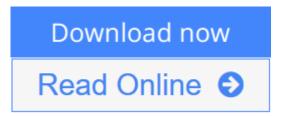# People, States and Fear: National Security Problem in International Relations

By Barry Buzan

People, States and Fear: National Security Problem in International Relations By Barry Buzan

The second edition of this book takes as its main theme the question of how states and societies pursue freedom from threat in an environment in which competitive relations are inescapable across the political, economic, military, societal and environmental landscapes. Throughout, attention is focused on the interplay of threats and vulnerabilities, policies of overemphasizing one or the other, and the existence of the types of contradictions which are endemic to ideas about security. The author argues that the concept of security is a useful way of approaching the study of international relations and that ideas about security can help frame an analysis of power and peace. The new edition has been revised and updated and takes a more positive, post-1989 tone. More emphasis is placed on the economic, societal and environmental aspects of security. The chapters on threat, the international political system and economic security have been rewritten and there is a new chapter on regional security. The book also includes new sections on developments in security concepts during the 1980s and on international society. An expanded discussion of the theory of the state and of weak and strong states is included.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Barry Buzan is a Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and honorary professor at the University of Copenhagen. He has published and broadcast extensively in the field of international relations. He was Chairman of the British International Studies Association 1988-90, Vice-President of the (North American) International Studies Association 1993-4, and founding Secretary of the International Coordinating Committee 1994-8. Since 1999 he has been the general coordinator of a project to reconvene the English school of International Relations, and from 2004 he is editor of the European Journal of International Relations. In 1998 he was elected a fellow of the British Academy, and in 2001 he was elected as an Academician of the Association of Learned Societies in the Social Sciences.

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