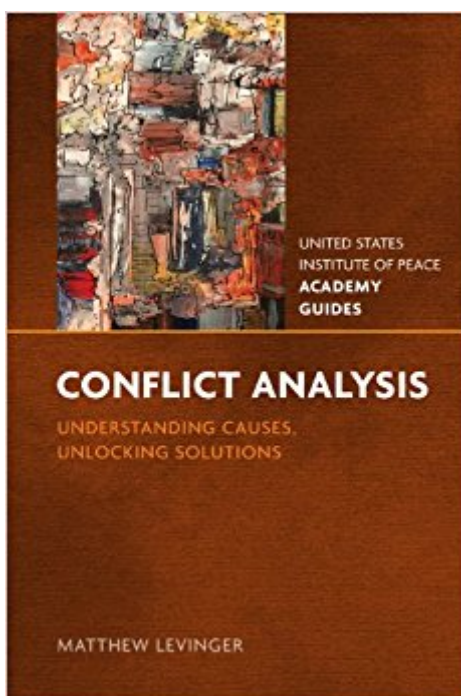


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CONFLICT ANALYSIS: Understanding Causes, Unlocking Solutions (USIP Academy Guides)



Synopsis

Conflict Analysis: Understanding Causes, Unlocking Solutions is a guide for practitioners seeking to prevent deadly conflict or mitigate political instability. This handbook integrates theory and practice and emphasizes the importance of analyzing the causes of peace as well as the causes of conflict. It stresses that conflict analysis is a social as well as an intellectual process, helping practitioners translate analysis into effective action.

Book Information

Series: USIP Academy Guides

Paperback: 280 pages

Publisher: United States Institute of Peace; United States Institute of Peace Academy Guides edition (June 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1601271433

ISBN-13: 978-1601271433

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #112,740 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > War & Peace](#) #249 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Violence in Society](#) #1394 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics](#)

Customer Reviews

"Finally, in one volume, the theoretical underpinning and the tools to understand today's conflict dynamics and develop policy responses. This handbook aims to help practitioners of conflict management in analyzing both the causes of conflict and peace, and to include their analysis in decisionmaking and program implementation. A very timely toolbox in an age of shifting global conflict trends that can enable policy makers to design more nuanced and agile responses to the early 21st-century complex conflict crises." -Francesco Mancini, Senior Director of Research, International Peace Institute

"In this extraordinary volume, Matthew Levinger serves as a wise guide through a vast landscape of conflict, war, and peace. He includes lively, concise case studies that bring his explanations to life, and he presents complex ideas in a way that both professionals and those new to the field can immediately grasp and appreciate. I recommend this book for

anyone working in a conflict zone and for everyone who desires a deeper understanding of the forces for war and peace in our world." -Melanie Greenberg, president and CEO, Alliance for Peacebuilding

"More than yet another conflict assessment framework, this comprehensive primer describes a wide array of analytical tools and processes that development, diplomacy, and humanitarian professionals can use to grasp complex conflict situations and avoid cognitive traps in order to engage effectively." -Overall, a compelling case for understanding conflicts before responding." -Michael Lund, Senior Specialist for Conflict and Peacebuilding, Management Systems International, Inc.

"A comprehensive description of the costs of deadly conflict and an important contribution on conflict analysis." -Levinger describes how to take an analytical approach to identifying the diverse dimensions fueling conflict." -Lisa Schirch, Director, 3P Human Security, and Research Professor, Eastern Mennonite University

A must read for all analysts and practitioners seeking to cope with conflict. The book is broadly rooted in the literature on analysis and planning and provides good concrete examples at every point. A deep and thoroughly practical handbook." (Dean G. Pruitt, Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University)

The change in the patterns and nature of deadly conflicts since the end of the Cold War has spurred many organizations in and outside governments to develop robust strategies to anticipate, prevent, and respond to these conflicts. Conflict analysis is the critical first step toward meeting these objectives. *Conflict Analysis: Understanding Causes, Unlocking Solutions* is a guide for practitioners seeking to prevent deadly conflict or mitigate political instability. Governments, nongovernmental organizations, and businesses operating in conflict zones will find this volume to be a practical, accessible reference for understanding and communicating persuasively about threats of organized violence. This handbook integrates theory and practice and emphasizes the importance of analyzing the causes of peace as well as the causes of conflict. It stresses that conflict analysis is a social as well as an intellectual process, helping practitioners translate analysis into effective action. To illustrate key points, Levinger draws on both historical and contemporary cases, including the Cuban missile crisis, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Yugoslav wars of secession, the Rwandan genocide, the 9/11 attacks, and the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Part I examines contemporary global conflict trends, perspectives on the causes of conflict and peace, and quantitative models for early warning and risk assessment. Part II provides practitioners with a menu of analytical tools for systematically assessing causes and potential trajectories of deadly conflicts. Part III focuses on the role of conflict analysis in decision making and program implementation, including the social dimensions of conflict analysis. The analytical tools in this

volume illuminate emerging trends in complex, volatile, and ambiguous environments and will enable practitioners to anticipate and respond with greater agility to threats and opportunities.

Excellent book; this one has a permanent place on the shelf. There is not a single thing in here that is new, but the author does an outstanding job of seamlessly integrating theories and methods ranging widely across multiple disciplines to shape an effective approach to the title subject. The book's structure progresses iteratively from theory to practice to application in a manner that ensures clarity. Applicable well beyond the intended target audience. Definitely recommended. There are only a couple of relatively minor things that I take issue with. In comparison with the preceding chapters, the one on "Navigating Cognitive Minefields" is relatively undeveloped. The piece on groupthink is a bit narrow, and the bit on psychic numbing really needs more work. Then there's the section on designing a plan of action in the final chapter, "Conflict Analysis in the Planning Process." The sub-text on Venn diagrams feels like it's added as an afterthought - like he wanted to discuss visualization methods in presenting analysis, but didn't have time to go into it in detail like he did with everything else. Those small issues aside, this is one of the best books on the subject I've seen.

Good book!

If you care about conflict prevention: how political violence and violent extremism emerge, what the causes and patterns are, and the pathways for prevention and response, this book contains 'must reads' for you. There are essential chapters for some of my own courses and trainings, including the amazing chapter on "Risk Assessment and Early Warning," "Conflict Mapping," "Navigating Cognitive Minefields," and "Conflict Analysis in the Planning Process."

Levinger has written an excellent introduction to the complex world of conflict analysis. Ideal for students new to the subject area and useful food for thought for more seasoned practitioners.

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