

The Rhetorical Presidency

The Rhetorical Presidency Franklin D. Roosevelt's Rhetorical Presidency Rethinking the Rhetorical Presidency Speaking to the People Beyond the Rhetorical Presidency The Rhetorical Presidency of George H. W. Bush The Rhetorical Presidency The Evolutionary Rhetorical Presidency Before the Rhetorical Presidency The End of the Rhetorical Presidency? The transitional Period of the Rhetorical Presidency in the United States of America The Presidency and Rhetorical Leadership Green Talk in the White House The Rhetorical Presidency, Propaganda, and the Cold War, 1945-1955 The End of the Rhetorical Presidency? How President Barack Obama Reshaped the Rhetorical Presidency by Slow Jamming the News Oversell, the Rhetorical Presidency, and the Politics of Consensus Deeds Done in Words The Moral Rhetoric of American Presidents The Prospect of Presidential Rhetoric Jeffrey Tulis Halford R. Ryan Jeffrey Friedman Richard J. Ellis Martin J. Medhurst Martin J. Medhurst Jeffrey Friedman Ryan Lee Teten Martin J. Medhurst Diane Heith Blaž Varži Galle Leroy G. Dorsey Tarla Rai Peterson Shawn J. Parry-Giles DIANE J. HEITH Preston Haycock Wittwer David J. Hackett Karlyn Kohrs Campbell Colleen J. Shogan James Arnt Aune

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modern presidents regularly appeal over the heads of congress to the people at large to generate support for public policies this book makes the case that this development born at the outset of the twentieth century is the product of conscious political choices that fundamentally transformed the presidency and the meaning of american governance now with a new foreword by russell muirhead and a new afterword by the author this work probes political pathologies and analyzes the dilemmas of presidential statecraft

building on the premise that the 20th century has witnessed the rise of the rhetorical presidency ryan parses the public addresses of a master persuader overall fdr s verbal gifts strengthened his hand while enriching the language of american politics ryan examines the mechanics of a typical roosevelt speech considering such factors as intonation rhythm and choice of metaphor as well as roosevelt s incomparable body language these are the best parts of the book ryan effectively treats the question of authorship arguing that although fdr wrote little of his own material his speeches bore a distinct roosevelt imprint ryan s work makes clear why the packaging of a speech must be considered as significant as its substance choice this thought provoking study makes a unique contribution to the literature on franklin d roosevelt by focusing on his presidential rhetoric unlike previous works on roosevelt this volume demonstrates how he tried to persuade the public and the congress what rhetorical techniques he used how he attempted to manage the reception of his messages through the press and the media and what the effect was of his oratorical endeavors it examines his leading orations on national and international issues his persuasive campaign strategies and tactics his four inaugural addresses and his unsuccessful speeches against the supreme court and in the purge it further demonstrates how contemporary americans responded to and received roosevelt s rhetoric

in the rhetorical presidency jeffrey tulis argues that the president s relationship to the public has changed dramatically since the constitution was enacted while previously the president avoided any discussions of public policy so as to avoid demagoguery the president is now expected to go directly to the public using all the tools of rhetoric to influence public policy this has effectively created a second constitution that has been layered over and in part contradicts the original one in our volume scholars from different subfields of political science extend tulis s perspective to the judiciary and congress

locate the origins of the constitutional change in the progressive era highlight the role of theodore roosevelt woodrow wilson and the mass media in transforming the presidency discuss the nature of demagoguery and whether in fact rhetoric is undesirable and relate the rhetorical presidency to the public s ignorance of the workings of a government more complex than the founders imagined this book was originally published as a special issue of critical review a journal of politics and society

this text explores how the rhetorical presidency became a central feature of american politics beginning with an examination of the constitution the look at the role of rhetoric in a variety of 19th century presidents as well as those of mckinley roosevelt and wilson

