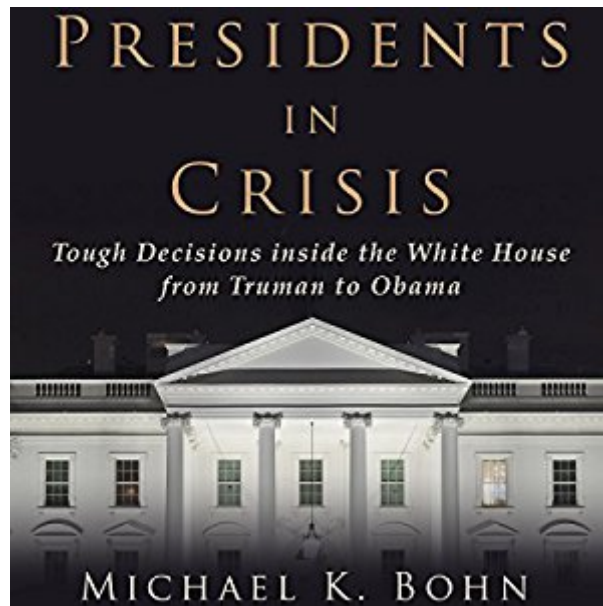


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Presidents In Crisis: Tough Decisions Inside The White House From Truman To Obama



Synopsis

Every American president, when faced with a crisis, longs to take bold and decisive action. When American lives or vital interests are at stake, the public - and especially the news media and political opponents - expect aggressive leadership. But, contrary to the dramatizations of Hollywood, rarely does a president have that option. In *Presidents in Crisis*, a former director of the Situation Room takes the listener inside the White House during 17 grave international emergencies handled by the presidents from Truman to Obama: from North Korea's invasion of South Korea to the revolutions of the Arab Spring, and from the 13 days of the Cuban Missile Crisis to the taking of American diplomats hostage in Iran and George W. Bush's response to the attacks of September 11, 2001. In narratives that convey the drama of unfolding events and the stakes of confrontation when a misstep can mean catastrophe, he walks us step-by-step through each crisis. Laying out the key players and personalities and the moral and political calculations that the leaders have had to make, he provides a fascinating insider's look at modern presidential decision making and the fundamental role in it of human frailty. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for those interested in history - books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times best seller or a national best seller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

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Customer Reviews

An interesting, engaging and pleasantly non-partisan look at several crises and the decision making process for the past 12 Presidents. You may be surprised at the conclusions the author comes to regarding who was most and least effective President from Truman to Obama. Take a read. Agree, Disagree. Debate. But most importantly, enjoy a very enlightening take on the modern Presidency.

Was interesting how each president thought process was different. A lot of pressure from staff. Some of the so called staff did not have the background for some of the actions. Some very young without any military knowledge. Political interest sometimes played to much in the correct discussion for the nation and it's people. The book did a good job of laying this process out with those involved in the process. What looks so easy is not easy when you look at what is involved.

This is a very insightful look at the very real limitations of Presidential power. Beginning with Truman and ending with Obama, the author illustrates how every American President, when faced with a crisis, longs to take bold and decisive action. When American lives or vital interests are at stake, the public, the news media and political opponents, expect aggressive, decisive leadership. But, in reality and contrary to the dramatizations of Hollywood, rarely does a president have that option. To substantiate this theme, the author presents 17 critical international emergencies: from North Korea's invasion of South Korea to the revolutions of the Arab Spring. The author takes the reader through each crisis, presenting the key players and personalities, and the interconnected moral and political calculations that these men faced. The author's presentation of presidential decision making points out the incredible complexity, conflicting opinions and numerous variables that each president has to wade through to reach a , sometimes, successful conclusion. Both successes and failures are analyzed. The prose is straightforward and, although the author has a definite point of view, the narrative is relatively objective, which provides the reader with perspective, context and insight.

If you enjoy US history and the pleasure of reading primary source material, then this book is for you. A great narrative of turning points in 20th century US foreign policy replete with the firsthand knowledge and insight(s) of those who were there. A fantastic read. Highly recommended.

In a presidential election year this study on the different leadership and management styles of past Presidents is valuable. This book is also a great summary of the history that shows where we are today in the world. Starting with Truman's handling of North Korea in 1950 and going through crisis's such as the Cuban Missile Crisis with Kennedy all the way through troubles in the Middle East that several Presidents have had to deal with the book encapsulates modern day history since the development of the atomic bomb and improving communications systems. Bohn nicely summarizes the cabinet personalities and leadership styles of all players in crisis and how the interaction and collaboration or lack of it plays into the poor results for the United States and affects international relations for years after. For those with limited time, the case studies on each President by chapters are great for picking up this book and putting it down. A great reference book in my opinion too.

I found the book, filled with excellent situations for the various heads of state and their reactions. I detected a very pronouncement or leaning to always find an extra line to explain the Democrat's decision making, especially the last resident. Suggest a more independent set of comments and zero justification of the de ion making or lack of. 43, in my opinion will be judged much better than he has so far, history will show us he was an excellent leader, much better than presented by the various pundits. Trump will be judged for his bluntness in talking and personnel selection, but one thing nobody can question is his live for out great country.

A great book about a subject that merits a lot more attention - how does a president react to a crisis? The author points out that the situation is usually so complex that a winning response is almost impossible; the "John Wayne" mentality is usually the worst idea, and over the years, the best results are from "muddling through", that is, a cautious and minimal response to each new development. As he points out, the presidents over the years (both Democrat and Republican) do not have a great record.

Interesting inside look at one significant challenge for a selection of presidents. Facts expanded with observations and some conjecture. Gives you a perspective of the times which is important if you were not there. Straightforward, not as in-depth as a biography or memoir would be. Don't buy if you already are well-read on the presidents.

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