

# **THE ONSET OF WORLD WAR**

---

---

**Manus I. Midlarsky**

**Studies in International Conflict,  
Volume I**

**Boston**  
**UNWIN HYMAN**  
**London Sydney Wellington**

# Contents

---

---

List of Tables	xi
List of Figures	xiii
Acknowledgments	xv
1. Introduction	1
2. A Hierarchical Equilibrium	20
3. The Long-Run Instability of Multipolar Systems	44
4. A Distribution of Extreme Inequality	69
5. Conflict Overlap in Systemic Wars	79
6. The Balance of Power, Preponderance, and the Onset of War in Polarized Settings	92
7. Structural and Mobilization Wars	131
8. A Comparison between Two Systemic Wars	148
9. Alliance Durability	158
10. Normative Justifications	169
11. Conclusion: International Structure as an Information System	187
Mathematical Appendix A	217
Mathematical Appendix B	221
Tabular Appendix A	231
Tabular Appendix B	237
Tabular Appendix C	240
Bibliography	244
About the Author	255
Index	257