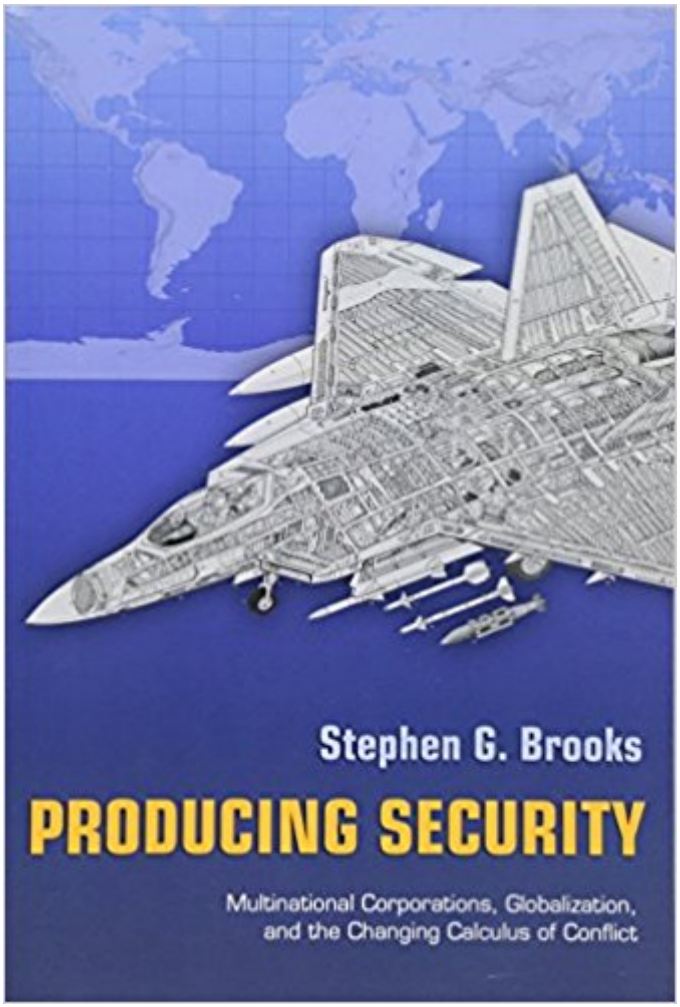
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Producing Security: Multinational Corporations, Globalization, And The Changing Calculus Of Conflict (Princeton Studies In International History And Politics)




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Synopsis

Scholars and statesmen have debated the influence of international commerce on war and peace for thousands of years. Over the centuries, analysts have generally treated the questions "Does international commerce influence security?" and "Do trade flows influence security?" as synonymous. In Producing Security, Stephen Brooks maintains that such an overarching focus on the security implications of trade once made sense but no longer does. Trade is no longer the primary means of organizing international economic transactions; rather, where and how multinational corporations (MNCs) organize their international production activities is now the key integrating force of global commerce. MNC strategies have changed in a variety of fundamental ways over the past three decades, Brooks argues, resulting in an increased geographic dispersion of production across borders. The author shows that the globalization of production has led to a series of shifts in the global security environment. It has a differential effect on security relations, in part because it does not encompass all countries and industries to the same extent. The book's findings indicate that the geographic dispersion of MNC production acts as a significant force for peace among the great powers. The author concludes that there is no basis for optimism that the globalization of production will promote peace elsewhere in the world. Indeed, he finds that it has a net negative influence on security relations among developing countries.

