

# **LIFE & LEGACY of THOMAS SCHELLING**

Professor Coskun Can Aktan

Promoter of "Doctorate Honoris Cause" to Professor Schelling

**A SHORT  
BIOGRAPHICAL  
SKETCH**



Distinguished University Professor, Emeritus University of Maryland, and  
Professor of Political Economy, Emeritus, Harvard University.

A.B. Economics, University of California, Berkeley, 1944.  
Ph.D. Economics, Harvard University, 1951.

The U. S. Bureau of the Budget, 1945-46;  
The Marshall Plan in Copenhagen and Paris, 1948 to 1950;  
The White House and Executive Office of the President, 1951-1953.

Associate Professor and Professor of Economics, Yale University, 1953-58;  
Senior Staff, The RAND Corporation, 1958-59;  
Professor of Economics, Harvard University, 1958-90;  
John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 1969-90.

**NOBELITY**



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, 2005, jointly to

**Robert J. Aumann**

Center for Rationality, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel and

**Thomas C. Schelling**

Department of Economics and School of Public Policy, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA,

"for having enhanced our understanding of conflict and cooperation through game-theory analysis".



" ... Thomas Schelling's book *The Strategy of Conflict* set forth his vision of game theory as a unifying framework for the social sciences. Schelling showed that a party can strengthen its position by overtly worsening its own options, that the capability to retaliate can be more useful than the ability to resist an attack, and that uncertain retaliation is more credible and more efficient than certain retaliation. These insights have proven to be of great relevance for conflict resolution and efforts to avoid war. Schelling's work prompted new developments in game theory and accelerated its use and application throughout the social sciences."

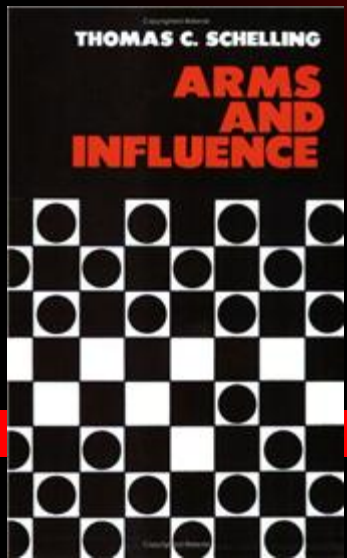
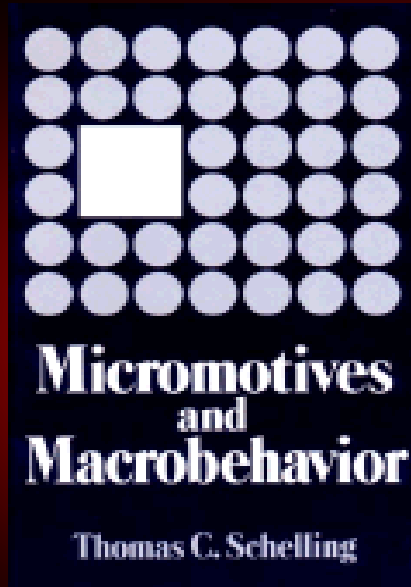
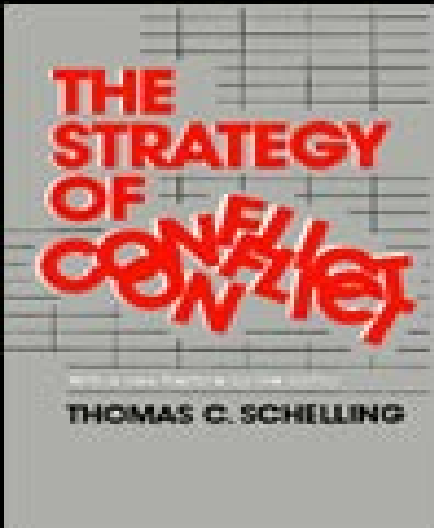
**The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**

