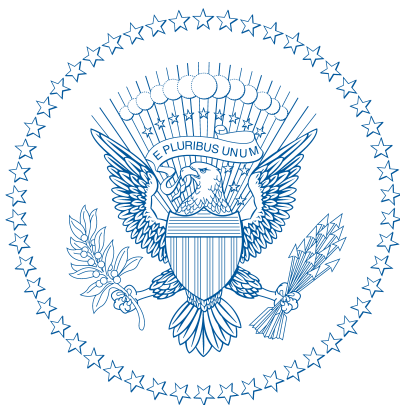


PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

George W. Bush



2003

(IN TWO BOOKS)

BOOK II—JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2003



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Foreword

This volume collects my speeches and papers from the second half of 2003.

These months brought significant legislative accomplishments in Washington. In December, after months of bipartisan work by Members of Congress, I signed into law the “Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003.” This new law gave seniors prescription drug coverage, as well as better choices and more control over their health care. It also established tax-free Health Savings Accounts, so more Americans could save for health care expenses and more small businesses could secure health insurance for their workers. During this period, we also showed our Nation’s compassion and good heart by creating the American Dream Downpayment Fund, to help low-income citizens afford the down payment on homes of their own. To promote a culture of life, we banned the brutal practice of partial-birth abortion, and we also passed new incentives for the adoption of older children in foster care.

Meanwhile, the American economy continued to gain strength from the tax relief we passed in 2001, 2002, and May 2003—creating almost 400,000 new jobs during the final 4 months of the year. In the third quarter of 2003, our economy grew at a rate of 7.2 percent, the fastest quarterly growth rate since before the attacks of September 11, 2001. To build on this progress, I signed free trade agreements into law with Chile and Singapore, opening new markets for American workers, farmers, and entrepreneurs. I also continued to urge the Congress to exercise spending restraint, pass legal and regulatory reforms, and reduce America’s dependence on foreign sources of energy.

During the latter half of 2003, I made several trips abroad to reaffirm America’s commitment to advancing liberty, human dignity, and peace. In July, I began my week-long trip to Africa by visiting Senegal’s Goree Island, where slaves once departed for American shores. I noted there that our Nation’s history had taught us that “freedom is not the possession of one race” or “one nation,” and that “this belief leads America into the world”—including Africa, where it motivates our efforts to help the people of that great continent overcome the challenges of HIV/AIDS, poverty, and civil war.

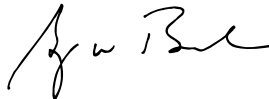
In November, I visited the United Kingdom to reaffirm the strong alliance between our two nations and thank Prime Minister Tony Blair and the British people for their sacrifices and commitment in the War on Terror. In my speech at Whitehall Palace in London, I said that America was now pursuing a “forward strategy of freedom” in the Middle East: “We will consistently challenge the enemies of reform and confront the allies of terror. We will expect a higher standard from our

friends in the region—and we will meet our responsibilities in Afghanistan and in Iraq by finishing the work of democracy we have begun.”

During these months, our Government worked tirelessly to meet this commitment to protect the American people and spread the blessings of freedom. We continued to hunt down al-Qaida leaders and associates around the world. In a strong bipartisan vote, the Congress approved \$87 billion in supplemental spending to support our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq and to help those nations rebuild. In Iraq, Coalition forces worked with the newly free Iraqi people to destroy remnants of the old regime and various extremist networks. Uday and Qusay Hussein were killed by American forces in July. In December, Coalition forces captured Saddam Hussein—ensuring that he would answer for his many crimes. At the same time, the Coalition Provisional Authority worked to rebuild schools, reopen hospitals, and restore damaged water, electrical, and communications systems in Iraq. The Iraqi people took a crucial step in July, when they formed a governing council that would draft an interim constitution to prepare for free elections.

We also continued our efforts beyond Iraq and Afghanistan to keep the world’s deadliest weapons out of the hands of terrorists and dangerous regimes. In the fall, American and British intelligence tracked a cargo ship bound for Libya that was carrying parts for nuclear centrifuges. We alerted German and Italian authorities, who intercepted the ship—and in December, Libya pledged to disclose and dismantle all of its weapons of mass destruction programs.

The heaviest burdens in our War on Terror fell on our Armed Forces and our intelligence services. These brave men and women faced the enemy abroad so we would not face them here at home. On Thanksgiving Day, I had the honor of visiting some of these fine Americans in Baghdad, where I expressed the gratitude of our entire country for their skill, courage, and sacrifice. In 2003, these men and women advanced the cause of freedom—and their fellow Americans were safer because of it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. W. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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–December 31, 2003. 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, Stephen J. Frattini, Alfred Jones, 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 Energy	Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Education	Roderick R. Paige
Secretary of Veterans Affairs	Anthony J. Principi
Secretary of Homeland Security	Tom Ridge
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Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency	Michael O. Leavitt
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