



## No Apology: The Case for American Greatness

*Mitt Romney*

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## No Apology: The Case for American Greatness Mitt Romney

On his first presidential visit to address the European nations, President Obama felt it necessary to apologize for America's international power. He repeated that apology when visiting Latin America, and again to Muslims worldwide in an interview broadcast on Al-Arabiya television.

In *No Apology*, Mitt Romney asserts that American strength is essential—not just for our own well-being, but for the world's. Governments such as China and a newly-robust Russia threaten to overtake us on many fronts, and Islam continues its dangerous rise. Drawing on history for lessons on how great powers collapse, Romney shows how and why our national advantages have eroded. From the long-term decline of our manufacturing base, our laggard educational system that has left us without enough engineers, scientists, and other skilled professionals, our corrupted financial practices that led to the current crisis, and the crushing impact of entitlements on our future obligations, America is in debt, overtaxed, and unprepared for the challenges it must face.

We need renewal: fresh ideas to cut through complicated problems and restore our strength. Creative and bold, Romney proposes simple solutions to rebuild industry, create good jobs, reduce out of control spending on entitlements and healthcare, dramatically improve education, and restore a military battered by eight years of war. Most important, he calls for a new commitment to citizenship, a common cause we all share, rather than a laundry list of individual demands. Many of his solutions oppose President Obama's policies, many also run counter to Republican thinking, but all have one strategic aim: to move America back to political and economic strength.

Personal and dynamically-argued, *No Apology* is a call to action by a man who cares deeply about America's history, its promise, and its future.

## No Apology: The Case for American Greatness Details

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### Allisonavandenberg says

Warning: politics ahead!

I'm trying to read all of the major candidates' books before I vote next year and I started with Romney. I was impressed by the detailed level of his plans to improve the nation on several levels although it was a struggle to get through the first several chapters of the book on national security and defense - I'm more interested in social issues but appreciate his knowledge and detail and could trust him as an international leader. He really believes in America as the world's greatest hope, and while sometimes it's hard to agree, I think I do want a president who \*does\* believe our country is the greatest in the world.

This book convincingly made me despise teachers' unions and the power they have to prevent incentives for motivated teachers, but I couldn't stand the way he skirted around immigration without really addressing it. Another low point of the book was when he transitioned from the educational achievement gap right to the high numbers of single-parent families in the US, as if family situation alone can explain the gap. It seemed very narrow-minded and I disagree. Overall, I'm glad I read it and can be a more educated voter next year and I really appreciated his specific plans. Obama's book is next!

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### Naomi V says

all right, all right. i give! uncle! i can't read it anymore! make it stop!

i got about halfway through this and i just couldn't force myself to continue. in the very first chapter there's obvious obfuscation about his family. 'they fled to Mexico because of religious persecution.' (i'm paraphrasing.) that's all he said about it. doesn't mention that the persecution was because his great-grandfather was a polygamist, and the persecution they suffered was that completely unreasonable one woman-one man type of marriage that Willard now champions as "God's plan for us." if he was more forthcoming about his family's history, i'd be more accepting of his current bullshit about "traditional" marriage. but he doesn't tell the whole truth about this well-known fact.

this is not the last lie in this book. it's full of outright lies. and the things that aren't lies aren't any easier to swallow. "Creative destruction" is a favorite. Willard believes in allowing businesses to fail (or be forced to failure, by, say, a venture capitalist (leveraged buy-out agent) loading a company up with debt, siphoning off all the cash they can, and then letting the company fail.) he thinks that 'creative destruction' is perfectly acceptable and will make businesses more innovative.

he also brought out that old "apology tour" bull that has been shown again and again to be a big fat lie.  
<http://www.factcheck.org/2012/08/romn...> he won't let this bit of fiction die.

and what is this 'greatness' that he wants to preserve? as far as i can figure out, it's mostly about the military. he thinks that we don't spend enough on the military and wants to greatly increase military spending. (maybe he wants to buy horses and bayonets. and by the way, does he (or one of his good buddies) own a ship-building company?) he's entitled to that opinion, but i don't agree. we already spend too much on the military

and increasing that spending while giving more tax breaks to the super-wealthy will put the rest of us into poverty. for what? to support defense contractors and the military industrial complex?

it's really sad to think that today, election day, may end with this completely greedy, selfish, superficial ass as our president. i sure hope not.

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### **Scott says**

I rate half of this book at two stars and half at four. The worst half is the half where I got the sense that Mitt was writing what he wanted the reader to read. The politician in him was on display, and the rhetoric abounded. He seemed to dumb himself down, reciting silly slogans with which no one can disagree ("pursue the difficult" and "the case for American greatness" come to mine).

