A Theoretical Scheme for a Fuller and Deeper Explanation of Foreign Policies and

World Events

Yong-soo Eun

Department of Politics and International Studies
University of Warwick
(Y-S.Eun@warwick.ac.uk)

Abstract

This essay develops the (meta-)theoretical reason for the proposition that we need to employ a multicausal approach to the study of foreign policies and world events so as to develop a fuller and more satisfying explanation, arguing that a multicausal approach to social and political inquiry has the most appropriate grounds to be advocated not only in a theoretical aspect but also in a ontological sense. More importantly, given that there is a lack of attention to, or effort in, searching for an appropriate epistemological position and a plausible method of reasoning in multicausal analysis in the FPA and IR literature, the essay elaborates how to formulate and utilize such a complex multicausal approach. Ultimately, it is claimed that a multicausal approach should be utilized as a tentative one invoking some sort of isolationism in analytical methods.

---

1 Do not quote without the permission of the author.
2 I would like to thank Christopher Hill of Cambridge University, Colin Hay of Sheffield University and Valerie Hudson of Brigham Young University (in the US) for their comments on an earlier draft of this essay.