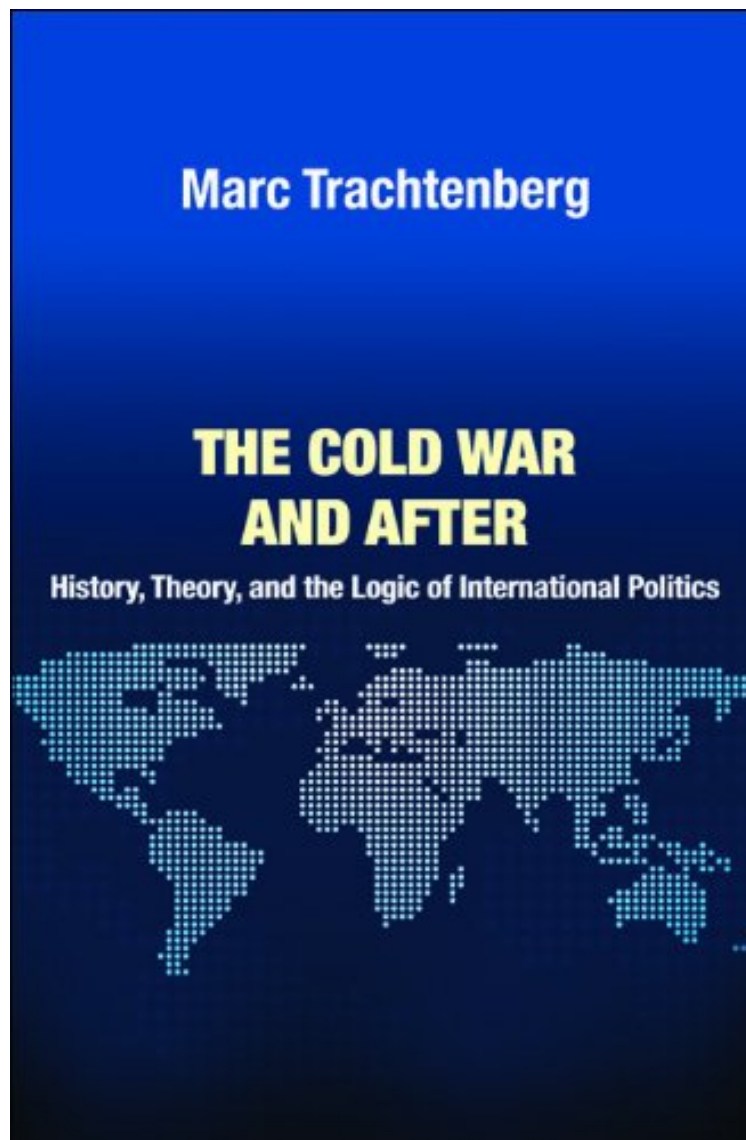


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The Cold War and After: History, Theory, and the Logic of International Politics (Princeton Studies in International History and Politics)

Von Marc Trachtenberg

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Von Marc Trachtenberg : The Cold War and After: History, Theory, and the Logic of International Politics (Princeton Studies in International History and Politics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cold War and After: History, Theory, and the Logic of International

