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The Best Laid Plans: The Origins of American Multilateralism and the Dawn of the Cold War

By Stewart Patrick

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 412 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.1in. x 1.3in. The long-standing, but unresolved debate of the virtues and values of multilateralism vs. unilateralism in American foreign policy is critically important in today's complicated world. To understand the history of each approach is to understand their opportunities and challenges for the future. The Best Laid Plans answers two central questions. First, why did the United States embrace the principles and practices of liberal multilateralism during World War II? Second, why did it cling to this vision of world order despite the outbreak of the Cold War in the late 1940s, as the One World that had been anticipated by U. S. postwar planners split into two rival global camps? The book contends that neither the U. S. turn to liberal multilateralism nor the persistence of this orientation during the Cold War can be attributed solely or even primarily to the global power structure or crude considerations of material self-interest. Rather, Stewart Patrick argues that a combination of enduring identity commitments and new ideas, based on the lessons of recent, cataclysmic events, shaped the policy preferences of American central decision-makers in the Roosevelt and...



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