1. Record Nr. UNINA9910676688003321 Autore Ginsberg Benjamin Titolo Warping time: how contending political forces manipulate the past, present, and future / / Benjamin Ginsberg and Jennifer Bachner Pubbl/distr/stampa Ann Arbor, Michigan: .: University of Michigan Press. . 2023 ©2023 **ISBN** 0-472-90334-9 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (xvi, 141 pages): illustrations Disciplina 320 Soggetti Time - Political aspects Historiography - Political aspects Forecasting - Political aspects Political science - 21st century Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Includes bibliographical references (page 127-134) and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto List of TablesList of FiguresPreface -- Chapter 1. Time and Politics --Chapter 2. Reshaping the Past to Change the Present -- Chapter 3. Reimagining the Future to Reshape the Present -- Chapter 4. How the Future Affects the Past -- Chapter 5. Conclusion: The Uncertainty of Reality -- Appendix. National Survey on Policy Attitudes. Warping Time shows how narratives of the past influence what people Sommario/riassunto believe about the present and future state of the world. In Benjamin Ginsberg and Jennifer Bachner's simple experiments, in which the authors measured the impact of different stories their subjects heard about the past, these "history lessons" moved contemporary policy preferences by an average of 16 percentage points; forecasts of the future moved contemporary policy preferences by an average of 12 percentage points; the two together moved preferences an average of 21 percentage points. And, in an Orwellian twist, the authors estimate that the "history lessons" had an average "erasure effect" of 8.5

percentage points—the difference between those with long-held preferences and those who did not recall that they previously held other opinions before participating in the experiment. The fact that the

past, present, and future are subject to human manipulation suggests that history is not simply the product of impersonal forces, material conditions, or past choices. Humans are the architects of history, not its captives. Political reality is tenuous. Changes in our understanding of the past or future can substantially alter perceptions of and action in the present. Finally, the manipulation of time, especially the relationship between past and future, is a powerful political tool.