# **MAJOR PUBLICATIONS**



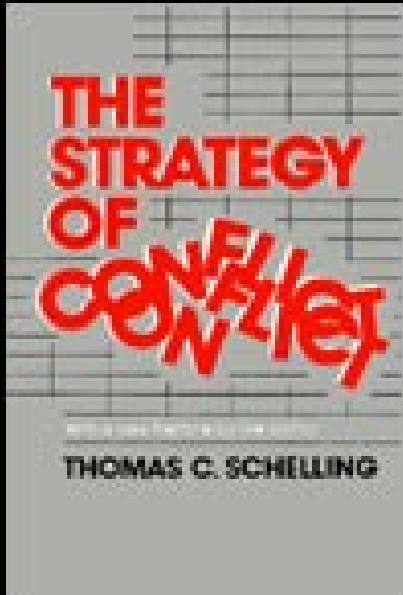


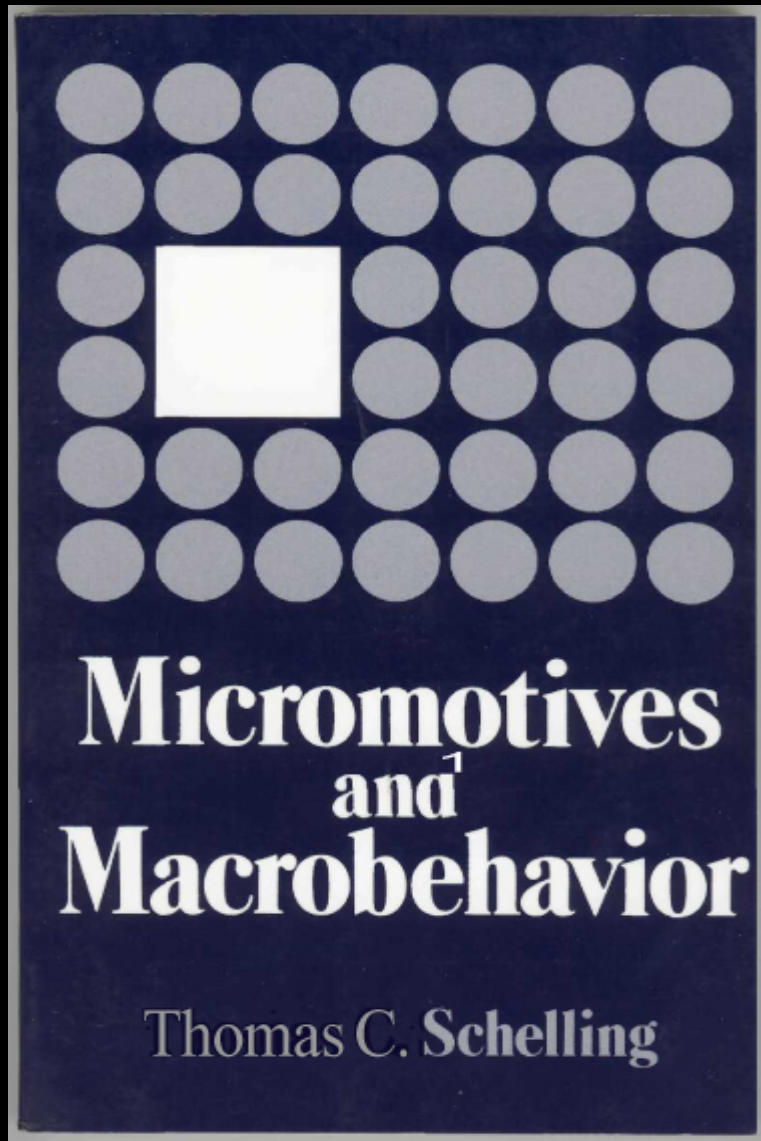
# THOMAS SCHELLING NOBEL LAURATETE





Thomas Schelling's 1960 book, *The Strategy of Conflict*, was a significant work in game theory and is one of the reasons for his receipt of the Nobel Prize in 2005.





*The Inescapable Mathematics of Musical Chairs*

*Thermostats, Lemons, and Other Families of Models*

*Sorting and Mixing: Race and Sex*


*Sorting and Mixing: Age and Income*

*Choosing Our Children's Genes*

*Hockey Helmets, Daylight Saving, and Other Binary Choices*

**Micro Motives and Macro Behavior, New York: WW. Norton and Company, 1978.**

**SCHELLING'S  
CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO  
SOCIAL SCIENCES**



# 1. STRATEGIC STUDIES AND GAME THEORY

“Thomas Schelling's book *The Strategy of Conflict* set forth his vision of game theory as a unifying framework for the social sciences.”

Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

# 2.

## BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS

**Prof. Schelling has been an underrecognized father of behavioral economics.**

# 3.

## EXPERIMENTAL ECONOMICS

...Schelling had discovered an important technique for experimental research in economics... Experimental economics has since come of age...



**4.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS  
& CLIMATE CHANGE**

**NEW IDEAS  
& CONCEPTS  
introduced by  
SCHELLING**

**Coordination Problem & Focal Points**  
**Negotiation & Uncertain Retaliation**  
**The Paradox of Nuclear Deterrence**  
**Self-Command**  
**Checkerboard Model of Racial Segregation**

**LAUREATES  
ON A LAUREATE...**



*“In Japan Thomas Schelling would be named a national treasure. Age cannot slow down his creativity, nor custom stale his infinite variety.”*

*“Franz Schubert wrote hundreds of songs because melodies just bubbled out from inside of him. As a scientist, Tom Schelling is like that.”*

**PAUL SAMUELSON**

Nobel Laureate, 1970



*“Tom’s genius for making a great deal of economic and social theory from everyday experience and observation is unmatched.”*

**JAMES TOBIN**

Nobel Laureate, 1981





*“Tom always see things from an angle no one had ever tried before.”*

**ROBERT SOLOW**

Nobel Laureate, 1987

**INTELLECTUAL  
ODYSSEY  
OF AN  
“ERRANT ECONOMIST”**



A consistent logic,  
many brilliant and  
fruitful analyses  
and ideas...

# Choice and Consequence

*Perspectives of an  
errant economist*



Thomas C. Schelling

Schelling called himself as "errant economist", turned out to be a pre-eminent pathfinder...



*Yasar University*

*Be it known that for his extraordinary achievements in the field of Strategic Thinking and Game Theory; for the pioneering intellectual role he has played in the development of social, political and economic orders worldwide via his thoughts and writings;*

*the University Senate hereby confers upon*

***Thomas C. Schelling***

*the degree of*

***Honorary Doctorate***  
***Doctorate Honoris Causa***

*with all the Honors and Distinctions appertaining thereto. Witness the seal of the University and signatures of its officers this fifteenth day of June 2006, in Izmir, Turkey.*

*Sealed and Signed*







**THOMAS SCHELLING HAS BEEN  
AWARDED WITH  
HONORARY DOCTORATE AT THE  
YASAR UNIVERSITY, TURKEY  
15 JUNE 2006**

**HONORARY PROMOTER WAS  
PROFESSOR COSKUN CAN AKTAN,  
A MEMBER OF TRUSTEE BOARD  
AT YASAR UNIVERSITY**





***Prof.Dr.Coşkun Can Aktan***