

Analysts' Options: A Cultural Difference

The two options for analysts who find they cannot compromise—fighting from within or quitting—tend to play out differently in the bureaucracies of Britain and the United States. In Britain, a strong tradition exists of quitting in protest. To cite a high-level example, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden resigned in February 1938 when he disagreed with Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement toward Nazi Germany. In the United States, resignation is rarer, with individuals opting instead to fight from within. Nothing definitive accounts for the difference. Several U.S. civil servants did resign, however, during the early stages of the civil war in Bosnia to protest the lack of action by the United States.