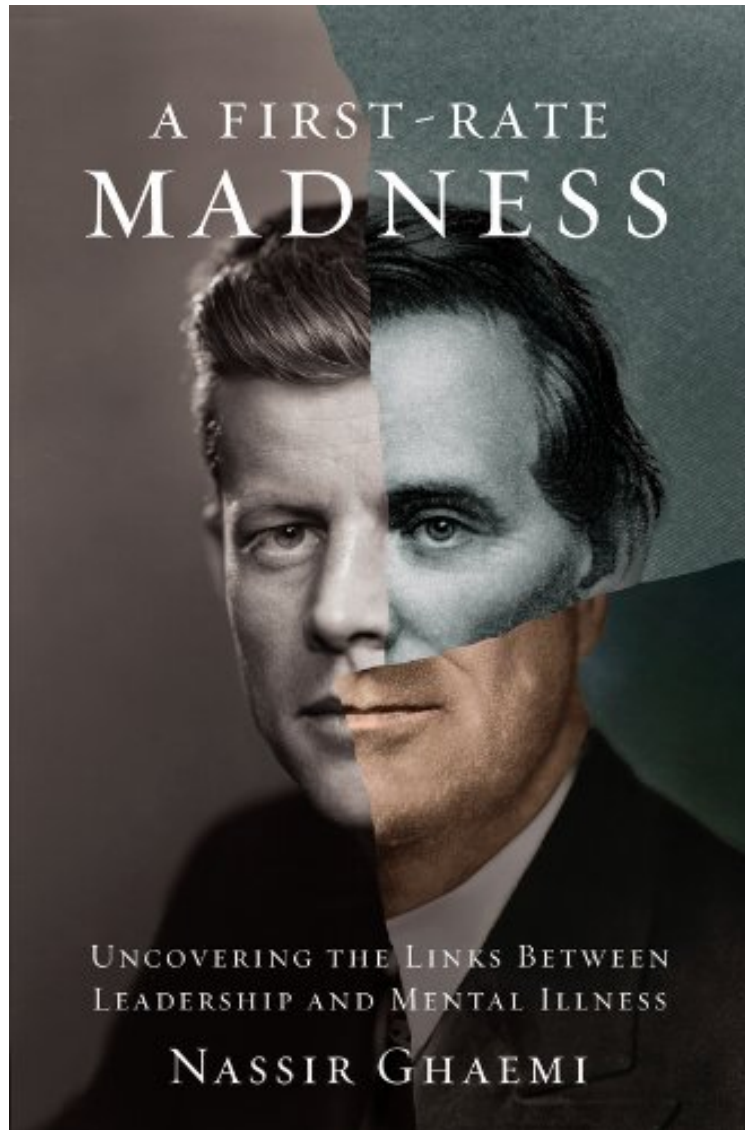


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A First-Rate Madness: Uncovering the Links Between Leadership and Mental Illness

Nassir Ghaemi

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Nassir Ghaemi : A First-Rate Madness: Uncovering the Links Between Leadership and Mental Illness before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A First-Rate Madness: Uncovering the Links Between Leadership and Mental Illness:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I liked it. By KZI have read reviews of this book by homoclitcs. That is like asking men to describe the feeling of childbirth, and they vociferously do it. To those of us who associate - not only is it interesting, well written, shocking, exhilarating - but it gives names to situations, people and conditions we

have known but not named. While some can't fathom the joy of mediocrity, others can't fathom the joy (burden?) of vision even at great personal price. It's one of those books too truthful to be taken seriously by most. I also recommend "NeuroTribes" by Steve Silberman - the bit on midcentury science fiction writers/readers was my favorite. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Leadership scholars take heed. By Nathan Harter I have found myself referring back to this book numerous times, in my own writing and even occasionally in the classroom. If it matters what happens in the mind of a leader, then this book raises a difficult possibility -- namely, that what we call madness might in some instances contribute to the effectiveness of particular leaders. The author is not sloppy, making extravagant claims. Nonetheless, it is readable. And it forces those of us who study leadership as well as forcing voters to re-think what it means to be a viable leader. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Bi-Polar and Mental illness in high level Politics, Military, Communications Innovators who have changed the course of history. By Customer Very interesting book for anyone who thinks that Bi-Polar and mental illness passes over those who run countries and world corporations. Not true. I have never read the correlation of mental illness to major leaders in battle, in politics, in entertainment and in innovators who too often made decisions for all of us in a manic, narcissistic state of mind.

This New York Times bestseller is a myth-shattering exploration of the powerful connections between mental illness and leadership. Historians have long puzzled over the apparent mental instability of great and terrible leaders alike: Napoleon, Lincoln, Churchill, Hitler, and others. In *A First-Rate Madness*, Nassir Ghaemi, director of the Mood Disorders Programme at Tufts Medical Center, offers and sets forth a controversial, compelling thesis: the very qualities that mark those with mood disorders also make for the best leaders in times of crisis. From the importance of Lincoln's "depressive realism" to the lacklustre leadership of exceedingly sane men as Neville Chamberlain, *A First-Rate Madness* overturns many of our most cherished perceptions about greatness and the mind.