The other half, however, was quite good. What seems to be the real Mitt surfaced as he used his intellectual ability that typically lies dormant. Particularly on the issues of education and the economy. He cited studies, and he relied upon old fashioned logic in making a compelling case.

The average of the halves explains my three-star rating. If he could just be himself always, he might actually have a shot at the presidency some day. At the very least he could earn a four-star rating from me.

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### **Donald says**

There is no doubt that Mitt Romney is a controversial figure in America today. Democrats attack him, Republicans are divided. Unlike so many other politicians, however, Romney has articulated his positions here in clear English. Politicians tend to be experts on what others think, yet amazingly vague on their own positions. Like him or not, Mitt has the courage to say what he thinks.

Romney applies the title "No Apology" throughout the book. While superficially a critique of Obama's Apology tour through Europe, Mitt applies the spirit of the title to all of his positions. He is an unapologetic American, and believes in American greatness. He sees the greatness in America, and whether talking about defense, healthcare, or anything else he shows true American pride.

Romney is at his best on fiscal issues. No prominent politician today approaches his credibility as a capitalist and financial analyst. His views on current entitlements, government debt, and taxation are clearly presented, and frightening as a result. The math doesn't work, and Romney walks the reader through the accounting tricks used by Congress and the GAO to hide the true costs of these programs. His call for a governmental "balance sheet" is unique among those seeking high office.

Candidly, I expected Romney to be great on fiscal issues. The surprise was his strength on social and environmental issues. He applies the same analytical approach to these issues, and reaches candid conclusions. He supports alternative fuel research, not so much for fear of global warming but for purely practical reasons. His concern for American families is genuine, and his contempt of governmental programs that destroy it obvious. Romney is a hawk, something I wasn't expecting. His reasoning around the threats to America and the their implications on our military are enlightening.

Having read the book, I found Mitt more of a centrist than I expected. He frequently quotes (and agrees with) Thomas Friedman and other moderates. His epilogue, where he recaps the specific ideas of the book, is alone worth the price I paid.

It is truly unfortunate that the spin, mud-slinging, and attacks in American politics completely drown out any discussion of ideas. Candidates talk far more about their challengers than about their own positions. In this book, Romney paints a clear picture of what he thinks needs to be done. Read it, then laugh out loud for the next several years and everyone else tries to tell you what the man really thinks.

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### **Josh Steimle says**

I've written my more in-depth review at <http://www.libertyqa.org/people/no-apology-mitt-romney-review.html>, but to sum things up, I found the book horrifying. Yes, there are some things I agree with, but I find Romney's views on foreign policy uninformed and dangerous, his attitude toward other countries and peoples condescending, his apparent ignorance of natural law and individual rights frightening, and his trust in smart people being able to wield the power of government effectively....well, horrifying.

Romney, like Obama, Bush, Clinton, and most other US Presidents, believes the key to solving our problems is merely to get good, smart people into power. People who can come up with plans to help the rest of us. He virtually ignores the idea that perhaps, to paraphrase Reagan, government isn't the solution but is, in fact, the problem. He puts too much confidence in people, rather than the restrictions of the Constitution, and as such is in direct opposition to Thomas Jefferson's statement "In questions of power, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution."

If Romney becomes President I don't see any reason why things will change substantially. I would like to be wrong, but I don't see fundamental differences between his philosophy of the role of government and Obama's. They both want to use government to force the rest of us to do what they think is "right", they just have different ideas about what is right. Neither wants to allow us to use our freedom to make decisions for ourselves.

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### **Ashley says**

This is one intelligent guy. I mostly agree with all of his ideas for the direction our country should (must, really) go. I wish he was a little more imaginative as far as fixing the education system goes. I loved Glenn Beck's books, probably because he's not actually running for office and can say whatever he wants. Romney takes a more moderate, practical approach, which makes sense. He says the school voucher program, which Beck and many others tout, is "politically infeasible," for example. Too bad. I wish it could be done. I also

wish that teachers unions could be kicked in the rear end and then disbanded ...

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### **Jessica says**

I picked this up because I felt that I needed to understand Mitt Romney better. His character is outstanding, but I wasn't familiar with his ideas.

The vision he has for America is amazing. He loves this country and will make no apologies for stating that it is the greatest nation on earth. The reason for this book, he shares, is that during the debates, candidates are only given sixty seconds to solve an extremely complex issue. Because he didn't feel that was enough time, he wanted to explain his views as well as his vision for the future of America.

He also shares a lot of experiences he had while being governor of MA. This was really insightful and enjoyable to read.

Overall, I would definitely recommend it, especially to those who are planning on voting for Romney. It's important to understand what he believes and sees for the future of our country.

