peculiarities""; ""Conclusions""; ""Notes""; ""3-Georgiiaa€?s Puzzling Attack on Tskhinvali""; ""Figure 3.1 Map of South Ossetia Before the War""</p> <p>""The Georgian Action Profile""""The Systemic Explanatory Level""; ""The Interstate Explanatory Level""; ""The Intrastate Explanatory Level""; ""Conclusions""; ""Notes""; ""4-A Well-Prepared Russia Strikes Back"";</p>

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Sommario/riassunto

Why would Georgia attack South Ossetia in August 2008, with Russian forces conducting exercises nearby? This remains a puzzle to analysts—on a not inconsiderable list of foreign policy puzzles. Hans Mouritzen and Anders Wivel use the example of the Russo-Georgian war to illustrate and evaluate their original model for explaining foreign policy behavior. The authors apply the model to the actions of forty countries in relation to the 2008 war. Uniquely linking system, interstate, and intrastate levels of explanation, and benefiting from the WikiLeaks revelations, they offer an important new tool for foreign policy analysis.
