Poor Leadership and Bad Governance
Reassessing Presidents and Prime Ministers in North America, Europe and Japan

New Horizons in Leadership Studies series

Edited by Ludger Helms, University of Innsbruck, Austria

Focusing on the presidents and prime ministers of the G8 – the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and Japan – it explores the complex relationship between weak and ineffective leadership, undemocratic leadership techniques, and bad policies from a broad comparative perspective. What makes leaders weak or bad in different contexts? What are the consequences of their actions and behaviour? And has there been any learning from negative experience? These questions are at the centre of this fascinating joint inquiry that involves a team of truly distinguished leadership scholars.

‘A comparative look at bad policies, undemocratic aspects of leadership, and the question of what makes a leader weak in different contexts, Poor Leadership and Bad Governance is an invaluable contribution to modern political science shelves. . . Highly recommended.’

– Midwest Book Review

‘Leaders are not always heroes. Bad public leadership is a big problem. If we are serious about holding our public leaders to account, then we need to know why they were bad, and why we supported them. Ludger Helms and his distinguished team tackle these difficult questions with sympathy, not cynicism. Their careful and insightful analysis alerts us to the dangers of venal and poorly performing leaders.’

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‘Leadership and the lack of it is a central but underexplored issue in the study of contemporary politics. Ludger Helms is to be congratulated for bringing together a group of leading scholars to examine the relationship between leadership and governance.’

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