

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910814571803321
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Titolo	Dictators at war and peace // Jessica L. P. Weeks
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, New York : , : Cornell University Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	0-8014-5523-5 1-336-20820-1 0-8014-5524-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (264 p.)
Collana	Cornell Studies in Security Affairs
Classificazione	MK 3100
Disciplina	321.9092/2
Soggetti	Dictators Authoritarianism Military policy - Decision making Politics and war
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Tables And Figures -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Authoritarian Regimes And The Domestic Politics Of War And Peace -- 2. Initiating International Conflict -- 3. Winners, Losers, And Survival -- 4. Personalist Dictators: Shooting From The Hip -- 5. Juntas: Using The Only Language They Understand -- 6. Machines: Looking Before They Leap -- Conclusion -- Appendix -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Why do some autocratic leaders pursue aggressive or expansionist foreign policies, while others are much more cautious in their use of military force? The first book to focus systematically on the foreign policy of different types of authoritarian regimes, Dictators at War and Peace breaks new ground in our understanding of the international behavior of dictators. Jessica L. P. Weeks explains why certain kinds of regimes are less likely to resort to war than others, why some are more likely to win the wars they start, and why some authoritarian leaders face domestic punishment for foreign policy failures whereas others can weather all but the most serious military defeat. Using novel cross-national data, Weeks looks at various nondemocratic regimes, including

those of Saddam Hussein and Joseph Stalin; the Argentine junta at the time of the Falklands War, the military government in Japan before and during World War II, and the North Vietnamese communist regime. She finds that the differences in the conflict behavior of distinct kinds of autocracies are as great as those between democracies and dictatorships. Indeed, some types of autocracies are no more belligerent or reckless than democracies, casting doubt on the common view that democracies are more selective about war than autocracies.
