

The politics of war

Type de contenu : Texte

Type de médiation : sans médiation

Type de support : Volume

Titre(s) : The politics of war : Canada's Afghanistan mission, 2001-14 / Jean-Christophe Boucher and Kim Richard Nossal

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Publication : Vancouver (C.-B.) [etc.] : UBC press

Date de copyright : C 2017

Description matérielle : 1 vol. (XVIII-282 pages) : ill., cartes, graph., tabl. ; 24 cm

ISBN : 978-0-7748-3627-2
0-7748-3627-X

EAN : 9780774836272 rel.

Classification décimale Dewey : 958.104 7

Note sur les bibliographies et les index : Notes bibliographiques. Index

Note sur le contenu : The away game : Canadians in Afghanistan The war that wasn't : framing the mission Home pitch : selling Afghanistan to Canadians Parliament's role : laundering the mission Don't mention the war : electoral politics and bipartisanship Detainee games : the politics of distraction Did minority government matter ? A counterfactual analysis An unpopular mission : public opinion and Afghanistan The politics of casualties : evaluating the "Trenton effect" Failure to launch : public mobilization and the war in Afghanistan Conclusion : though poppies grow

Résumé ou extrait : Présentation de l'éditeur : "When the Canadian government committed forces to join the American-led military mission in Afghanistan following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, little did Canadians--or the government itself--foresee that this decision would involve Canada in a war-riven country for over a decade. The Politics of War explores how, as the mission became increasingly unpopular, Canadian politicians across the political spectrum began to use it to score political points against their opponents. This was "politics" with a vengeance. Through historical analysis of the public record and interviews with officials, Jean-Christophe Boucher and Kim Richard Nossal show how the

Canadian government sought to frame the engagement in Afghanistan as a "mission" rather than what it was--a war. They examine the efforts of successive governments to convince Canadians of the rightness of Canada's engagement in Afghanistan, the parliamentary politics that resulted from the increasing politicization of the mission, and the impact of public opinion on Canada's engagement. They argue that the direction, duration, and nature of Canada's contribution to international stabilization efforts in Afghanistan were largely determined by domestic, politically motivated factors rather than by what was happening in Afghanistan itself. This contribution to the field of Canadian foreign policy analyzes the impact of political elites, parliament, and public opinion on the mission and demonstrates how much of Canada's long war in Afghanistan was shaped by the vagaries of domestic politics and political gamesmanship."

Sujet - Nom géographique : Afghanistan -- 2001-.... (Guerre d'Afghanistan) -- Participation canadienne
Afghanistan -- 2001-.... (Guerre d'Afghanistan) -- Aspect politique -- Canada