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978-0-521-68276-3 - An Introduction to International Relations: Australian Perspectives

Edited by Richard Devetak, Anthony Burke and Jim George

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An Introduction to International Relations

Australian Perspectives

An Introduction to International Relations: Australian Perspectives provides comprehensive coverage of its subject while capturing distinctively Australian perspectives and concerns. Designed specifically for Australian undergraduate students, this textbook brings together leading Australian scholars to present lively introductory analyses of the theories, actors, issues, institutions and processes that animate international relations today.

An Introduction to International Relations: Australian Perspectives introduces students to the main theoretical perspectives before covering an extensive range of topics with historical, practical and normative dimensions.

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For Chiara

For Jenny, Nikos, Sophia

For Sara, Joanna and Pablo . . . with love

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Preface and Acknowledgments

This textbook grew out of a sense that Australian students studying Introduction to International Relations courses were not particularly well served by the textbook offerings available. Scores of textbooks exist, many of them excellent in their own ways, but none is specifically tailored to the concerns of Australian students and the broad menu of topics covered in their undergraduate courses. Conversations with colleagues teaching introductory courses around the country led us to the view that a large textbook written specifically for Australian students, by Australian scholars and teachers, would be welcome. Additionally, it would serve as another means of building the Australian discipline of International Relations. The Australian discipline has always produced important and internationally recognised scholarship, but it has generally remained fragmented, lacking a sense of common spirit. In recent years just such a spirit has grown up in the discipline and *An Introduction to International Relations: Australian Perspectives* is both a reflection of and a contribution to this development. Indeed, some of the original conversations on the potential of a textbook like this took place at the first Oceanic Conference on International Studies (OCIS), hosted by the ANU in July 2004. We hope that future OCIS delegates will be able to say that this textbook helped provide a foundation on which they further developed their knowledge of and passion for what must be one of the most perennially exciting disciplines in the social and human sciences – International Relations.

There are a number of people we need to thank. A handful of people were directly and actively instrumental to the production of this textbook. First, we must thank Kim Armitage at Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, who enthusiastically supported the textbook from its inception. She also diligently helped in conceiving the textbook's format and ensuring it would meet students' needs most effectively. We thank her for seeing the potential and importance of such a textbook for Australian students and in providing the essential support and encouragement. Susan Hanley assumed responsibility for the textbook at CUP when Kim took maternity leave. We thank her and Kate Indigo for their patience and professionalism in steering this unwieldy manuscript through the latter stages of its production. We are also very grateful to Anna Crago for her excellent copyediting work in polishing the final manuscript. She was meticulous in spotting errors and inconsistencies and extremely helpful in making stylistic improvements to the text. Thank you also to Tony Fankhauser for his excellent maps.

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