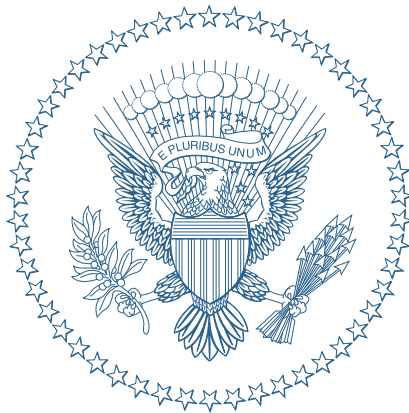


PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

Barack Obama



2011

(IN TWO BOOKS)

BOOK II—JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

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Foreword

The second half of 2011 was marked by unrest around the world and hard-won progress here at home.

In August, a long and contentious debate surrounding the Congress's refusal to raise the debt ceiling finally concluded with a compromise to reduce the deficit and avert a default that would have devastated our economy and stifled our recovery. In early September, I addressed a joint session of the Congress and put forward specific proposals designed to put more teachers back in our classrooms, more cops back on the beat, and more construction workers back on the job rebuilding our roads, bridges, and schools—all without adding a dime to the deficit. And when the Congress refused to act, I took action on my own to strengthen the middle class and create jobs.

My Administration also took steps to promote travel and boost tourism, create summer employment opportunities for young people, help families refinance their mortgages at historically low rates, and accelerate the loan process for companies ready to go to work rebuilding America. I also nominated Richard Cordray to be the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and serve as America's consumer watchdog to help protect working Americans from the worst abuses of the financial industry.

In the fall, I was honored to commemorate the 10th anniversary of September 11th in New York City, in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon. And in December, I traveled to Fort Bragg to welcome the last American troops home from Iraq—marking the end of nearly 9 years of war and the beginning of a new era for the Iraqi people.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, revolutions begun during the Arab Spring continued to gain momentum. We stood with the Libyan people as they rose up and demanded their rights. A coalition that included the United States, NATO, and Arab nations persevered through the summer to protect civilians. And with conviction and resolve, the Libyan people fought for their own future and eventually broke the back of the regime—culminating in the death of Muammar Qadhafi.

Back at home, we granted States long-overdue flexibility to meet higher standards for our schools and our students than the ones set by No Child Left Behind. We helped make college more affordable and put higher education within reach for every American. We announced new fuel efficiency standards that will nearly double the average fuel economy of our vehicles by 2025—including the first-ever fuel efficiency standards for work trucks, buses, and other heavy duty vehicles. We took action to reduce life-threatening prescription drug shortages and prevent price gouging on vital medications. And nearly a half-century after the March on Washington, we dedicated a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on our National Mall.

As we move into the fourth year of my presidency, we will continue to improve the lives of the American people and stand up for the rights of our brothers and sisters around the world. I remain confident that America is stronger than ever, and I know that together, we are equal to the task at hand.



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 July 1–December 31, 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, Laurice A. Clark, Supervisor. The Chief Editor of this book was Joseph K. Vetter; the Managing Editor was Joshua H. Liberatore, assisted by Stacey A. Mulligan and Amelia E. Otovo.

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 Publishing Office under the direction of Davita E. Vance-Cooks, Director.

Oliver A. Potts
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.....	Leon E. Panetta
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 (resigned August 1) John E. Bryson (confirmed October 20)
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	William M. Daley
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 (resigned August 5) Alan B. Krueger (confirmed November 3)
United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations.....	Susan E. Rice

Administration of Barack Obama

2011

