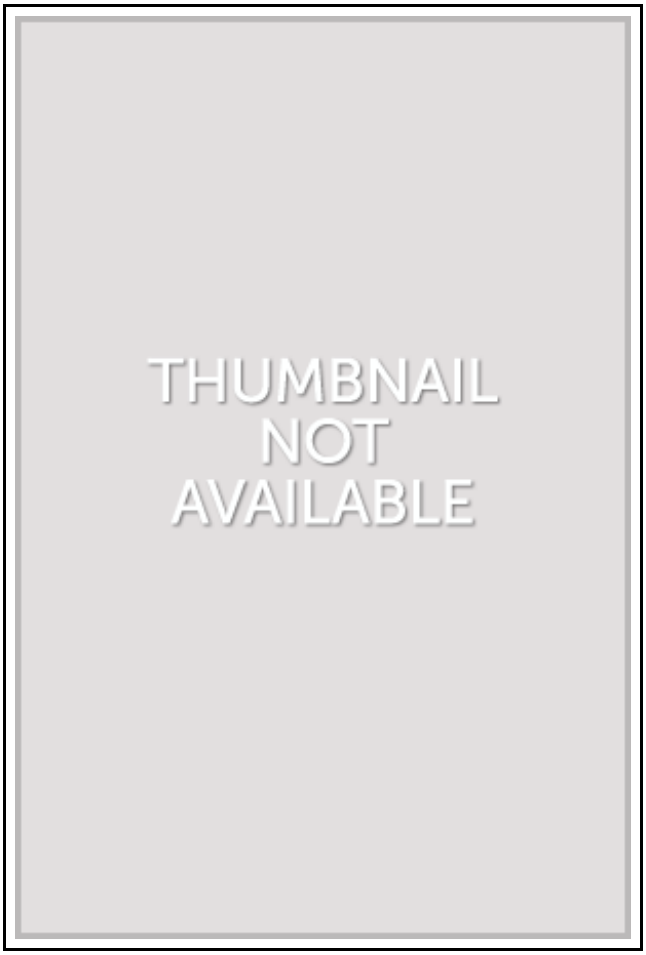
Madmen at the Helm



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Reviews

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MADMEN AT THE HELM

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Paperback. Book Condition: New. Not Signed; No, no one against us. Against me, for what? - They love me, all my people with me, they love me all. They will die to protect me, my people. Ghaddafi, February 27, in an interview with Christian Amanpour, ABC News. Are dictators mad, or are they smart people who don't know when to quit? Do dictators know that their people hate them, or do they have a mixture of narcissistic, paranoid, delusional, hysterical and sociopathic personality disorders? The author of Madmen at the Helm tries to answer these questions. The Arab Spring was a watershed in Arab history, which gave young protesters the impetus to challenge established and entrenched dictatorial regimes for the first time, and to demand democracy. In this unique book, Muriel Mirak-Weissbach reviews specialist literature and provides a profile of a mixture of personality disorders - narcissism, paranoia, hysteria and sociopathy - displayed by five Middle Eastern leaders (Mubarak, Qaddafi, Ben Ali, Saleh and Assad). She argues that the responses of these leaders to the challenges they faced indicate that they were psychologically incapable of facing reality, and indeed displayed pathological symptoms in clinging fanatically to power in the face of revolt. Mirak-Weissbach considers each of the five leaders in turn, examining their behavior during the upheavals as expressed in their public statements, speeches, interviews and courses of action. Thus she identifies patterns and similarities of behavior that serve to prove that the five 'stony-faced old men in power' displayed specific pathological personality types in their responses to the political and cultural circumstances in which they were operating. A postscript to the book widens this context by identifying two cases of narcissism in contemporary American politics: George W. Bush and Sarah Palin. This highly topical, accessible and relevant book provides...

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