

INTRODUCTION



In November of 2004, progressive political power in the United States reached a fifty-year low. Our Presidential candidate had been rejected. Both houses of Congress and the Presidency were in the hands of radical conservatives. The Supreme Court was on the brink of being lost for a generation. The Labor movement was fracturing. Progressives were demoralized.

Yet today, less than three years later, we have an historic opportunity to create a progressive political realignment that could reshape American and world politics for years to come.

This book is about how — together — we can make that realignment a reality. How progressives can win.

Its thesis is simple. In order to win, Progressives need to proudly and self-confidently talk to Americans about our values and our vision of the future. We need to listen to our mothers and stand up straight.

The book is addressed to progressive political activists. It's addressed to long-time activists, brand-new activists and those who are considering dipping a toe into the political stream for the very first time.

It's intended for young people who are considering a life-long commitment to the progressive cause, and for anyone who is curious about how voters make political decisions and what is involved in organizing for change.

This book lays out a broad strategy for victory, but it also analyzes the tactics needed to win real world political battles one at a time.

It is about the critical importance of political vision, the subtleties of political communication and the nuts and bolts of executing political action.

It's about progressive values, the future of human society, the self-interests of Members of Congress, and the techniques of a good precinct captain.

Most of all, this book is aimed at people who are serious about transforming an historic opportunity into long-term progressive political realignment in the United States; people who want to see their children grow up in a peaceful, prosperous, democratic world — and are willing to fight to make it happen.