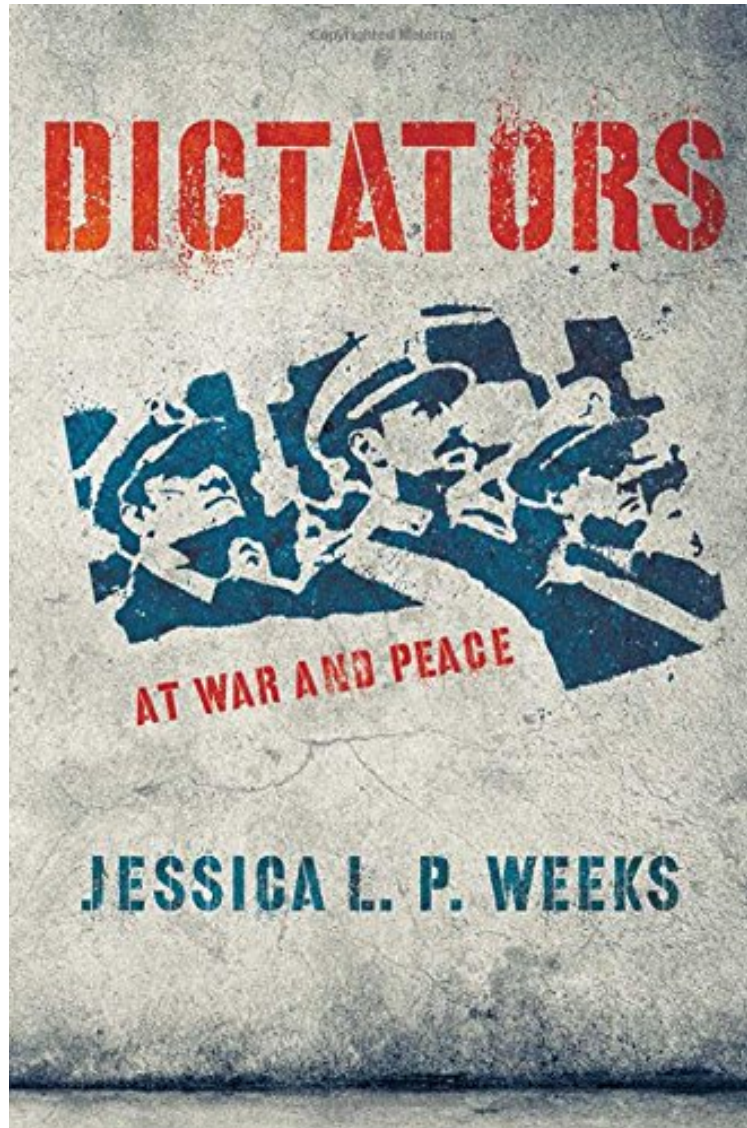


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Dictators at War and Peace (Cornell Studies in Security Affairs)

Jessica L. P. Weeks

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#971788 in Books Weeks Jessica L P 2014-09-30 2014-08-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x .66 x 6.13l, .0 #File Name: 0801479827264 pagesDictators at War and Peace | File size: 72.Mb

Jessica L. P. Weeks : Dictators at War and Peace (Cornell Studies in Security Affairs) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dictators at War and Peace (Cornell Studies in Security Affairs):

7 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Innovative and Important New FindingsBy J. DeThomasVery interesting thesis and clever approach to substantiating it. The structure and prose suffered from the author trying so hard to prove her fidelity to her academic discipline. This is a book that should be made much more accessible to policy makers because it punctures some dangerous myths by which they are guided. Sadly, they will be put off by the

overly academic approach to presenting very important and useful findings. One other minor flaw is the author's obvious personal unfamiliarity with the professional military and with the men and women who make national security decisions. This generates some rather naïve statements about "the military mind". Nevertheless, This is a very important book. It succeeded in puncturing some long-held views about how dictatorships deal with war and conflict. It is particularly important for policy makers understand how and why certain dictatorships are more prone to war and less competent at it than their democratic counterparts. Even more valuable is her finding that certain types of dictatorships are as pacific and as competent at war as democracies. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ida Santiago Excellent condition, arrived as expected 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. This book was interesting but a difficult read. It ... By Robert A. Berge This book was interesting but a difficult read. It is not written in beginners English. The content about what makes a dictator and what audiences sustain his/her practices was also new to read.

