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an introduction to the work of anthony giddens and a critical discussion of his ideas it sets out the background to and sources for giddens development of structuration theory and describes the main features of his theory

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bill mcsweeney addresses the central problem of international relations security and constructs a novel framework for its analysis he argues for the unity of the interpersonal societal and international levels of human behaviour and outlines a concept of security which more adequately reflects the complexity and ambiguity of the topic this book introduces an alternative way of theorizing the international order within which the idea of security takes on a broader range of meaning inviting a more critical and interpretative approach to understanding the concept and formulating security policy the recent shift to sociology in international relations theory has not as yet realized its critical potential for the study of security drawing on contemporary trends in social theory dr mcsweeney argues that human agency and moral choice are inherent features of the construction of the social and thus international order and hence of our conception of security and security policy

this book reveals how conflicting worldviews are at the root of public controversies on policy and trade issues it highlights the particularly controversial disputes at the level of the world trade organization in the case of regulating beef hormones and gmos aiming to show how negotiators of international agreements members of dispute settlement bodies and policy makers in general could have recourse to

concepts of other disciplines such as epistemology and philosophy in order to address deadlocked legal disputes ultimately the book is a manifesto for independent and critical research

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