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### **Clyn says**

I found this book very interesting as it educated me on many things in the world of government politics in which I felt my knowledge was lacking. Clearly this book is written from a Republican view, but it is not a democrat bashing work. In the book, Romney criticizes both parties, as well as the media, and other forces at currently work to weaken America and diminish productivity and thus economic growth. Instead of just exaggerating problems and telling his readers who is to blame, Romney proposes real solutions to the problems and discusses obstacles to those solutions. Though I can't say I agree with everything he says, I can say that I am impressed with his method of problem solving, and was impressed with many of his ideas. It also gives the reader a sense of just how complex the problem solving process in government is, and how so often good ideas are ruined by those who would put themselves above others, be it politicians, labor unions, teacher unions, or those benefiting from the dole. I now feel like I know what Romney stands for and how he would approach governing if elected someday.

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### **Monica says**

If anyone ever has a doubt as to Mitt Romney's presidential qualifications, experience, knowledge, intentions, and principles, s/he should read this book. I have never read such an insightful and inspiring book about America and the issues we face today. I wish it was required reading for every high schooler in America.

We've become jaded as a nation regarding America and politics in this country. Politicians who promise the world but fail to deliver has become the status quo. We accept that as a given. We know that when we vote, we are choosing the lesser of two evils. Not so with Mitt Romney. After reading this book, I trust him implicitly to make the right decisions for this country and for the world.

Romney knows what he is talking about when it comes to domestic and foreign policy. He puts forth solutions to our most devastating problems in this country—solutions based on his extensive experience, research, collaboration with specialists, and bipartisan thinking. Romney doesn't accept the popular ignorant assumptions that are so pervasive in this country. He doesn't bow to special interests. And he doesn't accept the status quo.

I hope Romney's bipartisan vision for this country is something for which we all strive. I wish many Americans weren't so full of hate toward opposing views that they are unwilling to even listen. Instead they demonize and drown out opposing views with a cacophony of libelous attacks. In contrast, the Romney way of working together to get things done is a model for this country and for individuals. He believes in America. So should we all.

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### **Robert says**

I am not likely to vote for Romney (assuming he becomes the Republican nominee), but I give him credit for writing a readable, interesting book. Yes, it's self-promoting and not particularly daring, as books of this genre tend to be, but his intelligence and penchant for data-driven problem-solving are apparent throughout. The man understands public policy and argues his side effectively. All in all I liked "No Apology" about as much as "The Audacity of Hope"; in some ways I liked it more.

I disagree with Romney on several specific policy matters, yet what I found least compelling is the ra-ra American triumphalism/exceptionalism that undergirds the whole volume. Romney insists that America's rightful place is at the head of the class and that he has a vision for making it "strong" again—an "imperium sine fine," apparently. I also believe that America has played a special role in history and that it will yet do great things for the world. Yet after some of the misadventures of the past decade, I'd like to see a vision for America's future that includes humility rather than just more brawn.

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### **Chris says**

I read the book not knowing what to expect, given some conservative rhetoric is sometimes just about bashing the liberals (although sometimes deservedly so but it doesn't solve any problems). This book actually backed up some views with data and studies instead of just being a "feel good" book with meaningless chants or special slogans to disillusion the reader or tricking them into thinking that they are accomplishing something meaningful or positive. He has some real answers that would work for the long-term instead of the 10-year score that congress votes on; answers that some will unrelentingly attack, but at least some real answers nevertheless. Lately, it seems to me that politicians spend too much time calculating what will let them appeal the most to some special interest group instead of looking at the whole picture and doing what's best for everyone as a whole for the long run.

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### **Jenny-Marie says**

If you plan to vote in this election than you ought to read this book. This book is an insightful look into who Mitt Romney really is as an American leader and shows how his life experiences have influenced his views. He's well read, thoughtful, an experienced leader/role model and strategic thinker. Mitt brings new ideas and

solutions to the table for readers to think about.

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## **John Brown says**

Political TV ads can be fun. And annoying.

Debates can be fun. And maddening.

You can indeed learn things about the candidates from watching the ads and debates. But fifteen and thirty second snippets of information really don't give you the full picture. And sometimes they actually hide the facts, producing nothing more than informational smog.

Recently, I decided I wanted to really know what Mitt Romney thought. What he was about. What he hopes to accomplish if he wins the presidency. If Mitt was someone in my neighborhood, I'd go visit the man, and we'd have a chat.

I'd ask him about his ideas and past. I'd ask him to give me examples. Because of the nature of the issues at stake and the number of them, I imagine our chat would probably last a few hours. It might stretch over a number of evenings.

