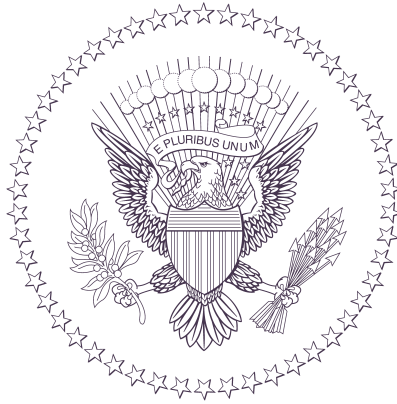


PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES



PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES

# George W. Bush



2006

(IN TWO BOOKS)

BOOK II—JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2006



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## *Foreword*

This volume collects my speeches and papers from the second half of 2006.

This was a period when many important pieces of legislation came to my desk. In July, I signed the Voting Rights Reauthorization and Amendments Act, continuing America's commitment to ensure that every citizen's sacred right to vote is protected by law. The Congress also sent me a bill that would have overturned my Administration's balanced policy on embryonic stem cell research and compelled American taxpayers, for the first time in our history, to fund the deliberate destruction of human embryos. I vetoed that bill. On the same day, I signed a law prohibiting one of the most egregious abuses in biomedical research: trafficking in human fetuses created for the sole purpose of being aborted and harvested for parts.

This was also a time when Americans joined together to commemorate a terrible anniversary. On September 11, the Nation paused to remember the terrorist attacks perpetrated against us 5 years earlier.

On this anniversary, I addressed the Nation from the Oval Office. I said, "We look to the day when moms and dads throughout the Middle East see a future of hope and opportunity for their children. And when that good day comes, the clouds of war will part, the appeal of radicalism will decline, and we will leave our children with a better and safer world. On this solemn anniversary, we rededicate ourselves to this cause. Our nation has endured trials, and we face a difficult road ahead. Winning this war will require the determined efforts of a unified country, and we must put aside our differences and work together to meet the test that history has given us. We will defeat our enemies. We will protect our people. And we will lead the 21st century into a shining age of human liberty."

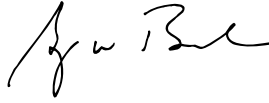
The following week, I addressed the United Nations General Assembly and spoke about the importance of freedom in the Middle East. I said, "Some have argued that the democratic changes we're seeing in the Middle East are destabilizing the region. This argument rests on a false assumption, that the Middle East was stable to begin with. The reality is that the stability we thought we saw in the Middle East was a mirage. For decades, millions of men and women in the region have been trapped in oppression and hopelessness. And these conditions left a generation disillusioned, and made this region a breeding ground for extremism."

My Administration acted forcefully against the extremist threat at home and abroad. In the fall, I signed the "SAFE Port Act of 2006," which enhanced our Nation's ability to help keep our major shipping centers secure without unduly burdening foreign trade. I signed the Military Commissions Act, which allowed our intelligence community to continue questioning suspected terrorists and created the ability to prosecute these extremists for war crimes through fair trials. I also hosted

the presidents of Afghanistan and Pakistan at the White House to discuss our continuing efforts against radicalism in their countries.

These months also saw violence increase dramatically in Iraq. Terrorists waged a brutal effort to keep the people of Iraq's young democracy from succeeding. Our men and women in uniform performed valiantly against these challenges—but it became clear that a change in strategy was required. In November, I traveled to the Middle East, where I met with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki and American commanders on the ground to discuss a new way forward in Iraq. To help carry out our new strategy, I named a new Secretary of Defense—Robert Gates.

In the closing days of 2006, the Iraqi people made an important break with their past when Saddam Hussein was convicted and executed for crimes against his own people. In the early days of 2007, America would take a decisive new step toward stemming the violence in Iraq and helping the Iraqi people secure their democracy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. W. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name 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, 2006. 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 Michael L. White, Managing Editor, Office of the Federal Register. The series is produced by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit. The Chief Editor of this book was Stacey A. Mulligan, assisted by William K. Banks, Loretta F. Cochran, Lois Davis, Kathleen M. Fargey, Stephen J. Frattini, Michael J. Forcina, Allison M. Gavin, Gwendolyn J. Henderson, Diane Hiltabidle, Alfred Jones, Joshua H. Liberatore, Heather N. McDaniel, Ashley Merusi, Amelia E. Otovo, Jennifer M. Partridge, D. Gregory Perrin, 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 Robert C. Tapella, Public Printer.

Raymond A. Mosley  
*Director of the Federal Register*

David S. Ferriero  
*Archivist of the United States*



# *Contents*

Foreword . . . v

Preface . . . vii

Cabinet . . . xi

Public Papers of George W. Bush,  
July 1–December 31, 2006 . . . 1313

## *Appendix A*

Digest of Other White House Announcements . . . 2231

## *Appendix B*

Nominations Submitted to the Senate . . . 2263

## *Appendix C*

Checklist of White House Press Releases . . . 2275

## *Appendix D*

Presidential Documents Published in the Federal Register . . . 2287

Subject Index . . . A–1

Name Index . . . B–1

Document Categories List . . . C–1



## *Cabinet*

Secretary of State .....	Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of the Treasury .....	John W. Snow (resigned 6/30) Henry M. Paulson, Jr. (confirmed 6/28)
Secretary of Defense .....	Donald H. Rumsfeld
Attorney General .....	Alberto R. Gonzales
Secretary of the Interior .....	Gale A. Norton (resigned 3/31) Dirk Kempthorne (confirmed 5/26)
Secretary of Agriculture .....	Mike Johanns
Secretary of Commerce .....	Carlos M. Gutierrez
Secretary of Labor .....	Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Health and Human Services .....	Michael O. Leavitt
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development .....	Alphonso R. Jackson
Secretary of Transportation .....	Norman Y. Mineta (resigned 7/7) Mary E. Peters (confirmed 9/30)
Secretary of Energy .....	Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary of Education .....	Margaret Spellings

Secretary of Veterans Affairs .....	R. James Nicholson
Secretary of Homeland Security .....	Michael Chertoff
Chief of Staff .....	Andrew H. Card, Jr. (resigned 4/14) Joshua B. Bolten (appointed 4/14)
Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency .....	Stephen L. Johnson
United States Trade Representative .....	Robert J. Portman (resigned 5/30) Susan C. Schwab (confirmed 6/8)
Director of the Office of Management and Budget .....	Joshua B. Bolten (resigned 4/14) Robert J. Portman (confirmed 5/26)
Director of National Drug Control Policy .....	John P. Walters

Administration of George W. Bush

2006

