

DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE

DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE IS A TERM ROOTED IN HISTORICAL DIPLOMACY, OFTEN REFERRING TO SIGNIFICANT MILITARY AND POLITICAL AGREEMENTS FORGED BETWEEN THREE POWERFUL ENTITIES. THE MOST WELL-KNOWN TRIPLE ALLIANCE WAS FORMED IN THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY BETWEEN GERMANY, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, AND ITALY, FUNDAMENTALLY SHAPING THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE OF EUROPE AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE TENSIONS THAT LED TO WORLD WAR I. HOWEVER, THE CONCEPT OF A "TRIPLE ALLIANCE" HAS APPEARED IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS IN HISTORY, EACH WITH ITS OWN UNIQUE BACKGROUND AND IMPACT. THIS ARTICLE DELVES DEEP INTO THE DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE, ITS HISTORICAL CONTEXTS, FORMATION, SIGNIFICANCE, AND LASTING EFFECTS. READERS WILL GAIN A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF THE TERM, ITS ORIGINS, ITS INFLUENCE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND THE REASONS BEHIND ITS PROMINENCE IN HISTORICAL STUDIES. THE ARTICLE ALSO EXPLORES RELATED ALLIANCES, THE LEGACY OF SUCH PACTS, AND PROVIDES INSIGHTFUL ANSWERS TO TRENDING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

- UNDERSTANDING THE DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE
- HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND ORIGINS
- THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE OF 1882: FORMATION AND PURPOSE
- IMPACT ON EUROPEAN POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
- OTHER NOTABLE TRIPLE ALLIANCES IN HISTORY
- COMPARISON WITH SIMILAR MILITARY ALLIANCES
- LEGACY AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE
- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE

UNDERSTANDING THE DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE

THE DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE REFERS TO A FORMAL AGREEMENT, COALITION, OR PACT AMONG THREE DISTINCT STATES OR POLITICAL ENTITIES, CREATED FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT, USUALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF DEFENSE, SECURITY, OR POLITICAL STABILITY. WHILE THE TERM CAN BE APPLIED TO VARIOUS HISTORICAL SITUATIONS, IT IS MOST COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ALLIANCE SIGNED IN 1882 BETWEEN GERMANY, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, AND ITALY. THE PRIMARY AIM OF SUCH ALLIANCES IS TO SECURE MUTUAL PROTECTION AND SUPPORT AGAINST COMMON ADVERSARIES OR THREATS. BY FORMING A TRIPLE ALLIANCE, MEMBERS SOUGHT TO DETER POTENTIAL AGGRESSION AND MAINTAIN A BALANCE OF POWER IN THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIONS. THE CONCEPT HAS BEEN PIVOTAL IN SHAPING DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY STRATEGIES THROUGHOUT HISTORY.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND ORIGINS

EARLY EXAMPLES OF TRIPLE ALLIANCES

BEFORE THE 1882 ALLIANCE, THE IDEA OF A THREE-PARTY COALITION HAD BEEN EMPLOYED IN EARLIER PERIODS. FOR INSTANCE, IN THE 16TH CENTURY, ENGLAND, THE DUTCH REPUBLIC, AND SWEDEN FORMED THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE OF 1668 TO COUNTER THE EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS OF FRANCE UNDER LOUIS XIV. SUCH ALLIANCES WERE INSTRUMENTS FOR BALANCING POWER DYNAMICS AND ENSURING THAT NO SINGLE STATE COULD DOMINATE THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE.

GEOPOLITICAL CLIMATE LEADING TO THE 1882 TRIPLE ALLIANCE

BY THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY, EUROPE WAS CHARACTERIZED BY INTENSE RIVALRIES AND SHIFTING ALLIANCES. THE UNIFICATION OF GERMANY ALTERED THE BALANCE OF POWER, WHILE AUSTRIA-HUNGARY SOUGHT SECURITY AGAINST RUSSIAN AMBITIONS IN THE BALKANS. ITALY, EAGER TO ASSERT ITS POSITION AS A UNIFIED NATION, LOOKED FOR ALLIES TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS AND COUNTER FRENCH INFLUENCE. THE VOLATILE ATMOSPHERE MADE THE FORMATION OF A TRIPLE ALLIANCE APPEALING AS A MEANS OF PROVIDING SECURITY AND STABILITY.

