

# The Rational Deterrence Debate

By George W. Downs  
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Week 8, Jiyeoun Song

- the main argument  
: Downs claims that the integrity of the two archetypes, the rational deterrence theory and the psychology/case-study, can make the “strong” deterrence theory.  
(Nevertheless, I think the author tries to integrate two approaches based on the rational approach.)

## **I. Introduction**

There are two types of deterrence, the rational deterrence (using axiomatic methods of microeconomics) and the psychology/case-study (using inductive experimental and quasi-experimental methods of psychology and comparative politics.) Until so far, researchers have not paid much attention to the integrity of two archetypes. To delineate more complicated situations, however, it is necessary to complement each other.

## **II. Revising axiomatic models of deterrence: induction and assumption**

Although the rational (deterrence) approach can explain many parts of the deterrence, it has many missing points. To make this weak point in the rational approach, the researchers need to refer to some points of the psychology/case-study approach.

\* Alternatives to enrich the rationalist approach

(1) To adopt the psychology/case study approach

(2) To include of uncertainty in deterrence models

: Stem from case-study information or its informally acquired equivalent

“In sum, although not all psychological or case-study research can or should be integrated into axiomatic deterrence theory, formal modelers should consider its implications seriously.” (p.232)

## **III. Assessing implications of case studies: deduction and prescription**

## **IV. Conclusion**

Two approaches are not paradoxical, but symbiotic.