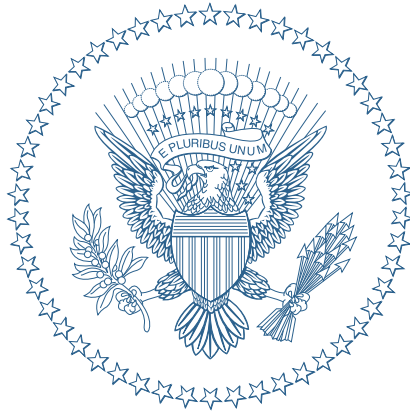


PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

Barack Obama



2011

(IN TWO BOOKS)

BOOK I—JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011



Published by the
Office of the Federal Register
National Archives and Records Administration

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
• Internet: bookstore.gpo.gov • Phone: (202) 512-1800 • Fax: (202) 512-1204
• Mail: Stop IDCC, Washington, DC 20401

Foreword

As we continued to grow our economy and put more Americans back to work, 2011 brought new opportunities and unexpected challenges for the United States. Here at home, we worked to reduce our debt and rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. And when a Tunisian street vendor's act of desperation sparked a revolution across the Middle East and North Africa, it marked a new chapter in American diplomacy.

The transformation that took place during the Arab Spring captivated the world, and the United States supported the forces of change. In Tunis, Sana'a, and Cairo, thousands of people took to the streets, proving that freedom and self-determination are not unique to one culture—they are universal values. In the months that followed, we stood with those who sought a government of, by, and for the people. And in Libya, where the fight for freedom was answered with the threat of a massacre, we joined an international coalition to protect the lives and aspirations of the Libyan people.

While the Arab Spring represented a new beginning for millions around the world, 2011 was also an opportunity for America to begin to bring two costly wars to a responsible end. Nearly 10 years after the tragic events of September 11, our men and women in uniform continued to deal crippling blows to al Qaeda's leadership, culminating in the death of Osama bin Laden. It was the most significant victory in our efforts to root out terrorism and bring those responsible for killing Americans to justice. And while no act could ever fully heal the wounds of that terrible day, it also delivered a measure of solace to the families who lost loved ones in the attacks.

In Afghanistan, we continued to break the Taliban's momentum and transition responsibility for security to Afghan lead. With the Iraqi government also now in charge of its own security, we brought even more of our troops home, and we worked to keep faith with the men and women who sacrificed so much for our country. This effort was led by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, who launched the Joining Forces initiative to make sure our troops, our veterans, and their families get the care and support they have earned.

We also invested in our Nation's path to long-term prosperity: a strong and growing middle class. I established the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness and the White House Rural Council to accelerate our recovery and help more Americans find good-paying jobs. I called on Democrats and Republicans in the Congress to come together and fix our broken immigration system—a step that would boost our economy and bring us closer to the principles of equality and opportunity that have always been central to who we are as Americans. I directed my Administration to cut waste and get rid of unnecessary regulations that were holding us back. And throughout the spring, we fought hard for a balanced approach to reducing our deficit.

The first half of 2011 was also marked by tragedy. Our hearts were broken when a gunman opened fire in Tucson, Arizona, taking the lives of 6 Americans and wounding 13 more, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. And severe storms damaged communities from Joplin, Missouri, to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. But even as we mourned those we lost, we also found inspiration in the men and women who reached out to one another; who made incredible sacrifices for their communities; and who showed us the true meaning of courage and resilience. It was that same spirit that moved countless Americans to offer relief when a tsunami struck Japan's Pacific coast.

Our Nation continues to move forward with confidence and determination. And whatever challenges may come, I believe we can meet them together—as one Nation and one people.



Preface

This book contains the papers and speeches of the President of the United States that were issued by the Office of the Press Secretary during the period January 1–June 30, 2011. 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 an audio 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. Speeches were delivered in Washington, DC, unless otherwise indicated. The times noted are local times. All materials that are printed in 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. On January 20, 2009, the printed Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents was superseded by the online Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents. The Daily Compilation 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. In 2012, the Government Printing Office and the Office of the Federal Register released a mobile web application (<http://m.gpo.gov/dcpd>) that catalogues the daily public activities of the President of the United States and enhances features of the online Daily Compilation with user-friendly search capability, allowing users to access Presidential content by date, category, subject, or location.

Also included in the printed edition are lists of the President's nominations submitted to the Senate, materials released by the Office of the Press Secretary that are not printed in 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 H.W. Bush, William J. Clinton, and George W. Bush are also included in the Public Papers series.

The Public Papers of the Presidents publication program is under the direction of John Hyrum Martinez, Director of the Publications and Services Division, Office of the Federal Register. The series is produced by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit. The Chief Editor of this book was Laurice A. Clark, assisted by Lead Editors Joshua H. Liberatore, Amelia E. Otovo, and Joseph K. Vetter and unit editors Lois

M. Davis, Michael J. Forcina, Joseph G. Frankovic, Martin V. Franks, Stacey A. Mulligan, and Matthew R. Regan.

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 Davita E. Vance-Cooks, Public Printer.

Charles A. Barth
Director of the Federal Register

David S. Ferriero
Archivist of the United States

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Secretary of the Treasury.....	Timothy F. Geithner
Secretary of Defense.....	Robert M. Gates
Attorney General.....	Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Secretary of the Interior	Kenneth L. Salazar
Secretary of Agriculture	Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary of Commerce	Gary F. Locke
Secretary of Labor.....	Hilda L. Solis
Secretary of Health and Human Services	Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.....	Shaun L.S. Donovan
Secretary of Transportation	Raymond H. LaHood
Secretary of Energy.....	Steven Chu
Secretary of Education.....	Arne Duncan
Secretary of Veterans Affairs	Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Homeland Security.....	Janet A. Napolitano
Chief of Staff	Peter M. Rouse (resigned January 12) William M. Daley (appointed January 12)
Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.....	Lisa P. Jackson
United States Trade Representative	Ronald Kirk

Director of the Office of Management and Budget	Jacob J. “Jack” Lew
Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers	Austan D. Goolsbee
United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations.....	Susan E. Rice

Administration of Barack Obama

2011