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE OF 1882: FORMATION AND PURPOSE

MEMBERS AND OBJECTIVES

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE OF 1882 BROUGHT TOGETHER GERMANY, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, AND ITALY. THE CORE OBJECTIVE WAS MUTUAL DEFENSE: IF ANY ONE MEMBER WAS ATTACKED BY TWO OR MORE POWERS, THE OTHERS WOULD COME TO ITS AID. SPECIFICALLY, THE ALLIANCE AIMED TO COUNTERBALANCE THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF FRANCE AND RUSSIA IN EUROPE AND TO STABILIZE RELATIONS IN AN INCREASINGLY TURBULENT REGION.

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE ALLIANCE TREATY

- MUTUAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTACK BY TWO OR MORE GREAT POWERS.
- ITALY WAS NOT OBLIGATED TO ACT IF AUSTRIA-HUNGARY ATTACKED RUSSIA, OR VICE VERSA.
- AN AGREEMENT TO CONSULT EACH OTHER ON MATTERS AFFECTING THEIR COMMON INTERESTS.
- A COMMITMENT TO SECRECY REGARDING THE TERMS OF THE ALLIANCE.

DIPLOMATIC STRATEGIES AND CHALLENGES

DESPITE THE FORMAL AGREEMENT, THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE WAS PLAGUED BY INTERNAL MISTRUST, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN ITALY AND AUSTRIA-HUNGARY OVER TERRITORIAL DISPUTES. GERMANY OFTEN PLAYED THE ROLE OF MEDIATOR, ENSURING THE ALLIANCE'S CONTINUITY. THE ALLIANCE WAS RENEWED SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE WORLD WAR I, BUT ITS EFFECTIVENESS WAS FREQUENTLY QUESTIONED DUE TO CONFLICTING NATIONAL INTERESTS AND SHIFTING PRIORITIES AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

IMPACT ON EUROPEAN POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BALANCE OF POWER AND THE ALLIANCE SYSTEM

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE SO-CALLED "ALLIANCE SYSTEM" THAT DOMINATED EUROPEAN POLITICS BEFORE THE FIRST WORLD WAR. ITS EXISTENCE PROMPTED THE FORMATION OF THE RIVAL TRIPLE ENTENTE, COMPRISING FRANCE, RUSSIA, AND GREAT BRITAIN, INTENSIFYING THE DIVISION OF EUROPE INTO HOSTILE CAMPS. THIS RIGID ALLIANCE STRUCTURE MADE DIPLOMATIC RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS MORE DIFFICULT AND CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR I.

CONSEQUENCES FOR MEMBER STATES

FOR GERMANY AND AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, THE ALLIANCE PROVIDED A SENSE OF SECURITY AGAINST ENCIRCLEMENT BY RIVAL POWERS. ITALY, HOWEVER, OFTEN FOUND ITS INTERESTS AT ODDS WITH THOSE OF ITS PARTNERS, AND ITS COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE WOULD LATER WAVER, PARTICULARLY AS INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS ESCALATED. ULTIMATELY, THE STRUCTURE OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE INFLUENCED MILITARY PLANNING, DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE STRATEGIES PURSUED BY ALL EUROPEAN POWERS IN THE YEARS LEADING UP TO 1914.

OTHER NOTABLE TRIPLE ALLIANCES IN HISTORY

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE OF 1668

THE FIRST WELL-KNOWN USE OF THE TERM "TRIPLE ALLIANCE" OCCURRED IN 1668, WHEN ENGLAND, THE DUTCH REPUBLIC, AND SWEDEN ALLIED TO CHECK FRENCH EXPANSION IN THE SPANISH NETHERLANDS. THIS PACT WAS SHORT-LIVED BUT DEMONSTRATED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN CURBING THE AMBITIONS OF POWERFUL STATES.

THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE IN SOUTH AMERICA

ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT TRIPLE ALLIANCE WAS THE TREATY OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE (1865), FORMED BETWEEN BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, AND URUGUAY TO OPPOSE PARAGUAY IN THE WAR OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE. THIS SOUTH AMERICAN COALITION BECAME ONE OF THE BLOODIEST CONFLICTS IN THE CONTINENT'S HISTORY AND RESHAPED THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE OF THE REGION.

