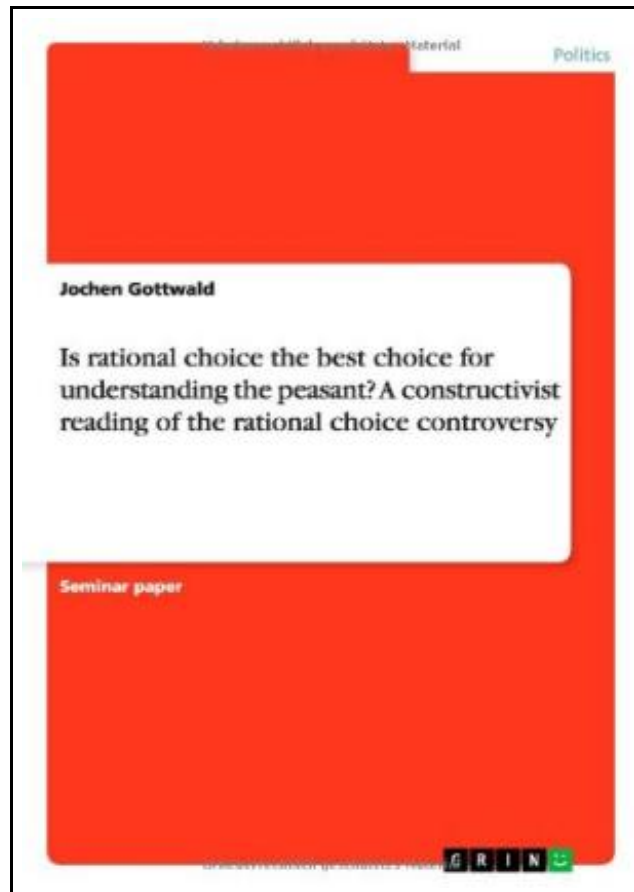


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IS RATIONAL CHOICE THE BEST CHOICE FOR UNDERSTANDING THE PEASANT A CONSTRUCTIVIST READING OF THE RATIONAL CHOICE CONTROVERSY



GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 40 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.1in. Seminar paper from the year 2003 in the subject Politics - International Politics - Region: South Asia, grade: 1, 0, University of Heidelberg (Sdasieninstitut Abteilung Politische Wissenschaft), course: Rationalitt und Politik in Sdasien: Kultur, Kontext und vergleichende Politikwissenschaft, 22 entries in the bibliography, language: English, comment: Diskussion ber die methodischen Schnittstellen zwischen Rational Choice und konstruktivistischen Anstzen bei der Bewertung des Einflusses kultureller Variablen auf den Entscheidungsprozess von Individuen. , abstract: In this essay I will try on the one hand to critically examine the reservations held against rational choice by many anthropologists, by offering a constructivist analysis of the debate, on the other hand to help bridging the gap between constructivism and rational choice theory, which is, in my eyes, unnecessarily kept wide by scholars of both disciplines, what led to the emergence of flawed models of rationality like bounded rationality in the struggle of rational choice scholars to defend their assumptions. By arguing that models of rational choice are a legitimate variety in the broader context of construed attempts to explain social phenomena, I will show that it should be possible to hypothesize political action by rational choice models without curtailing the meaning of rationality. As empirical variable I chose the political behavior of the peasantry in Indian villages, as the peasant seems to be the anthropologists stereotype for cultures dominance over actors preferences. For that reason I will mainly use Mitras article Ballot-Box and Local Power: Elections in an Indian Village (Mitra 1999, fn. 12), to highlight the possible synergies of constructivism and rational choice theory on the critical edges of their approaches. Nonetheless it will be necessary to make a quick excursion into Kants moral philosophy to expose the obscurity in our...



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