Of course, I'd want time to consider our chat and determine where I did and didn't agree with him. I'd want to hear what others thought. And I'd want to look into his history, his successes and failures.

But the first step would be to go to the man himself and hear him out.

I hate it when people put words in my mouth. I'm sure Romney, or anyone else running, hates that same thing. If I were running, I'd hope folks would take the time to hear me out. They may ultimately disagree with me on many or a few things. But I'd hope, as they are gathering information, that they would take the time to actually go to the source and listen to what I myself had to say.

Unfortunately, I can't walk around the corner and knock on Mitt's door. But he did write a book that was published in 2010, and it's probably the next best thing to talking to Romney at his kitchen table. The book is called *No Apology: The Case for American Greatness*.

I'll admit I thought it was going to be a dry guide book explaining his position on every hot political issue. It's not a guide book. In fact, he leaves a number of topics out. Nor was it dry.

I also suspected it might be a scathing attack piece on the Obama administration. It's not that either. Not even close. He does criticize some things where he and Obama differ, but he also commends him on a few things. Either way, Obama is a very small part of the book.

So what IS this book?

Romney states its purpose in the introduction: it's "about what I believe should be our primary national objective: to keep America strong and to preserve its place as the world's leading nation" and "the course I believe we must take to strengthen the nation in order to remain prosperous, secure, and free" (2). It's about his ideas on how to make sure America does not falter as so many nations have, but remains wealthy, happy,

and productive.

I finished the book yesterday. I found it interesting, personable, sometimes surprising, and insightful.

I found Mitt Romney to be a man self-deprecating humor. He's also a thinking man, one who likes to look at data to see what it shows. It's clear he's a man who does NOT think he knows everything or has a monopoly on every good idea, but he's also a man who demands evidence. I also saw a man who is kind. He doesn't talk much about his 14 years of service as a lay minister in his church in this book, but you can see how those years changed him as he discusses helping the unemployed, out-of-wedlock births, and single-parent families. Finally, I saw a man who loves, LOVES, America and is convinced she can remain the hope of the earth, but only if we do things that foster our strength.

This book outlines what he thinks those things are.

The book is written in a conversational and easy style with many examples from his personal experience, studies, and history. Romney's record of accomplishments demonstrates his skills and hard work ethic. This book explains to what end he would apply that skill and work.

If you're planning on voting this November for the president of the United States, I think you'll find this book very useful. You may end up agreeing with many things he says. You may end up disagreeing with him on many points. But before you can do either, you need to understand what Romney's position actually is. And the first step in doing so is to fully hear the man out, in his own words, from his own lips.

As a result, whether you end up deciding he's your candidate or not, you WILL come away with important insights into the issues discussed.

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### **Bonnie says**

I wanted to give this book a fair go and read it all the way through but after skipping most of the first few chapters about Foreign Policy and getting irritated with the chapters on Economy, I decided to just stop reading. Politics between the two major parties, I'm convinced, comes down to differing philosophies. It's not that one's right and the other's wrong so much that it's each envisions a different successful society.

Not everyone measures success in dollar signs.

Mitt Romney spends much of the first part of the book making a case for increasing military spending. Not something I agree with. We already spend huge amounts of money on defense. His reasoning is that "The world is a safer place when America is strong." Yeah, American's are safer but does the rest of the world feel safer? I don't know. He also criticized Obama for apologizing to other countries which, he says, makes us appear weaker. He seems to go by the rather old fashioned concept that fear = respect.

Other points I disagreed with on his views on the economy is that productivity makes the nation more profitable. He makes the example of innovation in agriculture and that while many small farmers lost out on jobs, large corporation farmers are able to crank out more product. True, but to what expense? Overuse of antibiotics, inhumane conditions for animals, e-coli outbreaks, poor quality products that affect consumer health. But, like many conservatives seem to think, that doesn't seem to matter. It's the dollar signs that determine the health of the nation.

He also mentions how the government suppresses things like cross-training in the work force so employees can cover different jobs for the betterment of consumer satisfaction. When in fact the employees end up doing the job of 3 people for the same wage and that's why consumers end up standing in line or holding on

the phone for hours for customer service. But, it saves the CEO money and, once again, that's all that matters.

He also demonizes the media like other Republicans and conservatives seem to do. He just seems to have such a narrow view of the world - as long as my world is okay, then the world's just fine.

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### **Ashley says**

I LOVED this book. It isn't a thrilling page turner but a really educational read. I laughed and cried and more importantly, did lots of thinking during this book. Romney does a terrific job of providing and explaining data and translating that into proposed action. I really liked that he spent his time explaining the issues and then giving detailed information about his position rather than just attacking others. A very informative and powerful book.

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