Why do some autocratic leaders pursue aggressive or expansionist foreign policies, while others are much more cautious in their use of military force? The first book to focus systematically on the foreign policy of different types of authoritarian regimes, *Dictators at War and Peace* breaks new ground in our understanding of the international behavior of dictators. Jessica L. P. Weeks explains why certain kinds of regimes are less likely to resort to war than others, why some are more likely to win the wars they start, and why some authoritarian leaders face domestic punishment for foreign policy failures whereas others can weather all but the most serious military defeat. Using novel cross-national data, Weeks looks at various nondemocratic regimes, including those of Saddam Hussein and Joseph Stalin; the Argentine junta at the time of the Falklands War, the military government in Japan before and during World War II, and the North Vietnamese communist regime. She finds that the differences in the conflict behavior of distinct kinds of autocracies are as great as those between democracies and dictatorships. Indeed, some types of autocracies are no more belligerent or reckless than democracies, casting doubt on the common view that democracies are more selective about war than autocracies.

"[Weeks] makes readers insightfully aware of the key differences among 'dictatorships' that may account for alternative foreign policies. With a good review of extant literature and innovative data-based and case studies on regime types and conflict behavior, she examines theories that distinguish between authoritarian leaders who nevertheless answer to significant elite constituencies and those who behave like unrestrained 'bosses' or 'strongmen'. . . . [T]his study, and its main findings. . . are a significant contribution to the scientific study of war and peace." F. S. Pearson, CHOICE (July 2015) "*Dictators at War and Peace* by Jessica L. P. Weeks is one of the most significant contributions to this literature. Weeks argues that not all authoritarian regimes are created equal, and this difference affects their likelihood of initiating and winning military conflicts. . . . Week's typology and analysis have laid the foundation for understanding the diversity of authoritarian international politics, and *Dictators at War and Peace* will undoubtedly become the standard for such analysis." Michael McKoy, H-Diplo (September 2015) "*Dictators* is an excellent book that constitutes a significant leap forward in the study of authoritarian regimes and international security. Importantly, the book reveals that not all dictators are alike. . . . The book deserves to be read broadly in the academy and among policymakers. Its relevance for U.S. foreign policy is clear as the United States wrangles with several different types of authoritarian governments in China, Russia, Iran, Syria, North Korea, and elsewhere." Alexander B. Downes, *Political Science Quarterly* (Winter 2015-16) "*Dictators at War and Peace* is an excellent book that makes a significant contribution to empirically tested theory in international relations. Jessica L. P. Weeks has made a state-of-the-art appraisal of dictators' foreign policy behavior." Bruce Russett, Dean Acheson Research Professor of International Relations and Political Science, Yale University, author of *Controlling the Sword: The Democratic Governance of National Security* "In this cogent analysis of the important variation among autocratic regimes when it comes to decisions about war and peace, Jessica L. P. Weeks shows that the usual dichotomy between democracies and autocracies is too simplistic. By focusing on not only domestic accountability but also the predilections of leaders and, crucially, the preferences of the domestic audiences they are accountable to, Weeks shows that some autocrats face incentives much like democracies, and therefore behave much like their democratic counterparts when it comes to questions of war and peace. Others are constrained by strong domestic audiences that have relatively hawkish views. Still other leaders face few constraints, and it is their own preferences and predilections that matter. Weeks' theory helps explain not only conflict initiation but also war outcomes and the fates of wartime leaders. This book combines parsimonious yet powerful theorizing with rigorous and thoughtful multimethod analysis, to answer crucial policy questions about war and peace. It is a model of what good IR scholarship should be." Virginia Page Fortna, Columbia University, author of *Does Peacekeeping Work? Shaping Belligerents' Choices after Civil War* About the Author Jessica L. P. Weeks is Assistant Professor and Trice Faculty Scholar in the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.