COMPARISON WITH SIMILAR MILITARY ALLIANCES

TRIPLE ENTENTE VS. TRIPLE ALLIANCE

THE TRIPLE ENTENTE EMERGED AS A RESPONSE TO THE DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE IN EUROPE, COMPRISED OF FRANCE, RUSSIA, AND BRITAIN. WHILE BOTH ALLIANCES AIMED TO CREATE A BALANCE OF POWER, THEIR STRUCTURES DIFFERED: THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE WAS A FORMAL, BINDING MILITARY PACT, WHEREAS THE TRIPLE ENTENTE WAS A LOOSER DIPLOMATIC AGREEMENT. THE RIVALRY BETWEEN THESE BLOCS SIGNIFICANTLY ESCALATED TENSIONS IN EUROPE.

OTHER MULTILATERAL ALLIANCES

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, OTHER ALLIANCES SIMILAR IN NATURE TO THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE HAVE SHAPED INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. EXAMPLES INCLUDE THE LEAGUE OF THE THREE EMPERORS AND THE QUADRUPLÉ ALLIANCE. THESE AGREEMENTS OFTEN FOCUSED ON COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND COOPERATION, BUT WERE SUBJECT TO THE SAME CHALLENGES OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS AND SHIFTING LOYALTIES.

LEGACY AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

INFLUENCE ON MODERN DIPLOMACY

THE LEGACY OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE IS EVIDENT IN CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, WHERE MULTILATERAL TREATIES AND DEFENSE PACTS CONTINUE TO PLAY A VITAL ROLE. THE DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY, MUTUAL INTERESTS, AND THE POTENTIAL PITFALLS OF RIGID ALLIANCE SYSTEMS.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE

- ALLIANCE SYSTEMS CAN PROVIDE SECURITY, BUT ALSO INCREASE THE RISK OF LARGE-SCALE CONFLICT.
- CONFLICTING NATIONAL INTERESTS WITHIN ALLIANCES CAN UNDERMINE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS.
- TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION AND FLEXIBILITY ARE CRUCIAL FOR THE SUCCESS OF MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS.

THE STUDY OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE, IN ALL ITS HISTORICAL FORMS, OFFERS VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE COMPLEXITIES OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY AND THE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES OF ALLIANCE POLITICS.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE

Q: WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE IN HISTORY?

A: THE DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE IN HISTORY REFERS TO A FORMAL AGREEMENT OR COALITION BETWEEN THREE STATES OR ENTITIES, ESTABLISHED TO ACHIEVE MUTUAL GOALS SUCH AS DEFENSE, SECURITY, OR POLITICAL INFLUENCE. THE MOST NOTABLE EXAMPLE IS THE 1882 ALLIANCE BETWEEN GERMANY, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, AND ITALY.

Q: WHICH COUNTRIES WERE INVOLVED IN THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE OF 1882?

A: THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE OF 1882 WAS COMPRISED OF GERMANY, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, AND ITALY, WHO AGREED TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTACK BY OTHER GREAT POWERS.

Q: WHAT WAS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE?

A: THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE WAS TO PROVIDE MUTUAL MILITARY SUPPORT AND DETER AGGRESSION FROM RIVAL POWERS, PARTICULARLY FRANCE AND RUSSIA. IT AIMED TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE OF POWER IN EUROPE.

Q: ARE THERE OTHER EXAMPLES OF TRIPLE ALLIANCES IN HISTORY BESIDES THE 1882 PACT?

A: YES, OTHER EXAMPLES INCLUDE THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE OF 1668 (ENGLAND, DUTCH REPUBLIC, SWEDEN) AND THE SOUTH AMERICAN TRIPLE ALLIANCE OF 1865 (BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY).

Q: HOW DID THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE INFLUENCE THE START OF WORLD WAR I?

A: THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE CONTRIBUTED TO THE RIGID ALLIANCE SYSTEM IN EUROPE, INCREASING TENSIONS AND MAKING DIPLOMATIC RESOLUTIONS MORE DIFFICULT. ITS EXISTENCE PROMPTED THE FORMATION OF THE RIVAL TRIPLE ENTENTE, AND BOTH ALLIANCES PLAYED KEY ROLES IN THE ESCALATION TO WORLD WAR I.

Q: WHY DID ITALY LEAVE THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE DURING WORLD WAR I?

