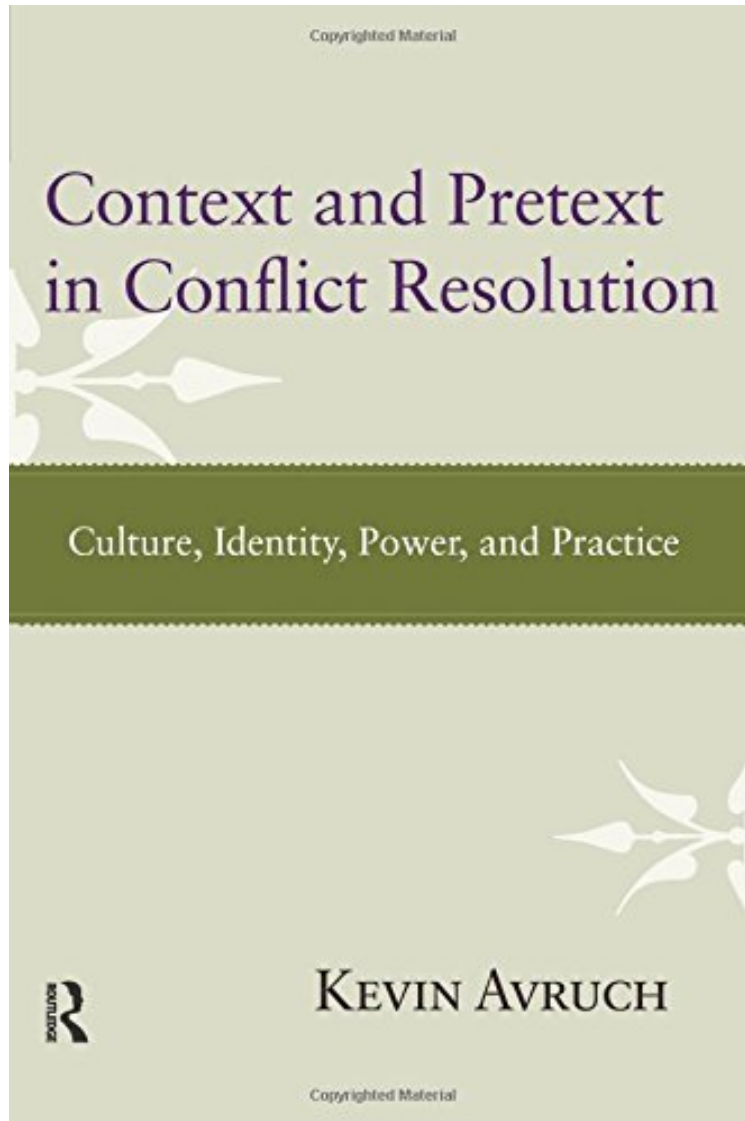


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# Context and Pretext in Conflict Resolution: Culture, Identity, Power, and Practice

*Kevin Avruch*

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Written by a distinguished scholar, this book explores themes of culture, identity, and power as they relate to conceptions of practice in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Among the topics covered are ethnic and identity conflicts; culture, relativism and human rights; post-conflict trauma and reconciliation; and modeling varieties of conflict resolution practice. *Context and Pretext in Conflict Resolution* is the winner of the 2014 Conflict Research Society Book of the Year Prize.

Kevin Avruch makes important contributions to resolving several long-standing debates in the fields of conflict resolution, international relations, anthropology, and many other fields. This book deserves a wide readership. It can be assigned in conflict resolution and peace studies courses, and in theory courses in anthropology and other social science disciplines. It should also be attractive to practitioners and analysts in the expanding field of peace and conflict resolution studies. Louis Kriesberg, Syracuse University Professor Kevin Avruch is one of the worlds foremost scholars of culture and conflict resolution. In his excellent new book, he brings a lifetime of experience to a focus on identity conflicts and power, especially in situations of unequal power between the parties. The book covers a range of topics, including negotiation theory, truth and reconciliation commissions, human rights, and cultural relativism. I have used the book in my graduate classes and find it incisive, clearly written, and with great balance between well-chosen cases and cutting-edge theory. I can recommend the book enthusiastically for the lay reader, the classroom, and the specialist. John N. Paden, Clarence Robinson Professor of International Studies, George Mason University Professor Avruch succeeds in the ambitious goal of exploring the vibrant and multifaceted roles that culture plays in conflict analysis and resolution. He unites a dynamic, cognitive-affective model of culture with the sensitive analysis of structure and politics, no easy accomplishment. . . . He applies this model to human rights, to post-conflict reconstruction, and to the modeling of conflict resolution practice. Power, representation, and identity emerge as important categories of analysis. In all these excursions, *Context and Pretext* is closely reasoned and highly accessible. From the Foreword by Robert Rubinstein About the Author Kevin Avruch is the Henry Hart Rice Professor of conflict resolution and professor of anthropology at The School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, and senior fellow in the Peace Operations Policy Program, at George Mason University. He is the author, among other works, of *Culture and Conflict Resolution*.