I had a different way of governing: the evangelical presidential style of Jimmy Carter and his mission for middle east peace

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Abstract
President Jimmy Carter once said, "I had a different way of governing." In attempting to explain what he meant by this, Carter has been variously described as a political amateur, a trustee, a non-political politician, an "active-positive" president, and a forerunner of the 1990s' New Democrats. It is argued here, however, that mere secular descriptions and categories such as these do not adequately capture the essence of Carter's brand of politics and his understanding of the presidency.

Rejecting Richard Neustadt’s prescriptions for effective presidential leadership, Carter thought political bargaining and compromise were "dirty" and "sinful." He deemed the ways of Washington as "evil," and considered many, if not most, career politicians immoral. While he fully supported the institutional separation of church and state, politics for Carter was about "doing right," telling the truth, and making the United States and the world "a better demonstration of what Christ is." Like two earlier Democrats, William Jennings Bryan and Woodrow Wilson, Carter understood politics as an alternative form of Christian ministry and service. In this regard, Carter was a presidential exception.

Carter's evangelical faith gave his politics meaning, skill, vision, and a framework for communication. Using Fred Greenstein’s categories of presidential leadership, Carter’s faith provided him with “emotional intelligence”, too. However, Carter’s evangelical style provoked many of his contemporaries, including many of his fellow Democrats. To his critics at home and abroad, Carter was often accused of being arrogant, stubborn, naive, and ultimately a political failure. But as evinced by his indispensable role in negotiating peace between Israel and Egypt, his leadership style also
Jimmy Carter was a new face on the American political horizon. Rising from relative obscurity to the Presidency during a two-year campaign characterized by its hard work and attention to detail, Jimmy Carter excited a large portion of the electorate. Carter seemed to appeal to those outside of the mainstream of American politics, asking them in countless speeches and gatherings, to send an "outsider" to Washington. The Middle East breakthrough was Carter's most ambitious foreign policy achievement. In a rare effort of personal diplomacy, he initiated the negotiations between Egypt's Anwar Sadat and Israel's Menachem Begin, first at Camp David, the Presidential mountain retreat, and then he rescued the deteriorating peace talks in personal visits to both countries. Jimmy Carter's pre-presidential years formed his personality, set his partnership with his wife, and provided him with military, business, political, and international experiences that prepared him for the presidency. This period offers the key to understanding a presidency that succeeded in many important ways and created a better world.

View. Show abstract. The Iranian hostage crisis remains as one of the dominant memories from the presidency of Jimmy Carter. While scholars and journalists have devoted considerable attention to the administration's response to the crisis, no one has focused on the religious dimension of the hostage crisis. Jimmy Carter's Just Peace in the Middle East. 71. 6. Ignorance has a clumsy way of painting with a very wide and sloppy brush. Meanwhile, I discerned an escalation in the frequency and prominence of religious references Bush began to incorporate into his developing post-9/11 narrative. Religious vernacular is certainly not uncommon in presidential rhetoric, but it seemed to emerge as a meaningful and intentional element in the framework of Bush's prosecution of the newly proclaimed "War on Terror." And, as we shall see, Carter deployed his own religious heritage with considerable zeal, even while his advisors often wished otherwise.

The diametrically opposed President Ronald Reagan, who succeeded Carter, also provides this study with a unique advantage. In Keeping Faith, originally published in 1982, President Carter provides a candid account of his time in the Oval Office, detailing the hostage crisis in Iran, his triumph at the Camp David Middle East peace summit, his relationships with world leaders, and even glimpses into his private world. "Responsible, truthful, intelligent, earnest, rational, purposeful. Thus the man: thus the book" (The Washington Post). Read More. Publisher: University of Arkansas Press. Released Each day during his presidency, Jimmy Carter made several entries in a private diary, recording his thoughts, impressions, delights, and frustrations. Here is the edited, annotated diary of President Jimmy Carter - filled with insights into his presidency, his relationships with friends and foes, and his lasting impact on issues that still preoccupy America and the world. "A scholarly assessment after I left office showed that I had the most unfavorable press coverage of the century; with a net of negative news stories every month except for my first one, after my family and I walked down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House. But this time it was going to be different right? Because of the invasion of Afghanistan Carter made the decision to boycott the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.