Political Analysis: A Critical Introduction

Political Analysis—Colin Hay 2002-04-30 Political Analysis provides an accessible and engaging yet original introduction and distinctive contribution, to the analysis of political structures, institutions, ideas and behaviours, and above all, to the political processes through which they are constantly made and remade. Following an innovative introduction to the main approaches and concepts in political analysis, the text focuses thematically on the key issues which currently concern and divide political analysts, including the boundaries of the political; the question of structure, agency and power; the dynamics of political change; the relative significance of ideas and material factors; and the challenge posed by postmodernism which the author argues the discipline can strengthen itself by addressing without allowing it to become a recipe for paralysis. Gramsci's Political Analysis—J. Martin 1998-06-17 In this new introduction to Antonio Gramsci's thought, James Martin reconstructs the central analytical themes of the Italian Marxist's famous Prison Notebooks: the 'organic' intellectuals, the relation between state and civil society, and the revolutionary party. The contemporary relevance of his concept 'hegemony' to the analysis of state legitimacy is critically considered and the limitations of Gramsci's historicist Marxism to understanding social complexity are outlined. The book will be of interest to undergraduates and teachers in the social sciences. Democratization—Jean Grugel 2013-12-04 The second edition of this popular and authoritative text provides a truly global assessment of democratization in theory and practice in the contemporary world. It has been systematically revised and updated to cover recent developments, from the impact of 9/11 and EU enlargement to the war in Iraq.

Political Sociology—Keith Faulks 2000-03 This volume introduces the key conceptual debates and approaches in contemporary political sociology. It explores the relationship between the state and civil society, globalization, new social movements and citizenship.

Edward Said—Valerie Kennedy 2013-04-24 Edward Said is one of the foremost thinkers writing today. His work as a literary and cultural critic, a political commentator, and the champion of the cause of Palestinian rights has given him a unique position in Western intellectual life. This new book is a major exploration and a clarification of his writings in all these main areas. Focusing on Said's insistence on the connection between literature, politics and culture, Kennedy offers an overview of the main strands of Said's work, drawing out the links and contradictions between them. The book begins with an examination of Orientalism, one of the founding texts of post-colonial studies. Kennedy looks at the book in detail, probing both its strengths and weaknesses, and linking it to its sequel, Culture and Imperialism. She then examines Said's work on the Palestinian people, with his emphasis on the need for a Palestinian narrative to counter pro-Israeli accounts of the Middle East, and his searing criticisms of US, Israeli, and even Arab governments. The book closes with an examination of Said's importance in the field of post-colonial studies, notably his approach to the analysis of post-colonial history and his significance as a public intellectual. This book will be of great interest to anyone studying post-colonialism, literary theory, politics, and the Middle East, as well as anyone interested in Said's writings.

Third Way Discourse—Steve Bastow 2003 This book introduces the history of Third Way ideology, surveys its various contrasting forms, and locates it within the context of a recurrent crisis of modern European ideologies. Chapters cover New Labour, Italian Liberal Socialism, Ecologism, and Neo-Fascism. The book explores the relationship between current third way theory and radical politics.

Security—Lee Jarvis 2014-12-12 This major new text provides an accessible yet intellectually rigorous introduction to contemporary Security Studies. It focuses on eight fundamental debates relating to international security, integrating a wide range of empirical issues and theoretical approaches within its critical interrogation of these.

Multiculturalism—Michael Murphy 2013-03-01 What is multiculturalism and what are the different theories used to justify it? Are multicultural policies a threat to liberty and equality? Can liberal democracies accommodate minority groups without sacrificing peace and stability? In this clear introduction to the subject, Michael Murphy explores these questions and critically assesses multiculturalism from the standpoint of political philosophy and political practice. The book explores the origins and contemporary usage of the concept of multiculturalism in the context of debates about citizenship, egalitarian justice and conflicts between individual and collective rights. The ideas of some of the most influential champions and critics of multiculturalism, including Will Kymlicka, Chandran Kukathas, Susan Okin and Brian Barry, are also clearly explained and evaluated. Key topics include the tension between multiculturalism and gender equality, cultural relativism and the limits of liberal toleration, and the impact of multicultural policies on social cohesion ethnic conflict. Murphy also surveys the legal practices and policies enacted to accommodate multiculturalism, drawing on examples from the Americas, Australasia, Asia and the Middle East. Multiculturalism: A Critical Introduction is an ideal starting point for anyone coming to the topic for the first time as well as those already familiar with some of the debates.

