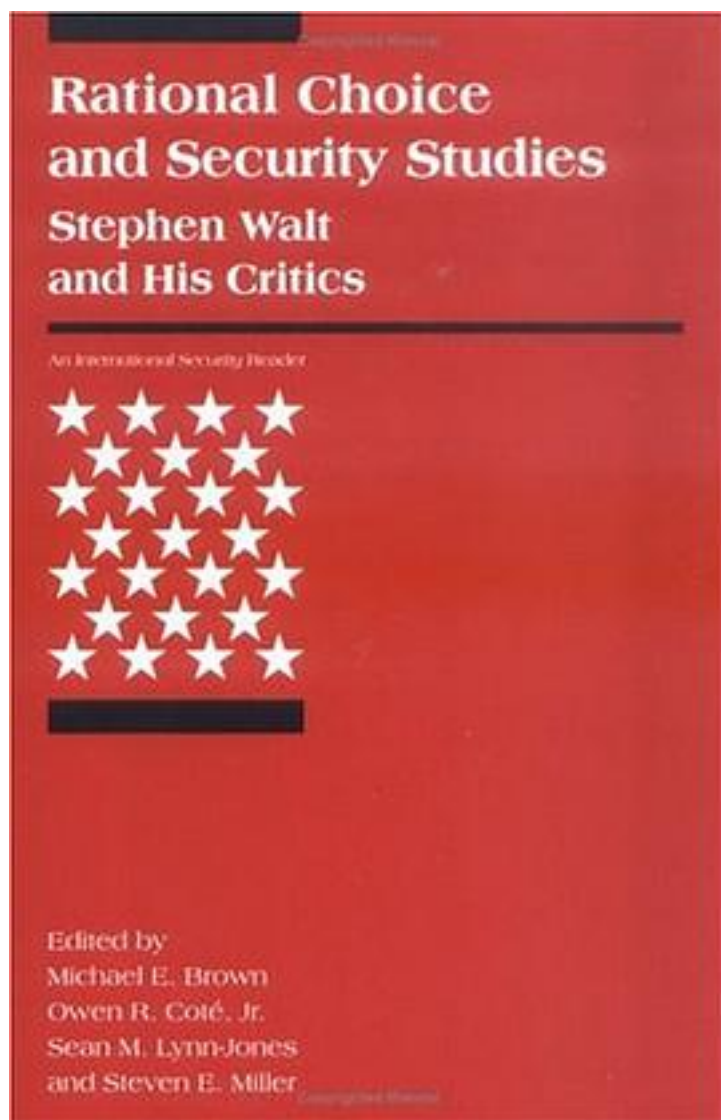


# Rational Choice and Security Studies



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Formal theories and rational choice methods have become increasingly prominent in most social sciences in the past few decades. Proponents of formal theoretical approaches argue that these methods are more scientific and sophisticated than other approaches, and that formal methods have already generated significant theoretical progress. As more and more social scientists adopt formal theoretical approaches, critics have argued that these methods are flawed and that they should not become dominant in most social-science disciplines. *Rational Choice and Security Studies* presents opposing views on the merits of formal rational choice approaches as they have been applied in the subfield of international security studies. This volume includes Stephen Walt's article "Rigor or Rigor Mortis? Rational Choice and Security Studies," critical replies from prominent political scientists, and Walt's rejoinder to his critics. Walt argues that formal approaches have not led to creative new theoretical explanations, that they lack empirical support, and that they have contributed little to the analysis of important contemporary security problems. In their replies, proponents of rational choice approaches emphasize that formal methods are essential for achieving theoretical consistency and precision.

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标签

方法论

政治学

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国关理论

比较政治

国际政治

评论

看walt被爆菊

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沃尔特本以为可以舌战群儒，没想到却被群殴。沃尔特提出的几个点，基本上都很没道理，唯一比较有利的点是形式理论的经验研究都很敷衍（部分例外），但学术本来就有分工，有人做实证，有人做经验，有人两者都做。

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在Game theory的课上读过其中的几章。Stephen Walt最初向一群“意识高”的博弈论者们发难，然后被群虐的文集。真是充满喜感。虽然相较90年代末的政治学研究领域公共选择对制度论或者定性研究手法的论争来说，这部文集感觉就格调低了那么一点，不过也算是正常人？能够看懂的文章。而且，比较有意思的是，理性选择手法的论争，多少都是抽象的哲学论战，和后来计量与定性，实验与其他手法的技术性论争有着很大的不一样。嘛，不过感觉有一些遗憾的自然就是，计量手法在政治学的地位已经近乎完全定着了。但是形式模型的理论化？迄今仍旧是众多理论阐述中的一种而已。

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