In *Hubris: The Road to Donald Trump*, David Owen analyses and describes the mental and physical condition of political leaders past and present with a particular view that what went before paved the way to President Trump.

Of recent leaders there have been depressives, alcoholics, narcissists, populists and those affected by hubris syndrome and driven by their religious beliefs, as in Bush and Blair.

But Donald Trump, a world class narcissist, presents a completely different set of issues. This book is the first to place him in his historical, political, philosophical and medical context. It is appropriate that it should come from someone uniquely qualified to do so. A writer on Military Conversations of 1906-14, the War Cabinet in 1940 and UK foreign policy post Brexit. David Owen was British Foreign Secretary 1977-79 and EU peace negotiator in the Balkans 1992-95. Also he was chairman of Yukos International, a Russian oil company from 2002-5 and board member of two other large international companies. As a former neuroscientist he has written extensively on hubris syndrome in journals like *Brain* and in 2008 in his classic book, *In Sickness and In Power*, still in print in a revised edition from 2016.

This new book goes a long way to answer the question: is Trump persuadable? Bill Gates has an interesting reply in the *Guardian*. ‘Yes, one of the things you can say, plus or minus, is in very few areas does he have a fixed ideology. If there’s something where he feels he can look smart, particularly if it’s doing things in a different way than was done before, then yes, I think he’s open-minded.’

David Owen is the author of several acclaimed books on politics, political history and health of world leaders. His most recent publications are *British Foreign Policy After Brexit* ( Biteback) co-authored with David Ludlow and *Cabinet’s Finest Hour. The Hidden Agenda of May 1940*. (Haus). Earlier successes include *The Hubris Syndrome* and *In Sickness and In Power. Illness in Heads of Government, Military & Business Leaders since 1900* (Methuen).

David Owen qualified as a doctor in 1962 and began work at St Thomas’s Hospital, opposite the Houses of Parliament, where he was a research fellow as a neurologist.

Politically active from 1960, he became a Labour MP for a Plymouth constituency in 1966. He held several government posts under Wilson & Callaghan, the last as Foreign Secretary. In 1981 Owen was one of the ‘Gang of Four’ who left Labour to form the Social Democratic Party. He was Leader of the SDP from 1983-87 when he opposed the party’s merger with the Liberals. He finally stepped down as an MP at the 1992 general election. In the same year he became a Life Peer.

Lord Owen was the EU peace negotiator in the former Yugoslavia working alongside the UN negotiator, Cyrus Vance. Together they presented the Vance/Owen Peace Plan [VOPP].

Lord Owen continues to speak out on international affairs and has offered some eminently sensible solutions to Britain’s exit from the EU. He also continues to support research into hubris syndrome and other psychological conditions as there is ‘compelling evidence that the course of history has been changed … by the ill health of world leaders’.