Book Information

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"An original and important work that all researchers concerned with the security implications of economic trends will want to read. Brooks's careful craftsmanship is evident from start to finish. Importantly, he forces our attention away from simple trade flows to the underlying forces of transnational production that will continue to have central consequences for global security in our age."--Brian M. Pollins, Perspectives on Politics"[A] path-breaking book. . . . [T]his is an innovative, sound, systematic, and insightful volume for all those who are interested in the implications of economic globalization for interstate war and peace."--Quan Li, Ethics and International Affairs"Producing Security is an important and timely work, and makes a compelling argument for the importance and economic consequences of the globalization of production . . . . [It] merits real praise for attempting to bridge the often all-too-wide gap between international political economy and security studies."--Tanisha M. Fazal, Political Science Quarterly"An original and important work that all researchers concerned with the security implications of economic trends will want to read. Brooks's careful craftsmanship is evident from start to finish. Importantly, he forces our attention away from simple trade flows to the underlying forces of transnational production that will continue to have central consequences for global security in our age."--Glen Hastedt, Perspectives on Politics"A much welcomed addition to the security literature; indeed one of the more innovative in recent memory."--Darryl S.L. Jarvis, Australian Journal of Public Affairs"Overall, this is a sensible and thoughtful contribution to the international relations literature. Brooks is to be congratulated for being willing to engage with the realities of the contemporary global economy, and to put forth bold theories about their security implications."--Geoffrey Jones, International History Review

"Stephen Brooks has quickly emerged as an original and persuasive voice among international security experts. One reason for this rapid ascent is his sophisticated understanding of international economics and its effects on global politics. This remarkable book breaks outside the confines of the longstanding does-trade-promote-peace? debate to explore the impact of the rise of multinational firms on security affairs--arguably the most important facet of contemporary globalization. Brooks comes to powerful and provocative conclusions about the end of the cold war, great power stability, and security relations among developing countries. Scholars and policymakers alike will be influenced by Brooks' approach and will have to contend with his arguments for years to come."--Geoffrey Garrett, University of California, Berkeley"This is not only one of the three best books in international political economy in the last ten years, it is one of the most important recent books in the entire field of international relations. Brooks integrates security studies and international political economy with skill and wisdom. Focusing sharply on the globalization of

production, the author explores its implications for national security, international politics, and international economic relations. In addition, he links the discussion to various theories of international relations."--David Baldwin, Princeton University"Brooks has produced a significant and well-crafted book that addresses an age-old debate in international relations and succeeds in saying something new."--G. John Ikenberry, Princeton University"A path-breaking work on the globalization of production and international conflict.While other writers have been content to manipulate the black boxes of trade and conflict or international production and conflict, Brooks has opened up the boxes and looked inside."--Richard Rosecrance, University of California, Los Angeles""Producing Security" will transform how we understand the age-old question of the impact of international commerce on international security and war. Brooks argues persuasively that the globalization of production is the key feature of the current international economy and, therefore, the traditional focus on international trade is outdated. Brooks then develops a comprehensive theory of how the globalization of production could influence security, exploring whether states can still maintain autarkic security policies and whether the economic benefits of expansion have been reduced. His conclusions, supported by thorough empirical analysis, are optimistic--the globalization of production is a force for stability among the great powers."--Charles Glaser, University of Chicago

Brooks formulates his arguments clearly by using all kinds of examples. These examples however, are not always tied to one another or do not always corroborate his other arguments.This book fits within the wider debate of Liberal Peace and during the review of this book I discovered newer works take this idea of globalized production into account, as well as other factors. The book deserves its spot on the shelf, however does not close the entire debate.

Excellent book that provides an overview of security considerations throughout the world. Provides more of an academic and scientific approach. Reading can be difficult at times.

The main thesis of the book is that since almost anything manufactured today that is even moderately complicated has its manufacture integrated in multiple locations around the world, therefore one of the main causes of aggressive war, seizure of valuable properties, is averted. It would seem that Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait for oil is a counter-argument, but natural resources, even oil, are becoming less and less valuable relative to other things. Anyone, like Iraq, that would consider any natural resources particularly valuable would be too weak to actually get away with the aggression. The book is rather dry and academic in tone, but thoroughly argued. Highly

recommended for anyone interested in military or international trade issues.

that could have written in a foreign language. Horrible to read! My list favorite graduate book!

I thought I was buying a book about Producing Security for the U.S. Instead I have had a refresher in Economics so far. I am still in the class of course and waiting for the book to somehow be tied in with our national security. I will update this post accordingly.

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