

ERIC ALTERMAN

AUTHOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
WHAT LIBERAL MEDIA?

WHEN
PRESIDENTS
LIE



A HISTORY OF OFFICIAL
DECEPTION AND
ITS CONSEQUENCES

When Presidents Lie A History Of Official Deception And Its Consequences

Bernd Kaussler, Glenn P. Hastedt



When Presidents Lie A History Of Official Deception And Its Consequences:

When Presidents Lie Eric Alterman, 2004-09-23 I've never read a better explanation of why presidents lie John W Dean former counsel to President Nixon *The Washington Monthly* By the end of the twentieth century after decades of demoralizing revelations about the mendacity of their elected officials most Americans had come to accept the fact that deception was not only an accepted practice in government but also pervasive Whatever the reasons proposed to justify falsehoods practicality expediency extraordinary conditions of wartime the ability to lie convincingly had come to be regarded as almost being a qualification for holding public office Although such behavior has come to be tolerated little accounting has been taken of the effects of this institutionalized dishonesty in our political culture *When Presidents Lie A History of Official Deception and Its Consequences* addresses its subject not from a moral perspective but from a pragmatic one and discovers that in the end honesty in government is in fact the best policy Journalist and historian Eric Alterman's meticulous research is drawn from primary source materials both government documents and the media reactions to the unfolding dramas and demonstrates how these lies returned to haunt their tellers or their successors destroying the very policy the lie had been intended to support Without exception each of the presidents paid a high price for deception So too did the nation This is history at its most compelling a balanced eloquent and revelatory chronicle of presidential dishonesty and its incalculable costs In the fundamental questions it raises about leadership accountability and democracy it is required reading for anyone who is concerned about America's past or her future *The Good War That Wasn't—and Why It Matters* Ted Grimsrud, 2014-11-10 A war is always a moral event However the most destructive war in human history has not received much moral scrutiny *The Good War That Wasn't and Why It Matters* examines the moral legacy of this war especially for the United States Drawing on the just war tradition and on moral values expressed in widely circulated statements of purpose for the war the book asks How did American participation in the war fit with just cause and just conduct criteria Subsequently the book considers the impact of the war on American foreign policy in the years that followed How did American actions cohere or not with the stated purposes for the war especially self-determination for the peoples of the world and disarmament Finally the book looks at the witness of war opponents Values expressed by war advocates were not actually furthered by the war However many war opponents did inspire efforts that effectively worked toward the goals of disarmament and self-determination *The Good War That Wasn't and Why It Matters* develops its arguments in pragmatic terms It focuses on moral reasoning in a commonsense way in its challenge to widely held assumptions about World War II

The Problem with Survey Research George Beam, 2017-09-08 *The Problem with Survey Research* makes a case against survey research as a primary source of reliable information George Beam argues that all survey research instruments all types of asking including polls face-to-face interviews and focus groups produce unreliable and potentially inaccurate results Because those who rely on survey research only see answers to questions it is impossible for them or anyone else to

evaluate the results They cannot know if the answers correspond to respondents actual behaviors objective phenomena or to their true beliefs and opinions subjective phenomena Reliable information can only be acquired by observation experimentation multiple sources of data formal model building and testing document analysis and comparison In fifteen chapters divided into six parts Ubiquity of Survey Research The Problem Asking Instruments Asking Settings Askers and Proper Methods and Research Designs The Problem with Survey Research demonstrates how asking instruments settings in which asking and answering take place and survey researchers themselves skew results and thereby make answers unreliable The last two chapters and appendices examine observation other methods of data collection and research designs that may produce accurate or correct information and shows how reliance on survey research can be overcome and must be

US Foreign Policy Towards the Middle East Bernd Kaussler, Glenn P. Hastedt, 2017-03-16 This book offers a realist critique of US foreign policy towards the Middle East in the past decade It critically examines four core foundations of contemporary US Middle East policy US relations with Saudi Arabia after the Arab Spring US diplomacy towards Iran and the Obama administration s policy of engagement the road to and aftermath of the 2003 US led invasion of Iraq and US policy towards nuclear armed Israel Because of a closely guarded bipartisan consensus these four core foundations of contemporary US Middle East policy have largely evaded public criticism and scrutiny This book argues that US strategy towards the Middle East has rarely been guided by order stability and the national interest Rather successive administrations have created a house of cards built on a series of deceptions and constructed perceptions or myths Combined these four aspects of US Middle East policy have ushered in a decade of political violence instability sectarian divisions and an imbalance of power which has culminated in the territorial disintegration of Iraq and countries in the Levant as well as the rise of ISIS Moving forward requires a rational pursuit of the national interest based on realist principles This book will be of much interest to students of US foreign policy Middle Eastern politics security studies and IR in general **Untrodden**

