Record Nr. UNINA9910164869403321 Autore Strong James R. **Titolo** Public opinion, legitimacy and Tony Blair's War in Iraq / / James Strong Pubbl/distr/stampa London;; New York:,: Routledge,, 2017 **ISBN** 1-315-51401-X 1-315-51399-4 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (229 pages): illustrations, tables Collana Routledge Studies in Foreign Policy Analysis Disciplina 941.0859 Soggetti Iraq War, 2003-2011 - Participation, British Iraq War, 2003-2011 - Public opinion Public opinion - Great Britain - History - 21st century Iraq War, 2003-2011 - Diplomatic history Iraq War, 2003-2011 - Moral and ethical aspects War (International law) Great Britain Foreign relations 1997- Decision making Great Britain Military policy Decision making Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia pt. I. Public opinion -- pt. II. Legitimacy -- pt. III. Tony Blair's war in Nota di contenuto Sommario/riassunto "In the wake of the publication of the Chilcot report, this book reinterprets the relationship between British public opinion and the Blair government's decision-making in the run-up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq. It highlights how the government won the parliamentary vote and got its war, but never won the argument that it was the right thing to do. Understanding how, why and with what consequences Britain wound up in this position means understanding better both this specific case and the wider issue of how democratic publics influence foreign policy processes. Taking an innovative constructivist approach to understanding how public actors potentially influence foreign policy,

> Strong frames the debate about Iraq as a contest over legitimacy among active public actors, breaking it down into four constituent elements covering the necessity, legality and morality of war, and the

government's authority. The book presents a detailed empirical account of the British public debate before the invasion of Iraq based on the rigorous interrogation of thousands of primary sources, employing both quantitative and qualitative content analysis methods to interpret the shape of debate between January 2002 and March 2003. Also contributing to the wider foreign policy analysis literature, the book investigates the domestic politics of foreign policy decision-making, and particularly the influence public opinion exerts; considers the domestic structural determinants of foreign policy decision-making; and studies the ethics of foreign policy decision-making, and the legitimate use of force. It will be of great use to students and scholars of foreign policy analysis, as well as those interested in legitimacy in international conflict, British foreign policy, the Iraq War and the role of public opinion in conflict situations"--Provided by publisher.