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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910779020003321 |
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| Titolo | Elusive victories [[electronic resource]] : the American presidency at war / / Andrew J. Polsky |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | New York, : Oxford University Press, 2012 |
| ISBN | 0-19-994281-1 0-19-025264-2 1-280-59583-3 9786613625663 0-19-986094-7 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (454 p.) |
| Disciplina | 352.23/5 |
| Soggetti | Presidents - United States - History War and emergency powers - United States - History War and emergency powers - United States |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Description based upon print version of record. |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Introduction -- Lincoln casts a shadow -- A war to transform the world: Woodrow Wilson -- Freedom of action: Franklin Roosevelt -- Staying the course: Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon -- The perils of optimism: George W. Bush -- Inheriting a bad hand: Barack Obama -- Conclusion: past and future. |
| Sommario/riassunto | On April 4, 1864, Abraham Lincoln made a shocking admission about his presidency during the Civil War. "I claim not to have controlled events," he wrote in a letter, "but confess plainly that events have controlled me." Lincoln's words carry an invaluable lesson for wartime presidents, writes Andrew J. Polsky in this seminal book. As Polsky shows, when commanders-in-chief do try to control wartime events, more often than not they fail utterly. In Elusive Victories, Polsky provides a fascinating study of six wartime presidents, drawing larger lessons about the limits of the power of the Whit |