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Nemesis: Truman and Johnson in the Coils of War in Asia

Robert J. Donovan

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NEMESIS is the story of the calamitous experiences suffered by Presidents Truman and Johnson when they intervened in Korea and Vietnam to halt the spread of Communism by armed force. Caught in the pressures of the Cold War, Truman and Johnson passed through comparable traumas that effectively ended their political power. Their party suffered, too: 1952 and 1968 were winners for Republicans. As portrayed in NEMESIS, the tragedy of both wars--and the main lesson it holds for today's involvement--is that initially modest commitments of force are rarely sufficient, but that larger efforts carry the threat of escalation.

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