

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910797408403321
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Titolo	American pendulum : recurring debates in U.S. grand strategy // Christopher Hemmer
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, New York ; ; London, [England] : , : Cornell University Press, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	1-5017-0118-5 1-5017-0119-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (237 p.)
Collana	Cornell Studies in Security Affairs
Disciplina	327.73009/04
Soggetti	POLITICAL SCIENCE / Security (National & International) United States Foreign relations 20th century United States Foreign relations 21st century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Finding a Place on the World Stage -- 2. The Debates Raised by Containment in the Truman Administration -- 3. Debating the Implementation of Containment -- 4. Beyond Containment? -- 5. The Culmination of Containment -- 6. Grand Strategy in the Absence of a Clear Threat -- 7. The Rise and Fall of the War on Terror in U.S. Grand Strategy -- 8. "Don't Do Stupid Stuff" -- Conclusion: Balancing the Pendulum? -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	As new presidential administrations come into power, they each bring their own approach to foreign policy. No grand strategy, however, is going to be completely novel. New administrations never start with a blank slate, so it is always possible to see similarities between an administration and its predecessors. Conversely, since each administration faces novel problems and operates in a unique context, no foreign policy strategy is going to be an exact replica of its predecessors. In <i>American Pendulum</i> , Christopher Hemmer examines America's grand strategic choices between 1914 and 2014 using four recurring debates in American foreign policy as lenses. First, how

should the United States balance the trade-offs between working alone versus working with other states and international organizations? Second, what is the proper place of American values in foreign policy? Third, where does the strategic perimeter of the United States lie? And fourth, is time on the side of the United States or of its enemies? Offering new readings of debates within the Wilson, Truman, Nixon, Bush, and Obama administrations, Hemmer asserts that heated debates, disagreements, and even confusions over U.S. grand strategy are not only normal but also beneficial. He challenges the claim that uncertainties or inconsistencies about the nation's role in the world or approach to security issues betray strategic confusion or the absence of a grand strategy. American foreign policy, he states, is most in danger not when debates are at their most pointed but when the weight of opinion crushes dissent. As the United States looks ahead to an increasingly multipolar world with increasing complicated security issues, Hemmer concludes, developing an effective grand strategy requires ongoing contestation and compromises between competing visions and policies.
