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The following review appeared in the March '00 issue of CHOICE:

37-4137 JC421 99-17333 CIP Gaubatz, Kurt Taylor. Elections and war: the electoral incentive in the democratic politics of war and peace. Stanford, 1999. 208p bibl index afp ISBN 0-8047-3566-2, \$45.00

In this important, well-written study, Gaubatz examines the impact of democratic state politics on international relations and the impact of international relations on domestic political decision making. He focuses his analysis on elections and war--the defining phenomena of democratic politics and international relations, respectively--and uses case studies and aggregate data to illuminate the complex ways in which domestic institutions and public opinion influence foreign policy decisions. Gaubatz shows that, contrary to realism, domestic democratic politics-does affect the international behavior of states; at 'the same time, he demonstrates that, contrary to pacific liberalism, democratic publics can at times be war-prone. Whether or not public opinion is pacific will depend partly on domestic political dynamics, especially the interrelationship of mass and elite views. This is a significant book. Although extensive scholarship exists on the democratic peace hypothesis (i.e., the claim that democracies don't go to war against other democracies), the literature on elections and war is' limited. Gaubatz extends the democratic peace scholarship by providing a comprehensive and authoritative account of how democratic political structures affect foreign policy decision making, especially the decision to go war. His study should be a part of all academic libraries. Advanced undergraduate through faculty. - M. Amstutz, Wheaton College