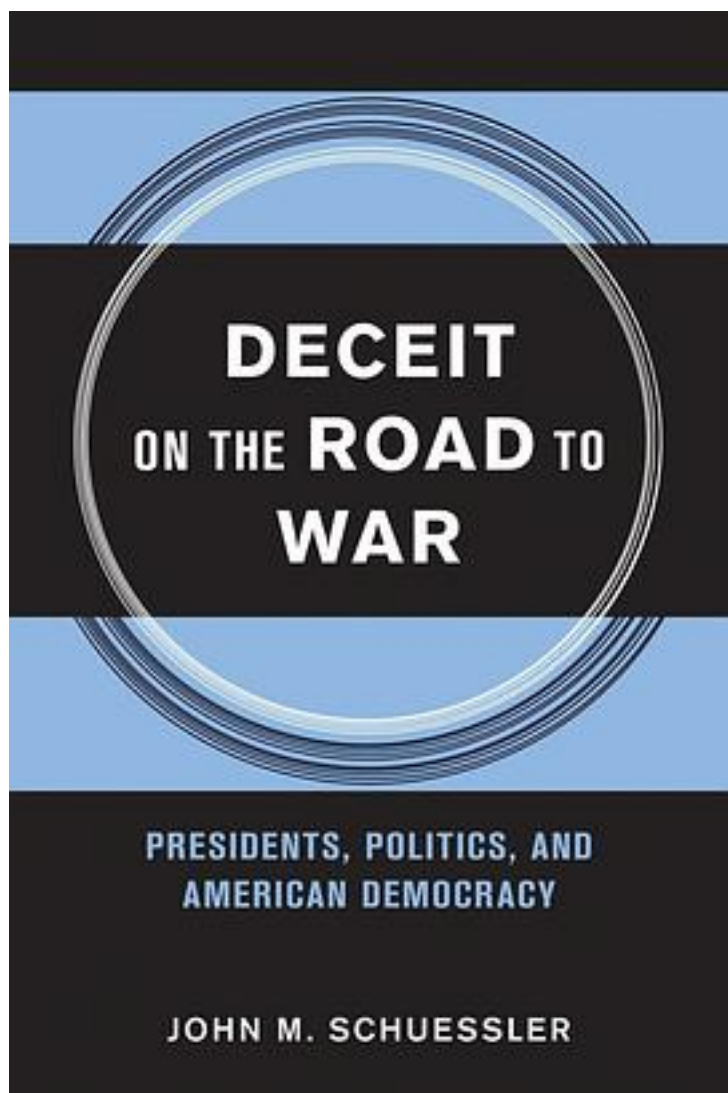


Deceit on the Road to War



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In *Deceit on the Road to War*, John M. Schuessler examines how U.S. presidents have deceived the American public about fundamental decisions of war and peace. Deception has been deliberate, he suggests, as presidents have sought to shift blame for war onto others in some cases and oversell its benefits in others. Such deceit is a natural outgrowth of the democratic process, in Schuessler's view, because elected leaders have powerful incentives to maximize domestic support for war and retain considerable ability to manipulate domestic audiences. They can exploit information and propaganda advantages to frame issues in misleading ways, cherry-pick supporting evidence, suppress damaging revelations, and otherwise skew the public debate to their benefit. These tactics are particularly effective before the outbreak of war, when the information gap between leaders and the public is greatest.

When resorting to deception, leaders take a calculated risk that the outcome of war will be favorable, expecting the public to adopt a forgiving attitude after victory is secured. The three cases featured in the book—Franklin Roosevelt and World War II, Lyndon Johnson and the Vietnam War, and George W. Bush and the Iraq War—test these claims. Schuessler concludes that democracies are not as constrained in their ability to go to war as we might believe and that deception cannot be ruled out in all cases as contrary to the national interest.

作者介绍:

John M. Schuessler is Associate Professor of Strategy at the Air War College.

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标签

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评论

在经典论述中处于国家间互动层次的战略欺骗，在精英-民众分野中的新应用。另外突破既有论断的是，欺骗不仅仅起到了积极的战略作用，也限定了民主政体固有的思想市场、政治监督作用，实际上可能会基于决策者的有限既定信息将国家拖入灾难（不是所有人都像罗斯福智慧且幸运）。战略欺骗的类型学。

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书评

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