with the administrations of theodore roosevelt and woodrow wilson the american presidency underwent many profound changes chief among those was a radical evolution in the interaction of the president with the general public divided into three sections the ten essays of this volume focus on that evolution and offer thought provoking analyses concerning the role of presidential rhetoric in passing policy generating support and promoting public discourse in part i jeffrey tulis who introduced the concept of the rhetorical presidency more than a decade ago considers how the dilemmas he envisioned as part of that concept change just as the political arena changes glen e thurow reflects on private virtue and public duty as aspects of presidential character bruce e gronbeck argues that the electronic age has fundamentally changed the nature and impact of presidential rhetoric and indeed the presidency itself while thomas w benson contemplates whether politics is even possible in the environment of current computer mediated communications part ii turns from theoretical and metatheoretical explorations to practical criticism in a series of case studies roderick p hart and kathleen kendall evaluate the significance of a single telephone conversation about civil rights between vice president lyndon johnson and theodore sorenson in june 1963 using richard nixon s rhetoric as the example from which to draw general themes and issues edwin black considers the complex moral economy that supports presidential self invention g thomas goodnight uses the debate over ronald reagan s policy toward central america to study rhetorical history contested memory and the uses of time in the service of power robert l ivie examines graubard s critique of presidential war rhetoric in the context of the persian gulf action karlyn kohrs campbell presents a framework for understanding the public views of the first lady focusing on hillary rodham clinton but drawing historical parallels finally part iii of this volume offers a social scientific assessment of

the theoretical and interpretive research on presidential rhetoric from one of the nation's leading scholars of the presidency george edwards an introduction and afterword by series editor martin j medhurst seek to clarify the nature and status of the debate about the rhetorical presidency beyond the rhetorical presidency offers scholars with an interest in speech communication and political science a volume that reexamines the place and significance of presidential rhetoric

for george h w bush the distinction between campaigning politics and governing principles was crucial once in office he abandoned his campaign mode and with it the rhetorical strategies that brought electoral success not recognizing the crucial importance of rhetoric to policy formation and implementation bush forfeited the resources of the bully pulpit and paid the price of electoral defeat in this first ever analysis of bush's rhetoric to draw on the archives of the bush presidential library scholars explore eight major events or topics associated with his presidency the first gulf war the fall of the berlin wall the new world order bush's education presidency his environmental stance the vision thing and the influence of the religious right the volume concludes with a cogent of the 1992 re election campaign and bush's last gasp use of economic rhetoric drawing on the resources of the bush presidential library and interviews with many of bush's white house aides the scholars included in this tightly organized volume ask how well did president bush and his administration respond to events issues and situations in the process they also suggest how a more perceptive embrace of the art of rhetoric might have allowed them to respond more successfully the rhetorical presidency of george h w bush breaks important ground for our understanding of the forty first president's time in office and the reasons it ended so quickly

this book is an evolutionary examination of the rhetoric of the president of the united states from george washington to george w bush it provides a close analysis of the history and content of inaugural addresses state of the union addresses presidential proclamations and executive orders in order to trace the changes in their use and impact from their origin to the present day content analysis of these forms of executive address are combined with case studies and illustrations to provide a complete look at the way that contrary to the widely held ascription to a clear traditional versus modern divide the presidents of the eighteenth nineteenth and twentieth centuries have all contributed to the rhetorical tools and powers that the current president wields in the execution of his duty lti the evolutionary rhetorical presidency is widely useful not only for standard governmental classes on for example the presidency or on political communication but also for courses in

history leadership studies and rhetoric

since its identification in 1981 the rhetorical presidency has drawn both defenders and critics chief among those critical of the practice is political theorist jeffrey k tulis whose 1987 book the rhetorical presidency helped popularize the construct and set forth a sustained analysis of the baleful effects that have allegedly accompanied the shift from a constitutional presidency to a rhetorical one tulis locates this shift in the presidencies of theodore roosevelt and woodrow wilson arguing that the rhetorical presidency is a twentieth century phenomenon yet not all scholars agree with this assessment before the rhetorical presidency is an attempt to investigate how u s presidents in the nineteenth century communicated with their publics both congressional and popular in part 1 martin j medhurst mel laracey jeffrey k tulis and stephen e lucas set forth differing perspectives on how the rhetorical presidency ought to be understood and evaluated in part 2 eleven scholars of nineteenth century presidential rhetoric investigate the presidencies of martin van buren john tyler james k polk franklin pierce james buchanan andrew johnson ulysses s grant rutherford b hayes benjamin harrison grover cleveland and william mckinley as the first volume ever to focus on nineteenth century presidents from a rhetorical perspective before the rhetorical presidency examines administrations policies and events that have never before been subjected to rhetorical analysis the sometimes startling outcomes of these investigations reveal the need for continuing debate over the nature practices and effects of the rhetorical presidency in a brief afterward medhurst raises eight challenges to the original formulation of the rhetorical presidency and in so doing sets forth an agenda for future studies