Contemporary Political Concepts—Georgina Blakeley 2002-04-20 The language of political debate and analysis has changed dramatically in recent years. Today, both academics and practitioners have largely abandoned the vocabulary of the left and replaced it with a set of concepts that structure debate and set the political agenda. Thus, the world economy is discussed in terms of globalization instead of international capitalism, analysis of the capitalist state has given way to the study of governance, and gender and ethnicity are treated as more significant dimensions of inequality than class. Moreover, the apparently benign concepts of civil society, citizenship and stakeholder have replaced those of class and class conflict, poverty is about social exclusion rather than exploitation, and consumer choice and worker empowerment have replaced the pursuit of class interests. In today's political climate, socialism is seen as old-fashioned or utopian. In contrast, capitalism is seen as realistic, and the 'third way' is presented as the solution to all our ills. This book explores the real issues behind these catchphrases of modern politics, explaining what they mean, and offering a critique of the ideology of which they are a part. With chapters written by experts in each field, this is an excellent guide for students of politics, and anybody who is looking for a critical introduction to the key ideas, so often shrouded in rhetoric, that we hear about in the news. Chapters cover postmodernism, gender, citizenship, civil society, stakeholding, globalization, governance, the Third Way, ethnicity, social exclusion, empowerment and sustainable development.

Rights—Tom Campbell 2006 In this comprehensive introduction, Tom Campbell introduces and critically examines the key philosophical debates about rights.

Political Change and Underdevelopment—Vicky Randall 1998-08-26 This clearly-written and comprehensive introductory text provides a critical review of the principal theoretical approaches to the study of Third World politics in the second half of the twentieth century. Arguments are illustrated by examples drawn from a wide and diverse range of regions and countries. All chapters have been extensively amended and updated for
this substantially revised edition to include such developments as the debt crisis and democratisation, and a new chapter has been added on the impact of globalisation on the postcolonial world.

Peaceful Resistance—Robert M. Press 2006 In an innovative study which examines the interplay between domestic human rights policies and domestic resistance movements within authoritarian states, Robert Press explores the creation and impact of cultures of resistance on democracy movements and ca

Introducing Relational Political Analysis—Peeter Selig 2020-09-21 This book introduces relational thinking to political analysis. Instead of merely providing an overview of possible trajectories for articulating a relational political analysis, Peeter Selig and Andreas Ventsel put forth a concrete relational theory of the political, which has implications for research methodology, culminating in a concrete method he call political analysis. In addition, they sketch out several applications of this theory, methodology and method. They call their approach “political semiotics” and argue that it is a fruitful way of conducting research on power, governance and democracy - the core dimensions of the political - in a manner that is envisioned in numerous discussions of the “relational turn” in the social sciences. It is the first monograph that attempts to outline an approach to the political that would be relational throughout, from its meta theoretical and theoretical premises through to its methodological and empirical applications.

Rational Choice and Politics—Stephen Parsons 2005-03-18 Rational Choice Theory claims to be able to explain how all individuals make not just some of their choices, but all of their choices, all of the time. According to the theory, there is no difference in principle between choosing whether to buy apples rather than bananas or choosing whether to join a political revolution instead of staying at home and watching television. Given these claims to universal applicability, it is perhaps not surprising to find that over the last three or four decades Rational Choice Theory has become increasingly influential as a means of providing explanations in politics. The textbook introduces the premises of Rational Choice Theory and illustrates how this theory can be applied to political studies. The book concludes with an assessment of the usefulness of the model in the light of the problems highlighted. ‘Parsons’s book provides a lucid presentation and a cogent critique of Rational Choice Theory in economics and politics.’ Professor Steve Pressman, Department of Economics and Finance, Monmouth University, USA

Political Change and Underdevelopment—Vicky Randall 1985 The need for theory

Pierre Bourdieu—Jeremy F. Lane 2000-07-20 This study of the work of the influential French sociologist and anthropologist Pierre Bourdieu places his work firmly in the context of developments both in the French post-war intellectual field an din post-war French society as a whole. Set against the background of rapid change and upheaval that has characterised post-war French society, culture and politics, Bourdieu’s work can be seen as offering a peculiarly perceptive analysis of France’s problematic transition to an era of late capitalism. Proceeding thematically, this study explores the development of Bourdieu’s thought, elucidating the relationship between the anthropological and sociological aspects of his work, examining his debt to Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Husserl, Merleau-Ponty and Bachelard, and highlighting his antagonistic relationship with a series of contemporary intellectual figures and movements - Barthes, Lefebvre, Touraine, Sartre, Fanon, Foucault, Derrida, structuralism and post-structuralism.

