



Keeping the Republic: Saving America by Trusting Americans

Mitch Daniels

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"America's best governor" (Ross Douthat, The New York Times) offers a plan for limited but effective government, before it's too late. Governments at every level keep getting bigger yet less effective while the freedoms of individuals continue to be diminished. In the meantime, our public schools have produced an underprepared workforce, mostly ignorant of the rights and responsibilities of free citizens. This is exactly what the Founding Fathers feared: politicians who would give voters unsustainable benefits at the expense of society's long-term health. But according to Mitch Daniels, the acclaimed governor of Indiana, it's not too late to reverse America's decline. Daniels offers the way out of America's toughest problems, from stubbornly high unemployment to the terrifyingly huge federal debt. As he writes, "I devoutly believe there is a way to reconstruct both our economy and an ethic of citizenship that will preserve both prosperity and liberty." Daniels has practiced what he preaches. Before he became governor, Indiana hadn't balanced its budget in seven years and faced a \$600 million deficit. It now boasts the fewest state employees per capita in the nation, but service levels have improved across the board, including at its Bureau of Motor Vehicles, heralded as the best in the country. Daniels avoids the partisan insults that too often divide Americans into warring camps. He stresses the common threats we all face and offers a path to real change-change that believes in the power of individuals to do more for themselves while government focuses on the essential tasks that only it can do.

Keeping the Republic: Saving America by Trusting Americans Details

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From Reader Review Keeping the Republic: Saving America by Trusting Americans for online ebook

Mike says

Daniels and his team have engineered a remarkable turnaround in Indiana's finances, based on the premise that government is meant to serve the people, not tell them what to do. He clearly explains the financial risks facing the US and offers his solutions, though his pragmatism leaves room for other answers. The quotes scattered thru the book are great (particularly from Reagan); and I love that when he travels to events statewide, he stays in the homes of his constituents. Why can't he be Governor of IL?!

Mark says

Buried in this lightweight meandering list of right-wing shibboleths are a few valid points:

- * institutions and the people in them do not like to give up power. However, he only mentions this in regard to left-leaning institutions like unions. He fails to notice that right-wing institutions all have the same, human, characteristics.
- * if you're going to make big changes, you're going to piss off a lot of people. However, when left-leaning people are pissed off, it's because they were bad, selfish people to begin with. When right-wing people are pissed off, it's righteous injustice.
- * the US is spending more than it's making. This is true, but he makes no attempt to examine the ROI of various expenditures.
- * bailing out the banks, insurance companies, and other corporations was irritating for everyone. But, he puts at all at Obama's feet, never mentioning that most of these programs were put in place by the Bush administration, and never grasping that, as maddening as they were, they basically worked. Also, never quite grasping that his beloved private-sector institutions were the cause of the mess to begin with.

His grasp of economics and history are comical. Everyone tends to find their preconceptions validated in what they read, but he really can't seem to grasp nuance at all.

Every presidential hopeful needs a book deal. This is his. That's about it. Republicans need to be reassured that current problems are Obama's fault. They don't want to be reminded that Obama is simply dealing with a mess left by his predecessors.

None of this is a commentary on his job as a governor. It will take years before that legacy can be evaluated.

Larry Ellingson says

It is about time!

Simple, much needed wake up call to self management with practical suggestions that been proven to work and us (Amercians) out of this hole we have spent our way into! Stop the politicians from spending us into depth and hold them accountable to cut costs, reduced spending and balance a budget at all levels of governments that serve us (the people)!

Sam Snideman says

I think pretty highly of Governor Daniels. His book is a pretty good example as to why. He's thoughtful, provocative, and an effective communicator. I'm not sure I agree with every assertion made and every conclusion drawn in the book, but this much is clear: our current economic path is neither sustainable nor desirable. Daniels' call for action is necessary at this point in our nation's history.

Brent Goldstein says

What a shame that Daniels didn't run for Pres in 2012.

Michael Kramer says

Gov. Daniels sets out a compelling case that the country needs to address our national debt. He sets out a solid plan to do this. The question is whether the country has the will to do this before it is too late. This is not a typical book by a politician, especially one that wants to run for President, which is refreshing.

