1. Record Nr. UNINA9910821752603321 Autore Griffiths Martin <1961-> Titolo Realism, idealism, and international politics: a reinterpretation // Martin Griffiths Pubbl/distr/stampa London; New York, Routledge, 1992 **ISBN** 1-134-91374-5 1-134-91375-3 1-280-32775-8 0-203-16216-1 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (217 p.) 327 Disciplina Soggetti International relations Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Based on the author's thesis (doctoral)--University of British Columbia. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. 192-199) and index. Nota di contenuto Cover: Title: Copyright: Dedication: Contents: PREFACE: 1 INTRODUCTION; Meaning and language; The duality of international theory; Conclusion; 2 A FRAMEWORK FOR ANALYSIS: REALISM VERSUS IDEALISMS; Reality: heterogeneity versus homogeneity; The dialectical nature of reality; Idealisms: nostalgia, complacency and imagination; Conclusion: 3 HANS MORGENTHAU: THEORY AS TRUTH: The autonomy of power in international politics; Politics among nations; The rejuvenation of statecraft; 4 HANS MORGENTHAU: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS; International politics as power politics; Explanation versus prescription Conclusion5 KENNETH WALTZ: THEORY AS SCIENCE; Anarchy as structure: structure as selector: Laws, theories and the philosophy of science; Description and prescription; 6 KENNETH WALTZ: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS; Science versus international politics; Morgenthau redux; Legitimizing the status quo; 7 HEDLEY BULL: THEORY AS TRADITION; The anarchical society; The heterogeneity of international politics; Tradition versus science; Explanation and prescription; 8 HEDLEY BULL: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS; Old bottles, new wine; Conclusion; 9 CONCLUSIONS: NOTES: BIBLIOGRAPHY: INDEX

International relations is a discipline dominated by the debate between

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the realist and idealist paradigms. This book provides the most comprehensive critical review of the realist tradition to date. The dominant realist tradition in the study of international politics explains interstate behaviour in terms of the fundamental difference between domestic' and international' forms of government. This approach underlies the grim view that, beyond the borders of sovereign presence, politics is not about potential moral progress, but survival. This book argues that political realism is not a mea