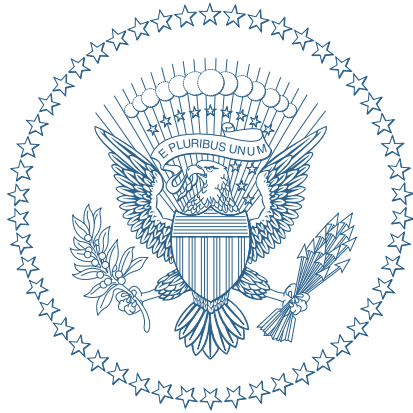


PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

Barack Obama



2012

(IN TWO BOOKS)

BOOK I—JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2012

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Foreword

As 2012 began, our Nation looked forward with a renewed sense of hope. For the first time in 9 years, no Americans were fighting in Iraq. Consumer confidence was rising, and thanks to the grit and determination of the American people, we were pulling our way back from the worst recession since the Great Depression. But we still had much more to do. At stake was the basic bargain that built this country—the promise that hard work should pay off and responsibility should be rewarded.

Protecting that promise meant fighting for working families. With the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance set to expire, I urged ordinary citizens to make their voices heard. They spoke up and persuaded the Congress to do the right thing, keeping taxes low for 160 million working Americans. A few months later, the Congress passed the JOBS Act, making it easier for aspiring entrepreneurs to turn a great idea into a job-creating small business. I was proud to sign that bipartisan bill into law.

I was ready to work with the Congress to keep strengthening the middle class, but I wouldn't allow partisanship and gridlock to stand in the way of progress. So I kept a promise I had made to the American people: where the Congress refused to act, I would. We found new ways to support American manufacturing and reward businesses that bring jobs to American shores. We cut red tape to speed the kinds of projects that keep us on the cutting edge, from laying broadband to repairing bridges. We launched an all-of-the-above energy strategy that taps into every available source, from domestic oil and natural gas to wind and solar. And we established a center to investigate trade abuses abroad and ensure our workers can compete on a level playing field.

Even as we worked to rebuild our economy, we continued to renew our leadership around the world. In Seoul, Cartagena, and Los Cabos, I joined leaders from every corner of the globe to strengthen our security and find new opportunities for economic cooperation. We led a coalition to confront the Iranian government with crippling sanctions, isolating it and slowing its nuclear program. I announced new guidance to keep our military the strongest in the world and to prepare for the challenges of the future. And I traveled to Afghanistan where I signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement that marked the beginning of the end of America's war in Afghanistan, because after a decade of war, it was time to do some nation-building here at home.

It was also time to renew the promises of equality and opportunity at the heart of our Nation's founding. This spring, I stated my personal belief that same-sex couples should be able to get married. I announced new steps to reform our broken immigration system and lift the shadow of deportation from young people who were brought to this country as children—Americans in every way but on paper. And as we continued to implement health care reform that will finally give millions of men and women a basic sense of security, the Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act, affirming that this historic effort was not just moral, but constitutional.

During my State of the Union address, I asked our people to imagine the America that is within our reach. I described my vision of a country that leads the world in educating its students, attracts high-paying jobs, controls its own energy, and makes sure its economy is built to last. We still have a long way to go to claim that vision of the future. But America has taken important steps these past 6 months, and with hope and hard work, I know we can make it the rest of the way—together.



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, 2012. 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

Contents

Foreword . . . v

Preface . . . vii

Cabinet . . . xi

Public Papers of Barack Obama,
January 1–June 30, 2012 . . . 1

Appendix A

Digest of Other White House Announcements . . . 873

Appendix B

Nominations Submitted to the Senate . . . 905

Appendix C

Checklist of White House Press Releases . . . 917

Appendix D

Presidential Documents Published in the *Federal Register* . . . 931

Subject Index . . . A–1

Name Index . . . B–1

Document Categories List . . . C–1

Cabinet

Vice President.....	Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Secretary of State.....	Hillary Rodham Clinton
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	John E. Bryson (resigned June 20) Rebecca M. Blank, Acting (designated June 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 (resigned January 27) Jacob J. “Jack” Lew (appointed January 27)
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 (resigned January 27) Jeffrey D. Zients, Acting (designated January 27)
Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers	Alan B. Krueger
United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations.....	Susan E. Rice

Administration of Barack Obama

2012

