

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910782730403321
Autore	Steinberg Blema S
Titolo	Shame and humiliation [[electronic resource]] : presidential decision making on Vietnam // Blema S. Steinberg
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Pittsburgh, Pa., : University of Pittsburgh Press, c1996
ISBN	1-282-85383-X 9786612853838 0-7735-6590-6
Descrizione fisica	ix, 397 p
Collana	Pitt series in policy and institutional studies
Disciplina	959.7043373
Soggetti	Vietnam War, 1961-1975 - United States Vietnam War, 1961-1975 - Psychological aspects United States Politics and government 20th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [363]-378) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- Shame, Humiliation, Loss of Self-Esteem, and Aggression -- Lyndon Johnson: The Humiliated Narcissist -- Johnson and Vietnam -- Richard Nixon: The Angry Narcissist -- Nixon and Cambodia -- Dwight Eisenhower: The Healthy Narcissist -- Eisenhower and Dien Bien Phu -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Steinberg focuses on the narcissistic personality, identifying it as intensely self-involved and preoccupied with success and recognition as a substitute for parental love. She asserts that narcissistic leaders are most likely to use force when they fear being humiliated for failing to act and when they need to restore their diminished sense of self-worth. Providing case studies of Johnson, Nixon, and Eisenhower, Steinberg describes the childhood, maturation, and career of each president, documenting key personality attributes, and then discusses each one's Vietnam policy in light of these traits. She contends that Johnson authorized the bombing of Vietnam in part because he feared the humiliation that would come from inaction, and that Nixon escalated U.S. intervention in Cambodia in part because of his low sense of self-esteem. Steinberg contrasts these two presidents with

Eisenhower, who was psychologically secure and was, therefore, able to carry out a careful and thoughtful analysis of the problem he faced in Indochina. Shame and Humiliation reveals how personality traits affect our perception of reality and offers a powerful demonstration of the impact of psychodynamics on presidential decision making.