The Political Theory of Recognition—Simon Thompson 2006-10-06 In recent years the political landscape has changed: established ideas about class, economy, nation and human rights have been challenged by a new politics of identity, culture, ethnicity and difference. The political theory of recognition is a response to these challenges. In this, the first introductory book on the subject, Simon Thompson analyses the argument that a just society is one that shows all its members due recognition. Focusing on the work on Charles Taylor, Axel Honneth and Nancy Fraser, he discusses how political theorists have conceptualised recognition, the different accounts they have given and the criticisms made of the very idea of a politics of recognition. Through the political theory of recognition, Thompson argues, we gain a better understanding of identity and difference. Practically, the concept of recognition can serve as a basis for the argument that rights should be protected, whether cultural or individual, and whether a case can be made for group recognition. This clear and accessible book provides an excellent guide through the ongoing and increasingly significant debate about multiculturalism and its critics.

Theories of Nationalism—Umut Ozkirimli 2017-03-19 This widely-used and highly-acclaimed text provides a comprehensive and balanced introduction to the main theoretical perspectives on nationalism. The 3rd edition has been revised and updated throughout and includes a new chapter on the practical outworking of theory in the contemporary politics of nationalism.

The Role of Ideas in Political Analysis—Andreas Gofas 2010-01-21 Despite the proliferation of ideational accounts in the last decade or so, the debate over the role of ideas remains caught up in a series of disputes over the ontological foundations, epistemological status and practical pay-off of the (re)turn to ideational explanations. It is thus unsurprising that there is still little clarity about just what sort of an approach an idealational approach is and about what it would take to establish the kind of fully-fledged ideational research programme many seem to assume has already been developed. The contributors in this volume address these dilemmas in diverse but engagingly complementary ways. They argue that what plagues most attempts to accord ideas an explanatory role is the persistence of the perennial dualities in political analysis. In aspiring to eschew the current vogue for dualistic polemic, the present volume reveals elements of dualistic thinking in the ideational turn and assesses the impact of the persistence of these perennial dualisms in the attempt to account ideas an explanatory role.

International Relations Theory—Olivier Daddow 2009-03-19 SAGE Course Companions provide students with an insider’s guide into how to make the most of their undergraduate courses and extend their understanding of the key concepts covered. Ideal for anyone new to the study of international relations or looking for a refresher, this Course Companion includes a comprehensive introduction to the competing theories at the heart of the discipline as well as hints and tips on how to apply them when tackling coursework or examinations. Written in a straightforward and clear style, it is designed to augment, rather than replace, existing textbooks for the course and provides: o pointers to success in course exams and written assessment exercises; o easy access to the key theories in international relations; o guidance on the essential study skills required to pass the course; o help with developing critical thinking; o ‘taking it further’ sections that suggest how readers can extend their thinking beyond the received wisdom.

Politics and Rhetoric—James Martin 2013-10-08 Rhetoric is the art of speech and persuasion, the study of argument and, in Classical times, an essential component in the education of the citizen. For rhetoricians, politics is a skill to be performed and not merely observed. Yet in modern democracies we often suspect political speech of malign intent and remain uncertain how properly to interpret and evaluate it. Public arguments are easily dismissed as ‘mere rhetoric’ rather than engaged critically, with citizens encouraged to be passive consumers of a media spectacle rather than active participants in a political dialogue. This volume provides a clear and introductory introduction to the skills of the rhetorical arts. It surveys critically the place of rhetoric in contemporary public life and assesses its virtues as a tool of political theory. Questions about power and identity in the practices of political communication remain central to the rhetorical tradition: how do we know that we are not being manipulated by those who seek to persuade us? Only a grasp of the techniques of rhetoric and an understanding of how they manifest themselves in contemporary politics, argues the author, can guide us in answering these perennial questions. Politics and Rhetoric draws together in a comprehensive and highly accessible way relevant ideas from discourse analysis, classical rhetoric updated to a modern setting, relevant issues in contemporary political theory, and numerous carefully chosen examples and issues from current politics. It will be essential reading for all students of politics and political communications.


