



## Bush on the Couch: Inside the Mind of the President

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By Frank, Justin A., M.D.

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Bush Administration policies are not only a "great catastrophe" but the products of a disturbed mind, according to this provocative blend of psychological case-study and partisan polemic. Psychoanalyst Frank sifts through family memoirs, the writings of critics like Al Franken and David Corn and the public record of Bush's personal idiosyncrasies for clues to the President's character, interpreting the evidence in the rigidly Freudian framework of child psychoanalyst Melanie Klein. One's opinion of "Bush on the Couch" will be formed solely by the reader's PRIOR viewpoint on the President. BOC is certain to change no opinions, only to harden them. As proof, look at the plethora of one star OR five star ratings below.

Insightful and accessible, courageous and controversial, *Bush on the Couch* sheds startling new light on George W. Bush's psyche and its impact on the way he governs, tackling head-on the question few seem willing to ask: Is our president psychologically fit to run the country? With an eye for the subtleties of human behavior sharpened by thirty years of clinical practice, Dr. Justin A. Frank traces the development of Bush's character from childhood through his presidency, identifying and analyzing his patterns of thought, action, and communication. The result is a troubling portrait.

*Bush on the Couch: Inside the Mind of the President* is a 2004 book by psychoanalyst Justin A. Frank. The central premise of Frank's book is that President George W. Bush displays signs of poor mental health which makes him ill-suited to rule the United States. Frank suggests Bush suffers from megalomania, that he is probably incapable of true compassion and shows signs of sadism, and that as an untreated alcoholic, is in constant danger of a relapse. Further, in Frank's opinion, Bush manifests the

*Bush on the Couch* explores how the president's unending effort to cope with his anxieties threads its way through his familiar life story, including:

- The privileged, secretive family into which he was born, and its impact on his view of the world;
- The lasting influence early fantasies and feelings had on his perception;
- The role played by aggression, and the sometimes.

While the first several years of his term were characterized by an almost willfully uncritical perspective on Bush's words and actions—perhaps due to a residual shock over the events of November 2000 and September 2001—starting at the end of 2003, an influx of insightful new voices began to inform the national conversation, a flow that continues today.