

National Security through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy

do more of the explanatory work as long as he includes both ideational and material?

Since Tang regards an endogenous explanatory schema as a key criterion of acceptability (p. 93), he is sharply critical of all explanatory theories that rely on exogenous factors to account for transitions (e.g., p. 54). However, when he explains the transition from offensive to a defensive realist world in Chapter 3, there seems to be no endogenous basis for the first nation-state in the offensive world that follows a defensive approach; at the right time, the defensive approach will prove more successful than the offensive, and eventually, all, or nearly all, states will follow suit (p. 103).

Evolutionary grand theories do not have much in the way of policy implications because, like evolutionary biology, they do not tell us anything about the future—save that things will at some point change and the world will be different. However, Tang offers several predictions, for example, that there will never be a "harmoniously institutionalized 'world state' or 'world society'" (p. 110). Since the prediction draws both on the current book and on his *A General Theory of Institutional Change* (2014), one might think that the derivation of predictions is justifiable, until he points out that the institutional theory is also "SEP-based" (ibid). Predictions do follow from some systems theories, for example, from A.F.K. Organski's classic power transition chapter in *World Politics* (1958), which, on the grandest scale, predict that when all major states are fully industrialized, there will be far fewer significant regional power transitions and, hence, reduced transition-induced warfare. Since Tang contends that his theory is also a macro-sociology of IR, his claim that no superior theory to the SEP is possible is a prediction, but also runs afoul of the widely accepted Duhem-Quine thesis about the impossibility of final theories in empirical sciences.

Good scholarship on grand questions is thought provoking, and *Social Evolution* is indeed a good one that should receive considerable attention from students of contemporary IR theory. While the argument is wide-ranging and fairly complex, it does not require any specialized technical background. The book is of particular interest to students and scholars interested in theories of international relations.

National Security Through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy. By Steve A. Yetiv. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013. 168p. \$24.95. doi:10.1017/97815375927150004326

— Todd H. Hall, *University of Oxford*

Human beings do not always act in conformance with the expectations of rational decision making. They frequently overestimate the extent to which others understand the motives for their actions. They are more

likely to blame their own negative behaviors on situational factors, but view those of others as stemming from character or disposition. They may overly focus on particular values or aspects of situations while neglecting others. They may fit new information to existing beliefs, rendering the latter unfalsifiable. They see patterns where none exist. They can become overconfident. And they can engage in short-term thinking.

This is but a small list of the many deviations that cognitive psychologists and others working in similar areas have observed in experimental settings. Steve A. Yetiv tells us that these are also behind some of the most important choices and outcomes within international relations over the past 50 years. Leaders of the Soviet Union thought that outside actors would view their invasion of Afghanistan as a limited, defensive move, but others—United States decision makers in particular—saw it as offensive and expansionist. The reason? The biases at work in how we view our own versus others' behaviors. President Ronald Reagan permitted the Iran-Contra Affair to occur, putting weapons in the hands of the Iranian government in the hope that it would help free U.S. hostages held in Lebanon. Here, too, a cognitive bias was at work: a tunnel-vision-like focus on the hostages that overrode the consideration of other values. In these cases, as well as others involving Al Qaeda's perceptions of the United States, U.S. planning for the Iraq War, and U.S. energy policy, Yetiv presents a bias (or set of biases) he views as key to explaining the decisions and actions of the parties involved.

The author is writing in a tradition that includes, among others, Robert Jervis's *Perception and Misperception in International Politics* (1976) and Richard Ned Lebow's *Between Peace and War* (1981) in that he examines the ways in which humans—and policymakers in particular—may deviate from the expectations of rationalist models due to cognitive biases. The arguments and findings of Daniel Kahneman, the Nobel-prize-winning author of *Thinking, Fast and Slow* (2011) play a particularly large role in his account. Indeed, those familiar with *Thinking* will likely recognize many of the biases Yetiv outlines. His contribution is not that he has identified new phenomena, but that he has used existing research into cognitive biases to shed light on a range of decisions and behaviors by actors on the international stage. What is more, he also offers suggestions concerning how we can "debias" our decision making.

National Security Through a Cockeyed Lens is not a piece of technical, scholarly work, however. As Yetiv himself writes, the book is "written for a broad audience. . . . It may well be of interest to academics, but it is designed to appeal to students and educated general readers" (p. 6). This choice of target audience means that the book is quite accessible and easily read in one or two sittings, but it also means that its arguments and methodology may raise some questions for an academic reader.

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How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy question Steve A. Yetiv takes up in his latest foreign policy study, *National Security through a Cockeyed Lens*. *National Security through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy* [Steve A. Yetiv] on hotelinudonthani.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying."National security through a cockeyed lens: how cognitive bias impacts US Foreign Policy." *European Security*, 25(1), pp. National Security Through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy by Steve hotelinudonthani.comore, MD, Johns Hopkins.National Security Through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign National security, Decision making, Foreign relations, United States.National Security Through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy by Steve A. Yetiv. Baltimore, MD, Johns Hopkins University Press, .National Security Through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy. By Yetiv Steve A.. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins.Tracing five U.S. national security episodesthe Soviet invasion a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy.Steven A. Yetiv. National Security through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, Yetiv, Steve A. National Security through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, hotelinudonthani.com: National Security through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy (Paperback): Language: English. This book.pp. National Security Through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy, Steve A. Yetiv. Reviewed by James H. Lebovic. BUY .National Security through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy - Ebook written by Steve A. Yetiv. Read this book using Google.Overview. National Security through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy. "How do mental errors or cognitive.By Steve Yetiv. ***. The Montreal Review, January ***. "National Security through a Cockeyed Lens: How Cognitive Bias Impacts U.S. Foreign Policy" by.Download National Security Through A Cockeyed Lens How Cognitive Bias Impacts Us Foreign Policy read id:1qkzmg1.

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