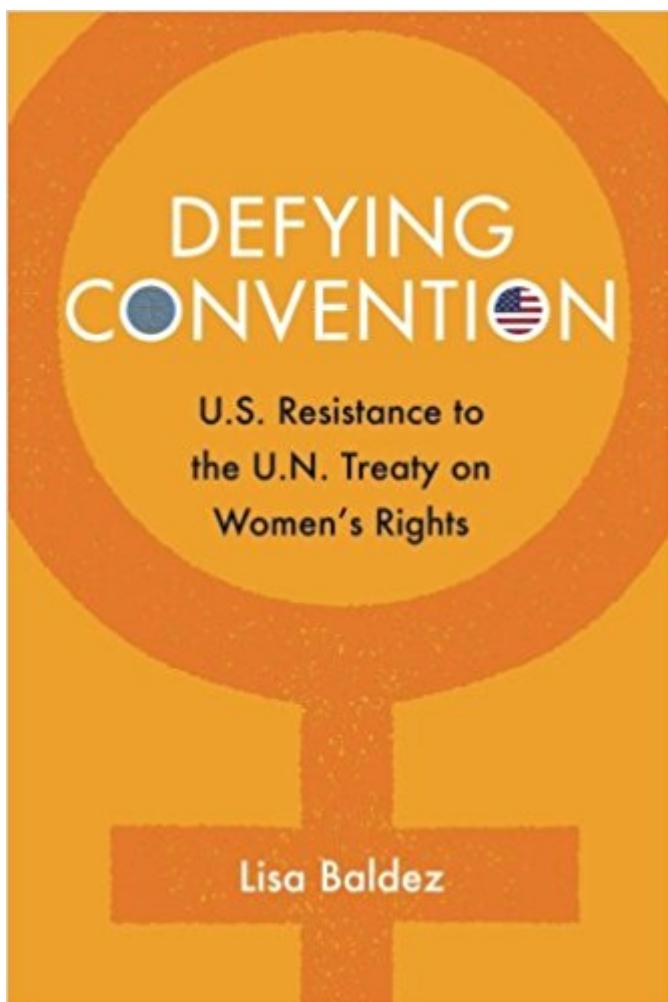


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Defying Convention: US Resistance To The UN Treaty On Women's Rights (Problems Of International Politics)



Synopsis

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) articulates what has now become a global norm. CEDAW establishes the moral, civic, and political equality of women; women's right to be free from discrimination and violence; and the responsibility of governments to take positive action to achieve these goals. The United States is not among the 187 countries that have ratified the treaty. To explain why the United States has not ratified CEDAW, this book highlights the emergence of the treaty in the context of the Cold War, the deeply partisan nature of women's rights issues in the United States, and basic disagreements about how human rights treaties work.

Book Information

Series: Problems of International Politics

Paperback: 249 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press (August 11, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1107416825

ISBN-13: 978-1107416826

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #158,887 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Treaties #37 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Women in Politics #147 in Books > Law > Constitutional Law > Human Rights

Customer Reviews

"Breaking with the conventions in political science that create stark distinctions between the study of domestic politics within nation-states and the study of international relations, Lisa Baldez takes a novel approach to the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Steeped in the literatures on international organizations, international law, US politics, and women and politics, Baldez demonstrates how the use of gender as an analytical category complicates what is thought to be known about the creation and ratification of international conventions, the status of women in the world over the past half century, and the central cleavages in national politics in both the United States and Chile. This book is thoroughly researched and

clearly written, and it covers ground that has not been addressed previously. Baldez's approach is both thought-provoking and provocative." Mary Hawkesworth, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey"This is a lively and important book on an understudied topic, which makes valuable theoretical insights in international relations while providing rich data on CEDAW as a case study of a human rights treaty. Using the puzzling case of US non-ratification of CEDAW, Lisa Baldez convincingly argues that by all rights, the United States should have ratified CEDAW, given that the costs of doing so would be low and the norms embodied in the treaty are rhetorically consistent with US political values. Using fascinating primary sources, Baldez's analysis of the domestic and international obstacles to ratification brings the insights of comparative politics and international relations together in an original way." Valerie Sperling, Clark University

To explain why the United States has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), this book highlights the emergence of the treaty in the context of the Cold War, the deeply partisan nature of women's rights issues in the United States, and basic disagreements about how human rights treaties work.

Exceeds my expectations - well written, clear, thorough and readable.

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