



## The Opposition Presidency: Leadership and the Constraints of History (Hardback)

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By David A. Crockett

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When a president's governing philosophy is out of step with the dominant ideology of the culture, his options for leadership are much different from those of a leader more in sync with the times. Such opposition leaders face distinctive challenges and opportunities. They should be judged by different standards, argues political scientist David A. Crockett. Crockett has analyzed presidents from Whig times through the Clinton presidency to develop a model for understanding presidential success and the strategies that are appropriate to the circumstances. Focusing on the terms of twelve opposition presidents, Crockett details the approaches they have taken to maximize their own goals and maintain political power. He illustrates vividly how these leaders must balance personal and partisan success, and he lays out the relationship between personality or character and the larger political context. All opposition presidents face roughly the same type of leadership situation governing in an era in which they do not control the power to define politics but Crockett's broad historical perspective demonstrates that they do not all handle this situation in the same way. Studying the...

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