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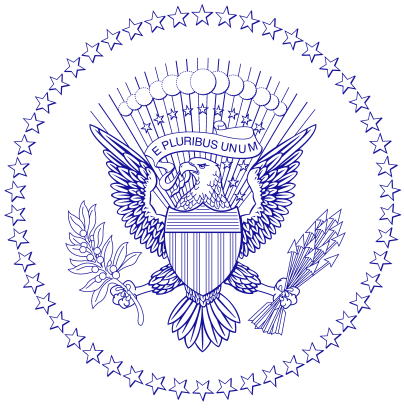
UNITED STATES

George W. Bush



2004

(IN THREE BOOKS)

BOOK II—JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

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Foreword

This volume collects my speeches and papers from the second half of 2004.

During these 6 months from July to December, I outlined my vision for the future of our Nation, and I advocated Government policies that put trust and power into the hands of the people. In September, at my nominating convention, I presented a clear plan to build a safer world, and a more hopeful America. I spoke of our Nation's need to build an ownership society where every citizen has a stake in America and all have an opportunity to succeed. I described the need to simplify the tax code; improve education and worker training; build opportunity zones in areas without hope; make health care more affordable; and reform Social Security to provide voluntary personal-retirement accounts for all Americans.

During this period, the American economy continued to expand and grow. Thanks to the ingenuity and entrepreneurship of the American people and the tax cuts of 2001, 2002, and 2003, our Nation added new jobs, built new businesses, and led the world in innovation and achievement. In the second half of 2004, the American economy gained strength—creating almost 1 million new jobs. To sustain this impressive economic growth, in October I signed a tax relief bill that helped millions of families by extending the child tax credit and marriage-penalty relief, and helped prevent middle-class families across America from being hit with the Alternative Minimum Tax. In addition, in December, my Administration hosted an important conference at the White House on America's economic future. We heard from business owners, workers, economists, and many other Americans who saw hopeful signs of growth throughout our country. We also discussed some of the fundamental challenges facing our economy—from frivolous lawsuits and burdensome regulations to the need for vital reforms in education, health care, entitlements, and the tax code.

To address these and many other issues in my second term, I built another outstanding Cabinet. In November, I named Alberto Gonzales to serve as Attorney General; Condoleezza Rice to serve as Secretary of State; Margaret Spellings to serve as Secretary of Education; and Carlos Guttierez to serve as Secretary of Commerce. In December, I named Mike Leavitt as Secretary of Health and Human Services; Samuel Bodman as Secretary of Energy; Jim Nicholson as Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and Mike Johanns as Secretary of Agriculture.

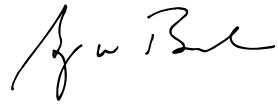
The second half of 2004 was also a time when we showed the compassionate heart and giving spirit that have made America a great Nation. In July, America commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act—a day when justice and equality triumphed over discrimination and indignity. Later that same month, I announced my initiatives to combat human trafficking. By working to provide prosecutors with new law enforcement tools and give outreach programs more help to sup-

port victims of trafficking, we took a stand for the value and dignity of every human life. In December, our Nation answered the call from our brothers and sisters in need half a world a way. America provided more than $850 million in humanitarian relief and reconstruction aid to help the people of South Asia whose lives and homes were devastated by the massive Bay of Bengal earthquake and tsunami.

As we worked to fulfill America's highest ideals of compassion and justice, we also continued to strengthen our Nation's ability to defend those ideals at home and abroad. In July, I signed the Project Bioshield Act. The Act was designed to help purchase, develop, and deploy cutting-edge defenses against catastrophic attack. Later that same month, I addressed the 9-11 Commission's recommendations. I discussed how my Administration's actions were consistent with the Commission's recommendations in detecting and disrupting terrorist cells; building a democratic Afghanistan; and improving our intelligence operations. In December, I signed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act—the most significant reform of our Nation's intelligence capabilities since President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947. The intelligence reforms of 2004 created the position of Director of National Intelligence; made it easier for law enforcement to share information about terrorists; and were designed to make all our intelligence efforts better coordinated, more efficient, and more effective.

Throughout the second half of 2004, thanks to our men and women in uniform and our international allies, we advanced the cause of freedom around the world, and the people of Afghanistan and Iraq continued to advance down the path of democracy and self-determination. On October 9, the people of Afghanistan held their first presidential election under their new constitution with more than 8 million Afghans going to the polls. On December 7, Hamid Karzai was inaugurated as Afghanistan's democratically elected president. In August, after the Coalition transfer of power, Iraqis selected a national assembly to act as a parliament until the elections of January 2005. In the months that followed, election rules were published, voters were registered, and candidates came forward to be elected to a transition government that would represent all the Iraqi people.

