

Managing Asymmetric Conflict

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Abstract:

The paper proves that the possibility of differentiation from an incumbent power's technology by a contestant group makes it harder for the incumbent power to want to implement peace by means of effort. In some cases, it may make it altogether infeasible. The incumbent power is then more likely to adopt a defensive strategy to cope with a defensive type of conflict. This strategy actually involves less effort than the one that would be made if a defensive strategy was chosen to be induced in the absence of possible differentiation by the incumbent.