

[PDF] Taking Heat: The President, The Press, And My Years In The White House

Ari Fleischer - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Taking Heat: The President, t

Author: Ari Fleischer

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly A former White House press secretary, Fleischer became a lightning rod for accusations about the Bush administration's alleged spin, secrecy and hostility to the press, claims that may not be quieted by this sunnily defensive memoir. Fleischer acknowledges the White House's fanatical "message discipline," which still seems in force in his glowing portrait of Bush as a decisive leader, stalwart in advancing freedom and opposing "evil," forever comforting the families of terror victims and military casualties. And he cops to some stonewalling at press briefings,

explaining, with some justice, that many questions concerned security and military operations he couldn't discuss. The many lengthy fencing matches he reprints sometimes evoke sympathy, as reporters badger him with provocative questions and he responds "with the same non-answer every time." Mainly, though, he blames his testy relations with the media on the media themselves and what he sees as their knee-jerk controversializing and pervasive liberal bias, and gleefully cites examples. Fleischer is less forthcoming on his own responsibility for relating false claims about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction; "we may all have been wrong," he shrugs, but contends it doesn't matter because Saddam might have gotten WMDs someday. Seldom have a press secretary's inaccuracies had such momentous consequences, so Fleischer's reluctance to examine how and why they occurred is disappointing indeed. Photos.

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From Former White House press secretary Fleischer offers a behind-the-scenes look at one of the most high profile positions in any administration and observations on bias in the media. Born into a Jewish liberal Democratic family in New York, he traces his personal journey to the Republican Party and the campaign and early administration of President Bush. He details private moments from the contentious 2000 presidential election when Bush declined to worry about the outcome to Bush's expressed desire for peace in the Middle East even as he fights against terrorism. Fleischer also offers quotes and anecdotes on the president's thoughts and actions on the war in Iraq and domestic policies. Fleischer criticizes a press he sees as biased in favor of the Democrats, noting differences in press treatment of positions from affirmative action to abortion. But the first and foremost bias of the press is in favor of conflict, Fleischer maintains, in this revealing look at how the news is made and covered from the perspective of the White House. *Vanessa Bush*

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â€œIn Taking Heat Fleischer offers an assessment of the leadership lessons he learned from the president and his administration.â€ (Philadelphia Daily News). â€œThe Fleischer technique has worked its magic.â€ One of the other objectives was to provide a critical narrative of the press and give insight into the White House Press Corps. I found his look at the White House Press fascinating and he really does put you inside the room of the toughest reporters in the United States. He illustrates well his points about the adversarial nature of the press and the desire of the press to create conflict which leads to stories. Many times the same questions are asked over and over hoping for a slip that the Press Secretary cannot afford to give. Taking Heat: The President, the Press, and My Years in the White House (2005), by Ari Fleischer, former White House Press Secretary for President George W. Bush, 2001â€“2003. Eyewitness to Power: The Essence of Leadership Nixon to Clinton (2003), by David Gergen, former advisor to Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton. White House Daze: The Unmaking of Domestic Policy in the Bush Years (1998), by Charles Kolb, Assistant Deputy for Domestic Policy under President George H.W. Bush. A Political Education: A Washington Memoir (1972) by Harry McPherson, Special Counse The members of the White House press corps are masters at being devil's advocate, able to take with passion the opposite side of whatever issue the President supports. Fleischer's job was to calmly field their questions, no matter how pointed. Taking Heat is an introspective exploration of the top political events in the first half of the Bush administration, as well as the candid observations of a professional who stood in the bright lights of the world stage. Product Identifiers. Publisher.