In the midst of all these historic steps on the road to freedom and peace, the world was reminded of the ruthless nature of our terrorist enemies. In Iraq, terrorists and insurgents continued to unleash savage attacks on those working to build a free and democratic Iraq. In late October of 2004, Al-Qaida released a tape from Osama Bin Laden that made further threats against America. I was very clear in my response: "Americans will not be intimidated or influenced by an enemy of our country." On October 31st, I told my fellow Americans: "Since that terrible morning of September the 11th, 2001, we fought the terrorists across the Earth—not for pride, not for power, but because the lives of our citizens are at stake. Our strategy is clear. We've strengthened protections for the homeland. We're reforming and strengthening our intelligence services. We're transforming our military . . . We are fighting the terrorists abroad so we do not have to face them here at home. We are determined, we are relentless, and we are succeeding."



Preface

This book contains the papers and speeches of the 43d President of the United States that were issued by the Office of the Press Secretary during the period July 1–September 30, 2004. The material has been compiled and published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration.

The material is presented in chronological order, and the dates shown in the headings are the dates of the documents or events. In instances when the release date differs from the date of the document itself, that fact is shown in the textnote. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy: Remarks are checked against a tape recording, and signed documents are checked against the original. Textnotes and cross references have been provided by the editors for purposes of identification or clarity. At the request of the Office of the Press Secretary, the Bush property known as Prairie Chapel Ranch in Crawford, Texas, is referred to simply as the Bush Ranch. Speeches were delivered in Washington, DC, unless indicated. The times noted are local times. All materials that are printed full-text in the book have been indexed in the subject and name indexes, and listed in the document categories list.

The Public Papers of the Presidents series was begun in 1957 in response to a recommendation of the National Historical Publications Commission. An extensive compilation of messages and papers of the Presidents covering the period 1789 to 1897 was assembled by James D. Richardson and published under congressional authority between 1896 and 1899. Since then, various private compilations have been issued, but there was no uniform publication comparable to the Congressional Record or the United States Supreme Court Reports. Many Presidential papers could be found only in the form of mimeographed White House releases or as reported in the press. The Commission therefore recommended the establishment of an official series in which Presidential writings, addresses, and remarks of a public nature could be made available.

The Commission's recommendation was incorporated in regulations of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, issued under section 6 of the Federal Register Act (44 U.S.C. 1506), which may be found in title 1, part 10, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

A companion publication to the Public Papers series, the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, was begun in 1965 to provide a broader range of Presidential materials on a more timely basis to meet the needs of the contemporary reader. Beginning with the administration of Jimmy Carter, the Public Papers series expanded its coverage to include additional material as printed in the Weekly Compilation. That coverage provides a listing of the President's daily schedule and meetings, when announced, and other items of general interest issued by the Office of

the Press Secretary. Also included are lists of the President's nominations submitted to the Senate, materials released by the Office of the Press Secretary that are not printed full-text in the book, and proclamations, Executive orders, and other Presidential documents released by the Office of the Press Secretary and published in the *Federal Register*. This information appears in the appendixes at the end of the book.

Volumes covering the administrations of Presidents Herbert Hoover, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, and William J. Clinton are also included in the Public Papers series.

The Public Papers of the Presidents publication program is under the direction of Frances D. McDonald, Managing Editor, Office of the Federal Register. The series is produced by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit, Gwendolyn J. Henderson, Chief. The Chief Editor of this book was Stacey A. Mulligan, assisted by William K. Banks, Loretta F. Cochran, Kathleen M. Fargey, Michael J. Forcina, Stephen J. Frattini, Alison M. Gavin, Diane Hiltabidle, Alfred Jones, Ashley Merusi, Matthew R. Regan, and Michael J. Sullivan.

The frontispiece and photographs used in the portfolio were supplied by the White House Photo Office. The typography and design of the book were developed by the Government Printing Office under the direction of Bruce R. James, Public Printer.

Raymond A. Mosley
Director of the Federal Register

Allen Weinstein
Archivist of the United States

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Secretary of Commerce	Donald L. Evans
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Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	Alphonso R. Jackson
Secretary of Transportation	Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary of Energy	Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Education	Roderick R. Paige
Secretary of Veterans Affairs	Anthony J. Principi
Secretary of Homeland Security	Tom Ridge
Chief of Staff	Andrew H. Card, Jr.

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United States Trade Representative ..... Robert B. Zoellick

Director of the Office of Management and Budget ..... Joshua B. Bolten

Director of National Drug Control Policy ..... John P. Walters