There might appear to be little that binds the study of order and the study of violence and conflict. Bloodshed in its multiple forms - interstate war, civil conflict, crime - is often seen as something separate from and almost unrelated to the domains of "normal" politics that constitute what we think of as order. But violence is used to create order, to maintain it, and to uphold it in the face of challenges.

In this volume, a diverse group of eminent scholars demonstrates the myriad ways in which order and violence are inextricably intertwined. The chapters embrace such varied disciplines as political science, economics, history, sociology, philosophy, and law; employ different methodologies, from game theory to statistical modeling to in-depth historical narrative to anthropological ethnography; and focus on different units of analysis and levels of aggregation, from the state to the individual to the world system. All are essential reading for anyone who seeks to understand current trends in global conflict.

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A volume in the Yale Political Science series on Rethinking Political Order.