the end of the rhetorical presidency public leadership in the trump era explores one of the most disruptive aspects of the trump presidency since the fdr administration presidents developed the capacity and skill to use the public to influence the legislative arena gain reelection survive scandal and secure their legacy consequently presidential rhetorical leadership has its own norms and expectations comparing president trump s communications apparatus as well as rhetoric including twitter to previous presidents diane heith demonstrates how trump exercises leadership by adhering to some of these norms and expectations but rejects abandons and undermines most heith argues that his individual rather than institutional approach to leadership represents a change in tone language and style she concludes that the loss of skill and capacity represents a devolution of the white house institution dedicated to public leadership especially in the legislative arena more significantly the individual approach emphasizes weakening the ability of the press and other political elites to hold the president

accountable this book will appeal to students and scholars of the presidency as well as general readers who quest for a deeper understanding of the trump white house

the main objective of this master s thesis is to compare the traditional and rhetorical presidency in the united states of america focusing on milestones and the reasons for them another objective is to analyze different presidential speeches and their evolvement throughout history and different events the master s thesis presents an analysis of two presidential speeches given by the 25th american president william mckinley the speeches were analyzed with regards to classical rhetorical elements based on leith 2012 who summarizes classical rhetorical principles based on aristotle s rhetoric aristotle 1992 the analysis provides evidence of the shift from traditional to the rhetorical presidency which occurred during the final stages of william mckinley s presidency when he served as the american leader in the spanish american war a handful of authors have mentioned mckinley e g robert saldin 2011 as the transitional president in american presidential rhetoric however the general literature still portrays theodore roosevelt as such the analysis will provide rhetorical evidence to disprove the theory which considers roosevelt as the beginner of the rhetorical presidency

successful presidential leadership depends upon words as well as deeds in this multifaceted look at rhetorical leadership twelve leading scholars in three different disciplines provide in depth studies of how words have served or disserved american presidents at the heart of rhetorical leadership lies the classical concept of prudence practical wisdom that combines good sense with good character from their disparate treatments of a range of presidencies an underlying agreement emerges among the historians political scientists and communication scholars included in the volume to be effective they find presidents must be able to articulate the common good in a particular situation and they must be credible on the basis of their own character who they are and what they can do are thus twin pillars of successful rhetorical leadership leroy g dorsey introduces these themes and david zarefsky picks them up in looking at the historical development of rhetorical leadership within the office of the presidency each succeeding chapter then examines the rhetorical leadership of a particular president often within the context of a specific incident or challenge that marked his term in office chapters dealing with george washington john adams thomas jefferson theodore roosevelt woodrow wilson franklin roosevelt dwight eisenhower ronald reagan and bill clinton offer the specifics for a clearer understanding of how rhetoric serves leadership in the american presidency this book provides an indispensable addition to the literature on the

presidency and in leadership studies

the environment figures prominently in american political debate of the twentieth century issues of wilderness and wetlands preservation clean air and clean water and the sustainable use of natural resources attract passionate advocacy and demands for national as well as local action presidents since theodore roosevelt have addressed these issues rhetorically though not always prominently in their public addresses and pragmatically in their policies and appointments to pertinent positions green talk in the white house gathers an array of approaches to studying environmental rhetoric and the presidency covering a range of presidential administrations and a diversity of viewpoints on how the concept of the rhetorical presidency may be modified in this policy area tarla rai peterson s introduction discusses both methodological and substantive issues in studying presidential rhetoric on the environment in subsequent chapters noted scholars examine various aspects of half a dozen modern presidencies to shed light not only on those administrations but also on the study of environmental rhetoric itself the final section of the book then directs attention to the future of presidential rhetoric and environmental governance with looks in at state level environmental issues and looks out at the international context of environmentalism as a whole the volume is ideal for those looking to better understand the particular intersection of presidency policy and rhetorical studies