A: ITALY LEFT THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE IN 1915, CHOOSING TO JOIN THE ENTENTE POWERS INSTEAD. THIS WAS DUE TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH AUSTRIA-HUNGARY AND PROMISES OF TERRITORIAL GAINS FROM THE ENTENTE.

Q: WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE IN MODERN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS?

A: THE DEFINITION OF TRIPLE ALLIANCE REMAINS SIGNIFICANT AS IT ILLUSTRATES THE DYNAMICS AND CHALLENGES OF MULTILATERAL ALLIANCES, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH RIGID BLOC POLITICS.

Q: HOW DOES THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE DIFFER FROM THE TRIPLE ENTENTE?

A: THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE WAS A FORMAL, BINDING MILITARY PACT, WHILE THE TRIPLE ENTENTE WAS A LESS FORMAL DIPLOMATIC UNDERSTANDING. BOTH WERE CREATED TO BALANCE POWER BUT DIFFERED IN STRUCTURE AND OBLIGATIONS.

Q: WHAT LESSONS CAN BE LEARNED FROM THE HISTORY OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE?

A: KEY LESSONS INCLUDE THE NECESSITY OF FLEXIBLE DIPLOMACY, THE DANGERS OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS WITHIN ALLIANCES, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR ALLIANCES TO BOTH PREVENT AND ESCALATE CONFLICTS.

Q: IS THE TERM "TRIPLE ALLIANCE" USED ONLY IN EUROPEAN HISTORY?

A: NO, WHILE MOST ASSOCIATED WITH EUROPEAN HISTORY, THE TERM "TRIPLE ALLIANCE" IS ALSO USED IN OTHER CONTEXTS, SUCH AS IN SOUTH AMERICA DURING THE WAR OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

Definition Of Triple Alliance

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Definition of Triple Alliance: Unraveling the Complexities of 19th-Century European Alliances

The late 19th and early 20th centuries witnessed a dramatic reshaping of the European political landscape, largely defined by a complex web of alliances. Understanding these alliances is crucial to grasping the causes and consequences of World War I. This post dives deep into the definition of Triple Alliance, exploring its formation, members, motivations, and lasting impact on global history. We'll move beyond a simple definition to analyze the intricacies of this pivotal alliance system, offering a comprehensive understanding for both history buffs and those seeking a concise yet insightful explanation.

What Was the Triple Alliance? A Clear Definition

At its core, the definition of Triple Alliance is straightforward: it was a military alliance formed in 1882 between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. This agreement stipulated that each nation would provide military support to the others in the event of an attack by a major power. However, the simplicity of this definition belies the complex motivations and underlying tensions that shaped this powerful alliance. It wasn't merely a pact of mutual defense; it was a calculated strategic maneuver driven by shifting power dynamics in Europe.

The Genesis of the Triple Alliance: A Web of Fears and Ambitions

The formation of the Triple Alliance wasn't a spontaneous event. It was the culmination of years of evolving geopolitical anxieties and strategic calculations. Germany, newly unified and rapidly industrializing, felt threatened by both France (seeking revenge for the Franco-Prussian War) and Russia. Austria-Hungary, a multi-ethnic empire facing internal pressures and external challenges from Russia and the rising tide of nationalism in the Balkans, sought a strong ally. Italy, aiming to expand its influence and secure its own position, saw the alliance as a means to achieve these goals. Fear of a rising France, coupled with the desire for security and expansion, motivated each member to join this pact.

Germany's Role: A Powerhouse Seeking Stability

Germany's role in the Triple Alliance was paramount. Its powerful military and burgeoning industrial capacity made it the dominant force within the alliance. Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, a master of Realpolitik, skillfully orchestrated the alliance to isolate France and secure Germany's position within Europe. The alliance served as a cornerstone of his strategy to maintain peace and prevent a two-front war.

Austria-Hungary's Motives: Internal Fragility and External Threats

For Austria-Hungary, the alliance provided crucial security against perceived threats from Russia and the growing nationalist movements within its own empire. The alliance offered a measure of stability in a turbulent region, although it ultimately proved insufficient to address the empire's internal weaknesses. The alliance, however, did give Austria-Hungary the confidence to act aggressively in the Balkans, leading to events that would ultimately trigger World War I.

