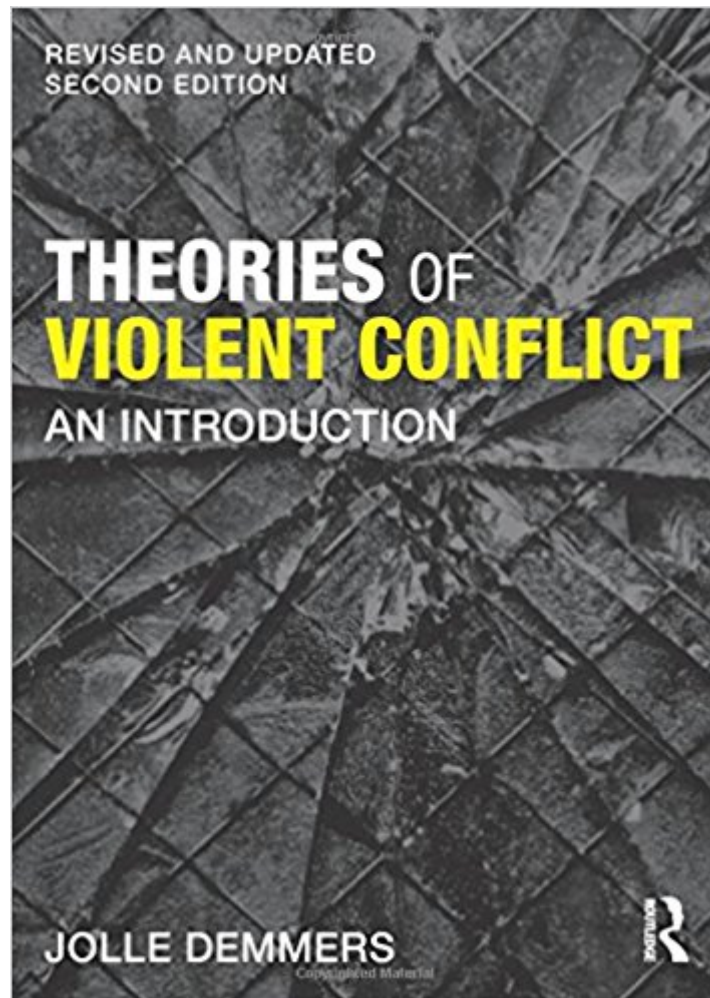




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Theories Of Violent Conflict: An Introduction



Synopsis

This revised and updated second edition introduces students of violent conflict to a variety of prominent theoretical approaches, and examines the ontological stances and epistemological traditions underlying these approaches. *Theories of Violent Conflict* takes the centrality of the 'group' as an actor in contemporary conflict as a point of departure, leaving us with three main questions: 'What makes a group?' 'Why and how does a group resort to violence?' 'Why and how do or don't they stop?' The book examines and compares the ways by which these questions are addressed from a number of perspectives: primordialism/constructivism, social identity theory, critical political economy, human needs theory, relative deprivation theory, collective action theory and rational choice theory. The final chapter aims to synthesize structure and agency-based theories by proposing a critical discourse analysis of violent conflict. With new material on violence, religion, extremism and military urbanism, this book will be essential reading for students of war and conflict studies, peace studies, conflict analysis and conflict resolution, and ethnic conflict, as well as security studies and IR in general.

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'This book is a masterly effort to navigate us through the multiple ways of thinking about armed conflicts and violence. Amongst its many achievements, are precisely the one which urges us to recognize the implicit assumptions we bring to bear when analyzing these dark aspects of our human communities and how we might build better conversations between theories of conflict in

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Jolle Demmers is Associate Professor and Co-Founder of the Centre for Conflict Studies, Utrecht University, the Netherlands.

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