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Sinopsis

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Much praised for being both accessible and scholarly, John Rourke's text uses current examples to illustrate theories. The eleventh edition has been meticulously revised to recognize new scholarship and to update coverage of world events and trends, including elections in Iraq, Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, the defeat of the E.U. Constitution by French and Dutch voters, the tsunami in Indonesia, the first investigations of the International Criminal Court, corruption in the UN's oil-for-food program, and growing U.S.-China tensions over China's arms program.

Key Features

Each chapter now includes a "Write the Policy Script" feature, which prompts readers to think critically about an international issue from at least two points of view (examples include "Should Women Serve in Combat?" and "Ratify the Kyoto Protocol?").

A clear overarching theme organizes the text: the ongoing struggle over the direction of international politics: Shall countries act traditionally, in their own national interest as sovereign states, or shall they participate in an alternative system of globalization and interdependence?

To help readers relate to material and be enthusiastic about studying it, the text presents international politics as an exciting drama in which students are participants.

"Play a Part in Your World" features, found in most chapters, highlight how everyday citizens have been or can be involved in world politics, and give students tips on getting involved (for example, a "Play a Part" feature in Chapter 3, entitled "Join an NGO," offers links to thousands of NGOs).

"You Be the Playwright" boxes ask students to reimagine events and documents (for example, a "You Be the Playwright" box in Chapter 2 lays out the basics of the Bush Doctrine, briefly outlines reactions for and against the document, and asks the students whether they would

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include it as a basis of the unfolding action on the world stage or whether they would rather rewrite the script).

To better fit the standard semester, the number of chapters has been reduced from 16 to 15.

Marginal icons point readers to relevant websites: examples include a site that allows students to play political strategy games (zero-sum, free rider, and prisoner's dilemma) and a site that helps put the world population in perspective.

The text is known for its abundance of excellent maps, graphs, and charts; the new edition features 35 new figures and eight new maps, and nearly all of the retained maps and figures have been updated to reflect the most current information.

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