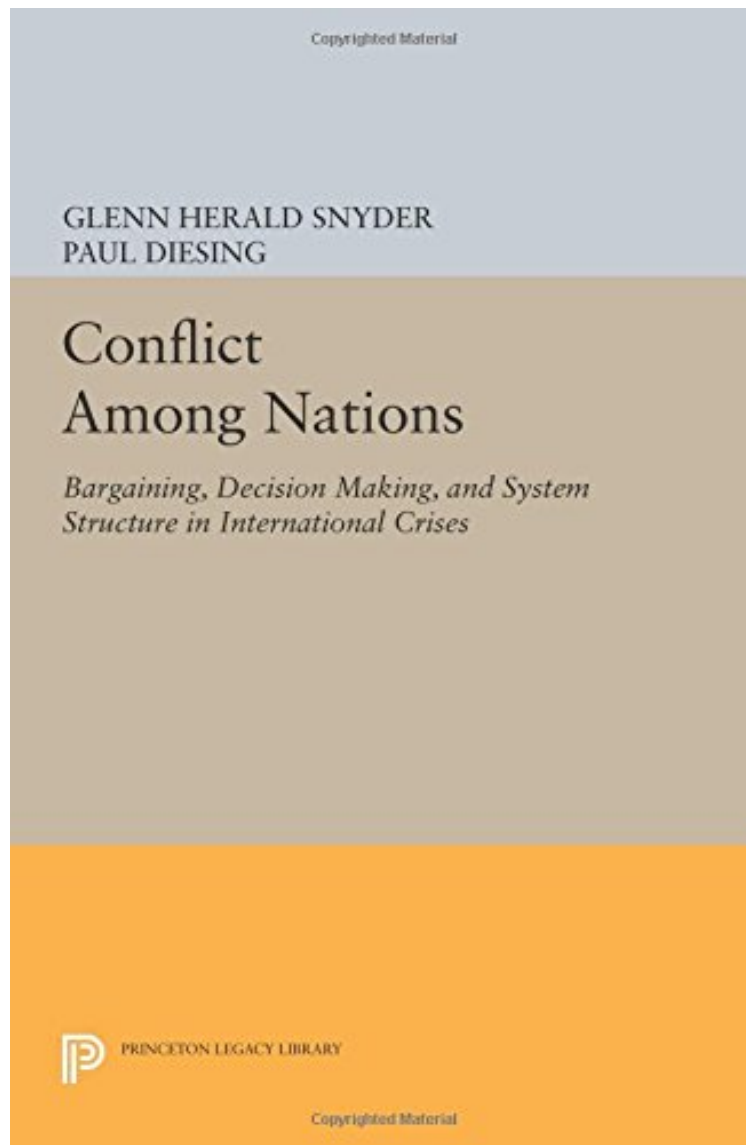


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Conflict Among Nations: Bargaining, Decision Making, and System Structure in International Crises (Princeton Legacy Library)

Glenn Herald Snyder, Paul Diesing
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Structure in International Crises (Princeton Legacy Library):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Provocative work on crisis decision making
By Steven Peterson
Paul Diesing and Glenn Snyder teamed up for a most provocative book on decision making in international crises. There is somberness to their analysis that ought to be attended to. They used a platoon of graduate students to analyze a series of international crises (e.g., Fashoda, 1898; Morocco, 1905-1906; 1914; United States-Japan, 1940-1941; Berlin, 1948-1949; Cuba, 1962) (Disclaimer: I sat in courses taught by both when I was in graduate school!). They analyze these different case studies to understand both why statesmen behave as they do in crises and to improve theory on international politics. In both respects, this volume succeeds quite nicely. Among the somber findings: the use of history by decision-makers to frame their responses to crises. The authors note at one point that they found zero (none, nada) cases in which history was properly used by decision makers. So, maybe, next time your leaders suggest that history is a slam bang way of knowing how to respond to crises, one might wish for a second opinion. There are also other crises where the cognitive limitations of decision makers created more problems than solutions. All in all, this is a nice volume that explores how leaders make decisions in crisis situations--what might work and what might not work. It is a professionally written volume, but interested lay readers can gain quite a bit from this work.

How do nations act in a crisis? This book seeks to answer that question both theoretically and historically. It tests and synthesizes theories of political behavior by comparing them with the historical record. The authors apply theories of bargaining, game theory, information processing, decision-making, and international systems to case histories of sixteen crises that occurred during a seventy-five year period. The result is a revision and integration of diverse concepts and the development of a new empirical theory of international conflict. Originally published in 1978. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

About the Author
Paul Diesing is professor emeritus of political science at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He did his graduate studies in philosophy from the University of Chicago and has taught at that university, the University of Illinois, and the University of Colorado. Diesing has also been a faculty associate at the Buffalo Center for International Conflict Studies, where he participated in the Center's program of researching in bargaining theory and international crises. He is the author of *Reason in Society: Five Types of Decisions and Their Social Conditions* and *Science and Ideology in the Policy Sciences*.