Zizek—Sarah Kay 2003-04-29 Zizek is hailed as the most significant interdisciplinary thinker of modern times. His work is a powerful, often explosive combination of Lacanian psychoanalysis and philosophy which tests key psychoanalytical concepts against the ideas of major European thinkers, especially Hegel. It has ignited enthusiasm and stimulated new approaches across a vast range of disciplines, and seems to be attracting an
ever-growing readership. In part, this is because Zizek himself has a panoramic range of interests encompassing film studies, literature, cyber culture, ethics, theology and, above all, politics. It is also because he is a highly entertaining writer, having a flair for anecdote, a smutty sense of humour and the knack of capturing complex ideas in concrete form. Sarah Kay's book provides a lucid and comprehensive introduction to Zizek's work. His writings to date are presented and evaluated here for the first time, together with an outline of their development and explanations of his key premises, themes and terms. This book will be essential reading for students of cultural studies, literary studies, philosophy and social and political theory.

Habermas-William Outhwaite 2009-07-14 This new edition of a well-regarded book provides a concise and exceptionally clear introduction to Habermas's work, from his early writings on the public sphere, through his work on law and the state, to his more recent discussion of science, religion and contemporary Europe. Outhwaite examines all of Habermas's major works and steers a steady course through the many debates to which they have given rise. A major feature of the book is that it provides a detailed critical analysis of Habermas's most important work, The Theory of Communicative Action. As well as looking at Habermas's appraisal of figures such as Foucault and Derrida, the book also examines his resolute defence of the Enlightenment project, his work on law and democracy and its implications for the important topic of European integration. This book quickly became established as an authoritative guide to Habermas's work, and this updated new edition will be an invaluable critical introduction for students and scholars across the social sciences and humanities, especially sociology, politics, philosophy and social theory.

Zizek and Politics: A Critical Introduction-Matthew Sharpe 2010-03-14 In Zizek and Politics, Geoff Boucher and Matthew Sharpe go beyond standard introductions to spell out a new approach to reading Zizek, one that can be highly critical as well as deeply appreciative. They show that Zizek has a raft of fundamental positions that enable his theoretical positions to be put to work on practical problems. Explaining these positions with clear examples, they outline why Zizek's confrontation with thinkers such as Derrida, Foucault and Deleuze has so radically changed how we think about society. They then go on to track Zizek's own intellectual development during the last twenty years, as he has grappled with theoretical problems and the political climate of the War on Terror. This book is a major addition to the literature on Zizek and a crucial critical introduction to his thought.

The Relevance of Political Science-Gerry Stoker 2015-03-26 What does political science tell us about important real-world problems and issues? And to what extent does and can political analysis contribute to solutions? This is the challenge addressed by leading political scientists in this original text which will be essential reading for students and scholars alike.

Research Design in Political Science-Dimiter Toshkov 2016-02-10 This is a comprehensive guide to contemporary research design in Political Science introducing a wide range of cutting-edge research models and examining their respective implications.

The philosophy and methods of Political Science-Keith Dowding 2015-11-24 A short, lively and innovative text, this book addresses the question of what constitutes good practice in a variety of political science methods and examines the philosophy that underpins them. It argues for a pluralistic approach that will deliver effective analysis and an in-depth understanding of political events.