Italy's Ambitions: Expansion and Security

Italy's motivations were more complex. While initially allied with Germany and Austria-Hungary, Italy's participation was driven by a desire to gain territorial concessions and enhance its status as a major European power. This ambition, coupled with underlying tensions with Austria-Hungary over territorial claims in the Balkans, would eventually lead to Italy's defection from the alliance in 1915.

The Triple Alliance and the Road to War

The Triple Alliance, while initially designed to maintain peace, arguably contributed to the outbreak of World War I. The alliance system created a rigid structure in which miscalculations and escalating tensions were amplified. Austria-Hungary's actions in the Balkans, emboldened by the alliance, ultimately triggered the chain of events that drew the major European powers into a devastating war. The alliance became a mechanism for escalating conflict rather than preventing it.

The Secret Clauses: Adding to the Instability

The existence of secret clauses and unspoken understandings within the Triple Alliance further exacerbated the potential for miscalculation and conflict. The exact nature of these clauses and their interpretation added another layer of complexity to the already fraught geopolitical situation.

The Legacy of the Triple Alliance

The Triple Alliance ultimately failed to achieve its primary goal: the prevention of major conflict. Its collapse, with Italy switching sides, demonstrated the fragility of such alliances in the face of deeper national interests and changing geopolitical dynamics. The alliance stands as a stark reminder of how seemingly stable power structures can unravel and contribute to devastating global conflicts. Understanding its formation and its ultimate demise provides invaluable insight into the complexities of international relations and the dangers of unchecked power.

Conclusion

The definition of Triple Alliance extends far beyond a simple list of its members. It represents a crucial period in European history, a testament to the intricacies of power politics, and a warning against the dangers of rigid alliances in a volatile world. Its legacy continues to shape our understanding of international relations and the devastating consequences of unchecked ambition.

and miscalculation.

FAQs

1. What were the main objectives of the Triple Alliance? The main objectives were mutual defense, securing territorial interests, and maintaining a balance of power in Europe against perceived threats.
2. When was the Triple Alliance formed and when did it dissolve? The Triple Alliance was formed in 1882 and effectively dissolved when Italy switched sides in 1915 during World War I.
3. Did the Triple Alliance succeed in preventing war? No, the Triple Alliance ultimately failed to prevent the outbreak of World War I; arguably, it contributed to the escalation of tensions.
4. What was the role of Bismarck in the formation of the Triple Alliance? Bismarck, as German Chancellor, played a crucial role in orchestrating the alliance to isolate France and secure Germany's position in Europe.
5. How did the secret clauses of the Triple Alliance impact its effectiveness? The secret clauses added to the instability by creating ambiguity and differing interpretations of the alliance's obligations, potentially contributing to miscalculations and escalated tensions.

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reveals that states frequently form alliances to keep peace among the allied countries, not simply to counter shared external threats. Though alliances may be perceived by others to present a unified and threatening front, countries often face significant threats from within their own alliances. It is this paradox that underscores Weitsman's theory: although alliances are frequently forged to sustain peace, they may, in fact, increase the prospects of war.

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History of International Law · Foundations and Principles of International Law · Sources of International Law · Law of Treaties

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the center of industrial production and governance, the concept of innovation, in product and process, is itself being transformed. In its place is a new sense of 'innovation in innovation' - the restructuring and enhancement of the organizational arrangements and incentives that foster innovation. This triple helix intersection of relatively independent institutional spheres generates hybrid organizations such as technology transfer offices in universities, firms, and government research labs and business and financial support institutions such as angel networks and venture capital for new technology-based firms that are increasingly developing around the world. The Triple Helix describes this new innovation model and assists students, researchers, and policymakers in addressing such questions as: How do we enhance the role of universities in regional economic and social development? How can governments, at all levels, encourage citizens to take an active role in promoting innovation in innovation and, conversely, how can citizens so encourage their governments? How can firms collaborate with each other and with universities and government to become more innovative? What are the key elements and challenges to reaching these goals?

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history, political science, sociology, and economics as well as policy makers interested in the causes and effects of crises in international relations. The rich data sets will serve researchers for years to come as they probe additional aspects of crisis, conflict and war in international relations. Michael Brecher is R. B. Angus Professor of Political Science, McGill University. Jonathan Wilkenfeld is Professor and Chair of the Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland. They are the coauthors of *Crises in the Twentieth Century: A Handbook of International Crisis*, among other books and articles.

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