Ground Harold H. Bruff, 2024-05-31 When Thomas Jefferson struck a deal for the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 he knew he was adding a new national power to those specified in the Constitution but he also believed his actions were in the nation s best interest His successors would follow his example setting their own constitutional precedents Tracing the evolution and expansion of the president s formal power Untrodden Ground reveals the president to be the nation s most important law interpreter and examines how our commanders in chief have shaped the law through their responses to important issues of their time Reviewing the processes taken by all forty four presidents to form new legal precedents and the constitutional conventions that have developed as a result Harold H Bruff shows that the president is both more and less powerful than many suppose He explores how presidents have been guided by both their predecessors and their own interpretations of constitutional text as well as how they implement policies in ways that statutes do not clearly authorize or forbid But while executive power has expanded far beyond its original conception Bruff argues that the modern presidency is appropriately

limited by the national political process their actions are legitimized by the assent of Congress and the American people or rejected through debilitating public outcry judicial invalidation reactive legislation or impeachment Synthesizing over two hundred years of presidential activity and conflict this timely book casts new light on executive behavior and the American constitutional system **The Age of Impeachment** David E. Kyvig, 2008 A Bancroft Prize winning historian chronicles the modern history of impeachment and the shift in American politics and constitutional culture revealed by its evolving interpretation and use *Kennedy and the Middle East* Antonio Perra, 2017-10-30 At the height of the Cold War the John F Kennedy administration designed an ambitious plan for the Middle East its aim was to seek rapprochement with Nasser s Egypt in order to keep the Arab world neutral and contain the perceived communist threat In order to offset this approach Kennedy sought to grow relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and embrace Israel s defense priorities a decision which would begin the US Israeli special relationship Here Antonio Perra shows for the first time how new relations with Saudi Arabia and Israel which would come to shape the Middle East for decades were in fact a by product of Kennedy s efforts at Soviet containment The Saudi s in particular were increasingly viewed as an atavistic regime who would soon disappear but Kennedy s support for them which hardened during the Yemen Crisis even as he sought to placate Nasser had the unintended effect of making them as today the US great pillar of support in the Middle East *The Practical Progressive* Erica Payne, 2009-02-23 Underneath today s elections is a fierce battle for power driven not by the country s elected officials but by organizations and people you have never heard of Since the 1964 Goldwater defeat conservative philanthropists have built a set of ideologically aligned institutions think tanks legal advocacy organizations watchdog groups and media vehicles to change the country s intellectual and political climate and to assure conservative political dominance Progressives finally woke up to this structural disparity and have embarked on one of the most invigorating periods of renewal and growth in political history This book tells the story of the brightest and best institutions leading this revival **The Breach** Alan McPherson, 2025-02-28 A president defying Congress Disrespect for the law Attacks on the press Evasion in the courts The privatization of war Quid pro quos with foreign nations The mounting dangers to American democracy have long been with us But all these perils first emerged together during the Iran Contra scandal of the Reagan Bush era This opaque foreign policy mess has receded from history a minor speedbump at the triumphant end of the Cold War With American democracy in increasing jeopardy from the inside however Iran Contra must be reassessed as a major step down that dark path In this gripping blow by blow account of the 1980s efforts to trade arms with Iran illegally fund rebels in Central America despite a congressional prohibition and dodge political and legal consequences once the truth emerged Alan McPherson argues for the salience of six democracy degrading behaviors throughout the fiasco At the time many warned of the broad attack on democratic norms yet no one paid a real price or learned a lesson Those failures left the country more divided than ever before and ill equipped for more severe assaults to come *From Lying to Perjury* Laurence R. Horn, 2022-06-06 This

volume provides new insights on lying and intentionally misleading in and out of the courtroom a timely topic for scholarship and society Not all deceptive statements are lies not every lie under oath amounts to perjury but what are the relevant criteria Taxonomies of falsehood based on illocutionary force utterance context and speakers intentions have been debated by linguists moral philosophers social psychologists and cognitive scientists Legal scholars have examined the boundary between actual perjury and garden variety lies The fourteen previously unpublished essays in this book apply theoretical and empirical tools to delineate the landscape of falsehood half truth perjury and verbal manipulation including puffery bluffing and bullshit The papers in this collection address conceptual and ethical aspects of lying vs misleading and the correlation of this opposition with the Gricean pragmatic distinction between what is said and what is implicated The questions of truth and lies addressed in this volume have long engaged the attention of scholars in linguistics philosophy psychology cognitive science organizational research and the law and researchers from all these fields will find this book of interest

Embracing the Beat of Phrase: An Emotional Symphony within **When Presidents Lie A History Of Official Deception And Its Consequences**

In some sort of taken by displays and the ceaseless chatter of immediate conversation, the melodic elegance and mental symphony produced by the prepared word usually fade in to the background, eclipsed by the persistent noise and interruptions that permeate our lives. Nevertheless, nestled within the pages of **When Presidents Lie A History Of Official Deception And Its Consequences** a wonderful fictional treasure filled with organic emotions, lies an immersive symphony waiting to be embraced. Crafted by an elegant composer of language, that interesting masterpiece conducts viewers on a psychological trip, skillfully unraveling the hidden melodies and profound affect resonating within each cautiously crafted phrase. Within the depths with this emotional examination, we shall examine the book is key harmonies, analyze their enthralling publishing design, and surrender ourselves to the profound resonance that echoes in the depths of readers souls.

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When Presidents Lie A History Of Official Deception And Its Consequences Introduction

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