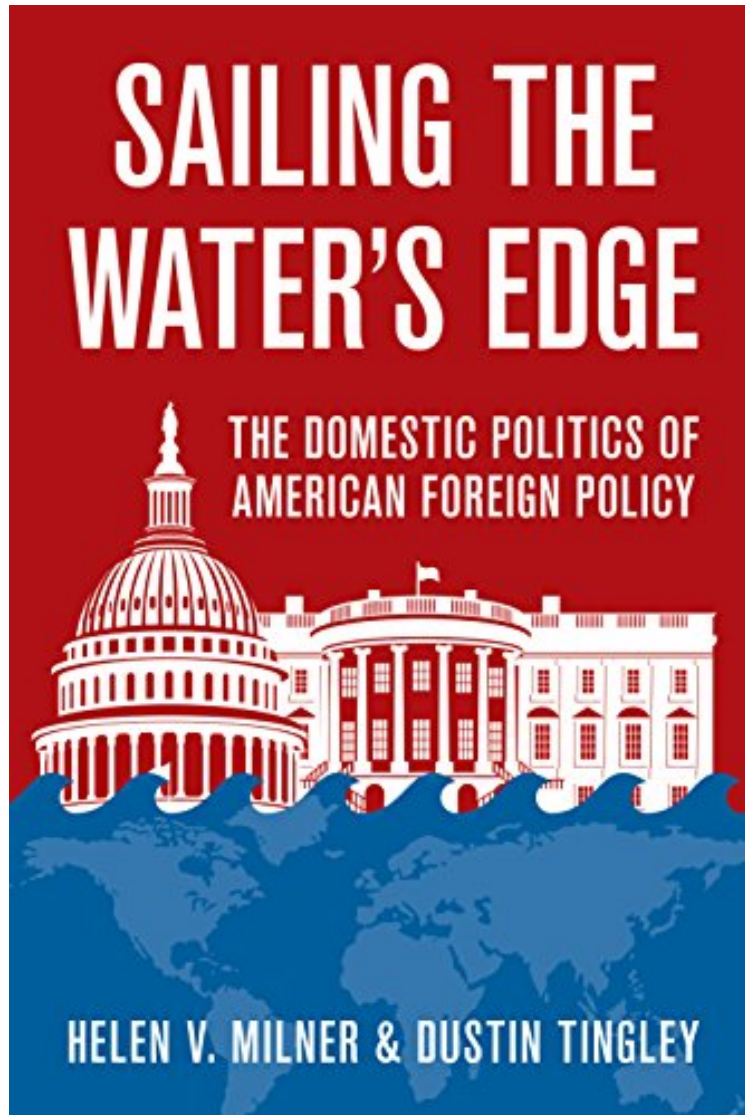


(Free read ebook) Sailing the Water's Edge: The Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy

Sailing the Water's Edge: The Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy

Helen V. Milner, Dustin Tingley
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Helen V. Milner, Dustin Tingley : Sailing the Water's Edge: The Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sailing the Water's Edge: The Domestic Politics of American Foreign Policy:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thorough, comprehensive, and convincing By Leanne Powner Milner and Tingley have written a thorough and comprehensive account of the politics of US foreign policy making. By evolving away from regions and topics to instruments and tools of policy, they are able to draw significant

generalizations about the politics of how policy gets made and how it differs across areas in ways that surpass the traditional high/low politics issue area approach or the regional-interest-network-capture model. Their argument revolves around the degree of (domestic) distributional conflict the policy tool involves, and the degree of ideological polarization around the use of that tool. Depending on the balance of these, presidents may have an easier or more difficult time substituting away from their preferred policies toward other policies. They engage with a diverse range of evidence types and testing methodologies to examine support for their argument in a manner that is particularly convincing. The one somewhat odd instrument in their toolbox, one which they themselves admit doesn't fit well into most of their boxes or predictions, is immigration policy. It's the only strictly policy issue in the tool kit, with most of the rest being bundles of policy and tools/resources (i.e., military spending, geopolitical aid). There are no obvious carrots or sticks associated with this policy area; its distributional consequences are generally very abstract and diffuse, and they are almost entirely domestic. It's a foreign policy instrument with very little foreign impact, except perhaps symbolically. I had trouble at points wrapping my head around how this acted as a foreign policy tool — as a mechanism for achieving US interests abroad — and the results of their empirical testing largely reflect this, with inconsistent and/or weak findings for many of the immigration-related tests. Overall, Milner and Tingley have written what promises to be a core text in the rigorous analytic study of US foreign policy for some years to come. Even if you don't agree with it, its merger of two elements of domestic politics, distribution and ideology, will force scholars of all stripes to have to engage with it seriously. (This would be easier if the book weren't so excruciatingly long.) The arguments about militarization and substitution alone make it worth reading and considering in all scholarship on US foreign policy. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By CustomerGreat

When engaging with other countries, the U.S. government has a number of different policy instruments at its disposal, including foreign aid, international trade, and the use of military force. But what determines which policies are chosen? Does the United States rely too much on the use of military power and coercion in its foreign policies? *Sailing the Water's Edge* focuses on how domestic U.S. politics—in particular the interactions between the president, Congress, interest groups, bureaucratic institutions, and the public—have influenced foreign policy choices since World War II and shows why presidents have more control over some policy instruments than others. Presidential power matters and it varies systematically across policy instruments. Helen Milner and Dustin Tingley consider how Congress and interest groups have substantial material interests in and ideological divisions around certain issues and that these factors constrain presidents from applying specific tools. As a result, presidents select instruments that they have more control over, such as use of the military. This militarization of U.S. foreign policy raises concerns about the nature of American engagement, substitution among policy tools, and the future of U.S. foreign policy. Milner and Tingley explore whether American foreign policy will remain guided by a grand strategy of liberal internationalism, what affects American foreign policy successes and failures, and the role of U.S. intelligence collection in shaping foreign policy. The authors support their arguments with rigorous theorizing, quantitative analysis, and focused case studies, such as U.S. foreign policy in Sub-Saharan Africa across two presidential administrations. *Sailing the Water's Edge* examines the importance of domestic political coalitions and institutions on the formation of American foreign policy.