

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910819711703321
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Titolo	Declaring war : Congress, the president, and what the constitution does not say / / Brien Hallett, University of Hawaii-Manoa, Matsunaga Institute of Peace [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2012
ISBN	1-139-56481-1 1-316-09015-9 1-283-57521-3 1-139-20873-X 1-139-55127-2 9786613887665 1-139-55623-1 1-139-55253-8 1-139-55002-0 1-139-55498-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvii, 273 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	LAW018000
Disciplina	342.73/062
Soggetti	War, Declaration of - United States War and emergency powers - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: 1. A constitutional tyranny and presidential dictatorship; Part I. What Is the History?: 2. How the president declares war: the War of 1812; 3. Why the Congress ought not declare war: the Spanish-American War, 1898; 4. A plan for acquiescence: the War Powers Resolution of 1973; Part II. What Is a Declaration of War?: 5. Declaring and commanding: forms, functions, and relationships; 6. Lawful and unlawful declarations of war: quantity over quality; 7. Six possible structures; Part III. What Are the Solutions?: 8. A constitutional amendment; 9. A congressional work-around; Part IV. What Is the Theory?: 10. Bellum justum et pium: the rule of law and roman piety; 11. The rule of law: searching for ontology; 12. Senator

Sommario/riassunto

Declaring War directly challenges the 200-year-old belief that Congress can and should declare war. By offering a detailed analysis of the declarations of 1812, 1898 and the War Powers Resolution of 1973, the book demonstrates the extent of the organizational and moral incapacity of Congress to declare war. It invokes Carl von Clausewitz's dictum that 'war is policy' to explain why declarations of war are an integral part of war and proposes two possible remedies - a constitutional amendment or, alternatively, a significant re-organization of Congress. It offers a comprehensive historical, legal, constitutional, moral and philosophical analysis of why Congress has failed to check an imperial presidency. The book draws on Roman history and international law to clarify the form, function and language of declarations of war and John Austin's speech act theory.