Record Nr. UNINA9910154822103321 Autore Barber Stephen Titolo Westminster, Governance and the Politics of Policy Inaction: 'Do Nothing' / / by Stephen Barber London:,: Palgrave Macmillan UK:,: Imprint: Palgrave Pivot,, 2017 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 9781137487063 1137487062 Edizione [1st ed. 2017.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (IX, 97 p. 1 illus. in color.) Collana Palgrave Pivot Disciplina 320.014 Soggetti Communication in politics Political planning Europe - Politics and government World politics Political Communication Public Policy **European Politics Political History** Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters and Nota di bibliografia index. Nota di contenuto Introduction: A Systemic Problem for Westminster Government --Chapter 1. Why Do Nothing and Who Does It? -- Chapter 2. Why Does 'Do Nothing' Politics Matter? -- Chapter 3. How is 'Do Nothing' Politics held to account?... Sommario/riassunto This book shows how political inaction has shaped the politics, economy and society we recognize today, despite the fact that policymakers are incentivised to act and to be seen to act decisively. Politicians make decisions which affect our lives every day but in our combative Westminster system, are usually only held to account for those which change something. But what about decisions to do nothing? What about policy which is discarded in favour of an

alternative? What about opposition for naked political advantage? This book argues that not only is policy inaction an overlooked part of British politics but also that it is just as important as active policy and

can have just as significant an impact on society. Addressing the topic for perhaps the first time, it offers a provocative analysis of 'do nothing' politics. It shows why politicians are rarely incentivized to do nothing, preferring hyperactivity. It explores the philosophical and structural drivers of inaction when it happens and highlights the contradictions in behavior. It explains why Attlee and Thatcher enjoyed lasting policy legacies to this day, and considers the nature of opposition and the challenge of holding 'do nothing' policy decisions to account. Stephen Barber is Associate Professor in Public Policy at London South Bank University, UK, where he teaches on its leading Masters in Public Administration programme and a Senior Research Fellow at the Global Policy Institute. A frequent media commentator, he has published five previous books and numerous scholarly articles.