both truman and eisenhower combined bully pulpit activity with presidentially directed messages voiced by surrogates whose words were as orchestrated by the administration as those delivered by the presidents themselves a review of the private strategizing sessions concerning propaganda activity and the actual propaganda disseminated by the truman and eisenhower administrations reveals how they both militarized propaganda operations allowing the president of the united states to serve as the commander in chief of propaganda activity as the presidents minimized congressional control over propaganda operations they institutionalized propaganda as a presidential tool expanded the means by which they and their successors could perform the rhetorical presidency and increased presidential power over the country s cold war message naturalizing the cold war ideology that resonates yet today of particular interest to scholars and students of political communication the modern presidency and cold war history

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the rhetorical presidency encompasses all the ways a president communicates and acts these rhetorical elements of the job are not prescribed in the constitution and as a result it is the presidents themselves who help shape the cultural understanding of presidential of what it means to be president when president barack obama participated in a slow jam the news comedy sketch on late night with jimmy fallon in 2012 he took the rhetorical presidency to a place it had never been before this choice established a new genre of presidential rhetoric that president obama would rely on throughout his time in the white house communicating directly to target audiences via the youtube bully pulpit the aim of this thesis is twofold first provide historical context for presidents utilizing comedy and new forms of mass media for political ends and second rhetorically analyze select comedic youtube videos to reveal how president obama reshaped the rhetorical presidency to create new opportunities to succeed both culturally and politically

deeds done in words is an impressive piece of work it is the first attempt to identify and assess the principal genres of rhetoric and to interpret the panoply of those genres in terms of the needs of and the needs for ritual in american politics jeffrey tulis author of the rhetorical presidency deeds done in words is a thoughtful survey of how a democracy uses language to transact its business based on an enlivened understanding of genre theory and on numerous pieces of original criticism campbell and jamieson vividly show how central public discourse has become the lifeblood of the american polity roderick hart author of the sound of leadership the rhetoric that issues from the white house is becoming an ever more

salient part of what the presidency means and does this acute inquiry provides a great many insights into the forms meanings and functions of presidential discourse it is an enlightening contribution to our understanding of american politics murray edelman author of constructing the political spectacle

although sometimes decried by pundits george w bush s use of moral and religious rhetoric is far from unique in the american presidency throughout history and across party boundaries presidents have used such appeals with varying degrees of political success the moral rhetoric of american presidents astutely analyzes the president s role as the nation s moral spokesman armed with quantitative methods from political science and the qualitative case study approach prevalent in rhetorical studies colleen j shogan demonstrates that moral and religious rhetoric is not simply a reflection of individual character or an expression of american civil religion but a strategic tool presidents can use to enhance their constitutional authority to determine how the use of moral rhetoric has changed over time shogan employs content analysis of the inaugural and annual addresses of all the presidents from george washington through george w bush this quantitative evidence shows that while presidents of both parties have used moral and religious arguments the frequency has fluctuated considerably and the language has become increasingly detached from relevant policy arguments shogan explores the political effects of the rhetorical choices presidents make through nine historical cases presidents washington jefferson madison buchanan lincoln theodore roosevelt kennedy lyndon johnson and carter she shows that presidents who adapt their rhetoric to the political conditions at hand enhance their constitutional authority while presidents who ignore political constraints suffer adverse political consequences the case studies allow shogan to highlight the specific political circumstances that encourage or discourage the use of moral rhetoric shogan concludes with an analysis of several dilemmas of governance instigated by george w bush s persistent devotion to moral and religious argumentation

culminating a decade of conferences that have explored presidential speech the prospect of presidential rhetoric assesses progress and suggests directions for both the practice of presidential speech and its study in part one following an analytic review of the field by martin medhurst contributors address the state of the art in their own areas of expertise roderick p hart then summarizes their work in the course of his rebuttal of an argument made by political scientist george edwards that presidential rhetoric lacks political impact part two of the volume consists of the forward looking reports of six task forces comprising more than forty scholars charged with outlining the likely future course of presidential rhetoric as well as

the major questions scholars should ask about it and the tools at their disposal the prospect of presidential rhetoric will serve as a pivotal work for students and scholars of public discourse and the presidency who seek to understand the shifting landscape of american political leadership

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