



International Pecking Orders: The Politics and Practice of Multilateral Diplomacy

By Vincent Pouliot

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International Pecking Orders: The Politics and Practice of Multilateral Diplomacy By Vincent Pouliot

In any multilateral setting, some state representatives weigh much more heavily than others. Practitioners often refer to this form of diplomatic hierarchy as the 'international pecking order'. This book is a study of international hierarchy in practice, as it emerges out of the multilateral diplomatic process. Building on the social theories of Erving Goffman and Pierre Bourdieu, it argues that diplomacy produces inequality. Delving into the politics and inner dynamics of NATO and the UN as case studies, Vincent Pouliot shows that pecking orders are eminently complex social forms: contingent yet durable; constraining but also full of agency; operating at different levels, depending on issues; and defined in significant part locally, in and through the practice of multilateral diplomacy.

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Editorial Review

Review

'Pouliot's book is a welcome contribution to the international relations (IR) literature on the practice of diplomacy. Few works in the scholarly study of IR attempt to rigorously explain how multilateral diplomacy works and its larger effects. Pouliot's framework for understanding seeks to move beyond structural and agency approaches by integrating social theories to explain diplomacy and outcomes in world politics ... In essence, the book seeks to explain 'social theater' by looking closely at the practice of diplomacy ... Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.' J. Fields, Choice

About the Author

Vincent Pouliot is Associate Professor and William Dawson Scholar in the Department of Political Science at McGill University. He is the author of *International Security in Practice: The Politics of NATO-Russia Diplomacy* (Cambridge, 2010) and the co-editor of *Diplomacy and the Making of World Politics* (Cambridge, 2015) and *International Practices* (Cambridge, 2011).

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