Social Media-Christian Fuchs 2017-02-20 This book equips students with the critical thinking they need to understand the complexities and contradictions of social media and make informed judgements. The Second Edition explores the sharing economy of Uber and Airbnb and social media in China. Critical Fictions-Joseph Fichtelberg 2003 Past studies have discussed antebellum and early national sentimental literature by and about women as a retreat from, or criticism of, the burgeoning market. In this landmark study, Joseph Fichtelberg examines how this literature actually helped to bring market behaviors into maturity. Between 1780 and 1870, Americans endured no fewer than seventeen economic depressions. Each one generated sentimental outpourings in which women came to personify the travails of the marketplace. In the early national period, novels like Martha Meredith Read's Margareta and Isaac Mitchell's The Asylum depicted resolute heroines who soothed national ills with virtuous vulnerability. While men often languished in such novels, women thrived. Antebellum fictions extend the argument: bankrupt husbands dissolved in sentimental despair, while their wives used a different sensibility to understand, and adapt to, the market itself. These fictions used women characters to think through the problems of economic crisis and growth—a process completed by the Civil War, when popular fictions began to depict merchants and clerks as feminine. To master the market was to act like a woman—virtuous, immune to commercial temptation, and thus pure. This notion, Fichtelberg argues, was crucial to the onset of liberalism and the emergence of the American middle class. In addition to his discussions of popular, though noncanonical, writers such as Read and Mitchell, Fichtelberg also covers well-known authors such as Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, Olaudah Equiano, and Walt Whitman. He brings to bear neglected sources (including the ledgers of Ralph Waldo Emerson) and interweaves best-selling novels and pamphlets with political debates and contemporary economic analyses to create rich descriptions of the era. A crucial addition to American literary criticism on sentimental literature, Critical Fictions is a groundbreaking analysis of the relations between commercial and sentimental discourses in early American literature as well as a history of early American economics. It will appeal to specialists as well as to the general reader interested in how American culture has portrayed women in ways that express its deepest needs.

Regis Debray-Keith Reader 1995 'By interweaving discussion of Debray's writings on politics, media, and education, as well as his novels and autobiographical works, Reader reveals the wide-ranging yet underestimated relevance of his work to students of politics, history, sociology, media studies, literature, and revolution, and as political commentary.' Modern & Contemporary FranceThis is the first critical introduction of French intellectual Regis Debray. Keith Reader provides a close analysis of Debray's political and cultural writings in their intellectual and historical context. The author draws out the underlying coherence of ideology and theme exemplified by Debray's consistent and continuing stress on the importance of geography, the centrality/inevitability of the nation-state and the promotion of a culture of the word over one of the image.

Gorz-Conrad Lodziak 1997-11-20 Andre Gorz is widely regarded as a major contemporary theoretician and his comprehensive critique of social formations offers both a direction and meaning to the current technological revolution. In the first accessible introduction to his work in English, Lodziak and Tatman trace the development of Gorz's political and philosophical theory over a period of more than four decades. Gorz's influence on European intellectual and political culture is examined, as is Gorz's own formative influence.

Political Ideologies-Vincent Geoghegan 2003-09-02 This informative and widely-used text is now available in a third edition. Building on the success of previous editions, it continues to provide a clear and accessible introduction to the complexities of political ideologies. The latest edition of Political Ideologies: introduces and considers the future of all the most widely studied ideologies: liberalism; conservatism; socialism; critical-theology-a-critical-introduction
Learning aids to stimulate critical thinking, including discussion questions, further readings and selected web resources
Rational Choice-Andrew Hindmoor 2015-07-30 Assuming no prior knowledge, this widely-used and critically-acclaimed text provides a clear introduction to, and uniquely fair-minded assessment of, Rational Choice approaches. The substantially revised, updated and extended new edition includes more substantial coverage of game theory, collective action, 'revisionist' public choice, and the use of rational choice in International Relations.
Research Methods in Politics-Peter Burnham 2008-06-17 The second edition of this popular text provides a comprehensive introduction to the main research methods employed in the study of politics and assessment of their strengths and limitations and of ethical issues in research. It has been revised and updated throughout, and a new chapter considers the relationship between research and policy.
Selling the War on Terror-Jack Holland 2012-09-10 This book uses a comparative analysis to examine foreign policy discourses and the dynamics of the 'War on Terror'. The book considers the three principal members of the Coalition of the Willing in Afghanistan and Iraq: the United States, Britain and Australia. Despite significant cultural, historical and political overlap, the War on Terror was nevertheless rendered possible in these contexts in distinct ways, drawing on different discourses and narratives of foreign policy and identity. This volume explores these differences and their origins, arguing that they have important implications for the way we understand foreign policy and political possibility. The author rejects prevalent interpretations of a War on Terror foreign policy discourse, in the singular, highlighting that coalition states both demonstrated and relied upon divergent policy framings to make the War on Terror possible. The book thus contributes to our understanding of political possibility, in the process correcting a tendency to view the War on Terror as a universal and monolithic political discourse. This book will be of much interest to students of foreign policy, critical security studies, terrorism studies, discourse analysis, and IR in general.
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