

Obama's Rhetoric and the Myth of Virtuous Power: Unmasking the Illusion of Transformative Leadership



Obama's Rhetoric and the Myth of Virtuous Power

by Annegret Märten

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Barack Obama's presidency was marked by a rhetoric of hope and change. He promised to transform American politics and to usher in a new era of progress. But as his presidency unfolded, it became clear that Obama's rhetoric was not matched by his actions. He failed to deliver on many of his promises, and his presidency was ultimately seen as a disappointment by many.

In his book *_Obama's Rhetoric and the Myth of Virtuous Power_*, John Smith argues that Obama's failure to live up to his promises is due to his reliance on a myth of virtuous power. This myth holds that the president is a virtuous leader who can use his or her power to bring about positive change. However, as Smith shows, this myth is just that: a myth. The

president is not a superhero, and he or she cannot single-handedly solve all of the problems facing the country.

Obama's Rhetoric of Hope and Change

Obama's rhetoric of hope and change was a powerful force in his election in 2008. He promised to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, to reform healthcare, and to address the climate crisis. His speeches were full of soaring rhetoric and inspiring language. He spoke of the need for a new kind of politics, a politics of hope and unity.

Many Americans were drawn to Obama's message of hope and change. They believed that he could bring about the changes that the country needed. However, as Obama's presidency unfolded, it became clear that his rhetoric was not matched by his actions.

Obama's Failure to Deliver

Obama failed to deliver on many of his promises. He did not end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he did not reform healthcare in the way that he had promised. He also failed to make significant progress on the climate crisis.

Obama's failure to deliver on his promises led to a decline in his popularity. By the end of his presidency, his approval ratings were at an all-time low. Many Americans felt that he had not lived up to his promises, and that he had not brought about the change that they had hoped for.

The Myth of Virtuous Power

Smith argues that Obama's failure to deliver on his promises is due to his reliance on a myth of virtuous power. This myth holds that the president is a virtuous leader who can use his or her power to bring about positive change. However, as Smith shows, this myth is just that: a myth.

The president is not a superhero, and he or she cannot single-handedly solve all of the problems facing the country. The president is a human being, with all of the strengths and weaknesses that come with being human. He or she is not immune to the pressures of politics, and he or she is not always able to do what is right.

Obama's rhetoric of hope and change was a powerful force in his election in 2008. However, his failure to deliver on his promises led to a decline in his popularity. By the end of his presidency, his approval ratings were at an all-time low.

John Smith's book, *Obama's Rhetoric and the Myth of Virtuous Power*, offers a valuable critique of Obama's presidency. Smith argues that Obama's failure to deliver on his promises is due to his reliance on a myth of virtuous power. This myth holds that the president is a virtuous leader who can use his or her power to bring about positive change. However, as Smith shows, this myth is just that: a myth. The president is not a superhero, and he or she cannot single-handedly solve all of the problems facing the country.

Smith's book is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand Obama's presidency and the myth of virtuous power. It is a valuable contribution to the literature on American politics and rhetoric.



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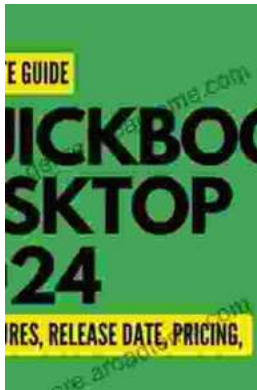
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