This book needs to be required reading for anyone holding national or state level office.

Cassius Rovenstine says

The first qualification for any politician running for President of the United States is optimism. Every politician understands this and strains with every muscle in his forced smile and every ready cliché on the tip of his tongue to convince the American people that he, not his opponent, is the most optimistic in all the land. "I strongly believe that America's best days are ahead of us," he invariably says at least a thousand times per election year, reading from a script that hasn't changed since the Roosevelt administration. "My opponent has a pessimistic view of the American people," he glibly says when his opponent points out a problem that cannot be fixed without making tough choices.

Keeping the Republic would have made a great campaign book had Governor Mitch Daniels decided to run for president in 2012. Unlike the eventual GOP nominee that year, who was obliged to speak optimistically in public, but who expressed deep pessimism in secretly recorded private meetings, Daniels airs all of his doubts about the American experiment up front. He reminds the reader of the Latin phrase emblazoned on America's original currency: *Exitus in Dubio Est* -- "the outcome is in doubt." But he sees a path out of America's current fiscal situation and sees the American people as adult enough to deal with it.

Daniels' brand of optimism -- grounded in reality and devoid of happy but meaningless clichés -- is what America needs at this time.

Josh Tatum says

A good take on the current state of our Republic and solutions. Daniels is an excellent writer, but the second half of the book repeats and feels a little hurried. Still, I recommend this book to anyone seeking a frank, straightforward analysis of current problems. Daniels approaches them as an experienced executive more than a politician.

Adam Decker says

This book presents the real facts as to our nation's current economic state and as you might guess it isn't pretty. Daniels is very straightforward in the book and does a good job presenting his suggested solutions, including in most cases identifying the arguments against his proposals with clear rebuttals. I especially like his support for the negative income tax to replace the hodge podge of the many different welfare programs.

Jim says

This is a current politician that has needed and doable solutions for the fiscal ills that trouble the governments of this country (and probably most other countries). A easily readable book where Daniels describes the actions he has taken, with the support of the Indiana General Assembly, in the 7 years he has been Governor of Indiana. Actions that reduced the cost of government, improved services, and balanced the State budgets. This is the kind of National President this Country needs.

Noah Carl says

Clear minded. Thoughtful. Pragmatic.

wade says

This book gets 2 stars based primarily on the strength of the final chapter. The first 80% of the books is nothing different from the stock and trade Republican Party talking points. When I read a book I want to learn something and what he writes about I have heard many time before from various Republican writers and speakers. Also, the first 200 hundred pages is heavily filled with what is wrong but very shallow on specifics. Venom drips from many of his passages referring to Obama's minions and of course we all know who else has minions. He particularly heaps ire on what he calls Czarista Kathleen Sibilus. He seems to get much inspiration from a Texas novelist whose main character never takes a thing from the government - maybe those big corporations shouldn't take any tax breaks. He says he has read reams of paper on global warming but he can't make up his mind on it. Is he reading tea Party tracts or real environmental science? What did I like about the book in the last chapter? His ideas on reforming social security and Medicare seem reasonable and he is a Republican who says there might be need for a reevaluation of our military use and possible cuts in spending.

One final thing, he has about 10 charts in the book and he either says nothing about them or 1 or 2 sentences of little value. He also, has about 15 pages of photos of himself with famous people that have no value whatsoever other than to show he knows Ronald Reagan etc.

Ted Myers says

Interesting book. Not so much a political philosophy as an analysis of the current state of the USA. I wish I had his faith in the American public. He seems convinced that we will wake up and be able to straighten out the mess in our National political system. First, of course, we need to straighten our thinking, motivation, and actions as individual citizens. Therein lies the rub...

Steve says

Definitely a political-oriented book, but Mitch Daniels seems to have a more common-sense, practical approach. You'll learn more about Indiana government than you thought you would, but it's a good case study.

Amy Koons says

A vision of hope for how we Americans can work to keep our republic strong in the face of surmounting national debt and other national problems, all articulated so well. I was glad to get a concise summary of numerous policy issues that matter (or should matter) to all of us, and learn more.
