

Geopolitics and Strategy in the Americas Symposium

“New Thinking on Strategic Culture”

with Jack L. Snyder, Columbia University



Jack L. Snyder is the Robert and Renee Belfer Professor of International Relations in the political science department and the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University.

His books include *Electing to Fight: Why Emerging Democracies Go to War* (MIT Press, 2005), co-authored with Edward D. Mansfield; *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict* (Norton Books, 2000); *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition*. (Cornell University Press, 1991); *The Ideology of the Offensive: Military Decision Making and the Disasters of 1914* (Cornell 1984); and *Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention*, co-editor with Barbara Walter (Columbia University Press, 1999).

Dr. Snyder’s previous work dealing with strategic culture (1977) identified several historical, institutional, and political factors that gave rise to a uniquely Soviet approach to strategic thought. American doctrines of limited nuclear war and intrawar deterrence were examined in light of Soviet doctrinal tradition. Dr. Snyder argued that such doctrines conflicted with deeply-rooted Soviet beliefs; hence, Soviet decision-makers did not necessarily abide by American notions of mutual restraint in the choice of targets and weapons.

In this lecture Dr. Snyder reexamines a strategic culture approach that entails application to lesser and mid-level powers in a post cold war world.

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Florida International University

Modesto A. Maidique Campus, MARC International Pavillion

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School of International and Public Affairs

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