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Exzellente Synthese zwischen internationaler Theorie und Geschichte
Von Carboncowboy
Marc Trachtenberg, von Haus aus Historiker, versucht in diesem Buch einen Brueckenschlag zwischen internationaler Geschichte und Theorien der internationalen Beziehungen (IB). Wie er im Eingangskapitel bemerkt, sind diese beiden Disziplinen gepraeagt durch unterschiedliche und teilweise disparate Forschungsansaeetze: waehrend die Geschichtswissenschaft komplexe Erklaerungen fuer spezifische historische Entwicklungen sucht, sind Theorien der IB vorrangig daran interessiert, einzelne kausale Mechanismen zu identifizieren, die die Erklaerung einer grossen Bandbreite an geschichtlichem Material ermoeeglichen. Trachtenberg ordnet sich selbst in der neorealistischen Tradition ein, gibt aber gleichzeitig zu, dass deren theoretische Annahmen empirisch haeufig indadaequat sind. Das zweite Kapitel ist besonders interessant. Im Gegensatz zu neorealistischen Annahmen argumentiert der Autor, dass die anarchische Struktur des internationalen Systems nicht zu zwischenstaatlichen Konflikten beitraegt, sondern, im Gegenteil, einen stabilisierenden Faktor darstellt. Wie Trachtenberg ueberzeugend argumentiert, entstehen die verheerendsten Konflikte und Kriege vielmehr dann, wenn politische Entscheidungstraeger die nuechterne Einschaeztung von Macht und Interessen durch ideologische Kreuzzuege ersetzen. Auf der Basis der theoretischen Argumente in Kapiteln 1 und 2 analysiert der Autor in Teil 2 verschiedene internationale Entwicklungen waehrend des kalten Kriegs. Waehrend das empirische Material vorrangig fuer Spezialisten interessant ist, versucht Trachtenberg in jeder dieser verschiedenen Episoden die historische Forschung mit seinen theoretischen Argumenten zu synthetisieren um die "wirkliche Story" jenseits der blanken empirischen Fakten herauszufiltern. Teil 3 schliesst ab mit zwei Kapiteln ueber die USA und NATO nach dem kalten Krieg. Beide sind hochinteressant, und werfen teilweise ein neues Licht auf Themen, die in den letzten 10, 15 Jahren ausgiebig diskutiert wurden. Waehrend dieses Buch weder eine historische Einfuehrung in den kalten Krieg, noch eine theoretische Abhandlung ueber Neorealismus ist, liegt seine Staerke darin, Theorie und geschichtswissenschaftliche Forschung auf sehr fruchtbare Weise zusammenzubringen.

Kurzbeschreibung
What makes for war or for a stable international system? Are there general principles that should govern foreign policy? In *The Cold War and After*, Marc Trachtenberg, a leading historian of international relations, explores how historical work can throw light on these questions. The essays in this book deal with specific problems--with such matters as nuclear strategy and U.S.-European relations. But Trachtenberg's main goal is to show how in practice a certain type of scholarly work can be done. He demonstrates how, in studying international politics, the conceptual and empirical sides of the analysis can be made to connect with each other, and how historical, theoretical, and even policy issues can be tied together in an intellectually respectable way. These essays address a wide variety of topics, from theoretical and policy issues, such as the question of preventive war and the problem of international order, to more historical subjects--for example, American policy on Eastern Europe in 1945 and Franco-American relations during the Nixon-Pompidou period. But in each case the aim is to show how a theoretical perspective can be brought to bear on the analysis of historical issues, and how historical analysis can shed light on basic conceptual problems.
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[A] stimulating reconsideration of some of the central and already much-studied issues of the Cold War. . . . Trachtenberg argues his case thoughtfully and interestingly. Contentious in parts, stimulating throughout, this is a book for historians and international relations scholars, especially those interested in each other's endeavours, and for a wider academic readership, too.--Roger Morgan "Times Higher Education "[A] stimulating reconsideration of some of the central and already much-studied issues of the Cold War. . . . Trachtenberg argues his case thoughtfully and interestingly. Contentious in parts, stimulating throughout, this is a book for historians and international relations scholars, especially those interested in each other's endeavours, and for a wider academic readership, too.--Roger Morgan "Times Higher Education "Trachtenberg provides a fresh analysis of the United States and Eastern Europe and the question of Soviet motivations and intentions in 1945. It is familiar territory to diplomatic historians and yet the insights and the repositioning that are made possible through the methodology are fascinating.--David Ryan "International Affairs ""The Cold War and After" . . . will be a particularly valuable asset for (post)graduate students, although established IR scholars will also benefit. For those occupying the broad center of international studies, this book is a master class in historical and qualitative methods."--Peter Harris, "Political Studies ""[A] stimulating reconsideration of some of the central and already much-studied issues of the Cold War. . . . Trachtenberg argues his case thoughtfully and interestingly. Contentious in parts, stimulating throughout, this is a book for historians and international relations scholars, especially those interested in each other's endeavours, and for a wider academic readership, too."--Roger Morgan, Times Higher Education"Trachtenberg provides a fresh analysis of the United States and Eastern Europe and the question of Soviet motivations and intentions in 1945. It is familiar territory to diplomatic historians and yet the insights and the repositioning that are made possible through the methodology are fascinating."--David Ryan, International Affairs"The Cold War and After . . . will be a particularly

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