



A Simple Government: Twelve Things We Really Need from Washington (and a Trillion That We Don't!)

Mike Huckabee

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"We need a simple government. Don't get me wrong; I know that many of the nation's problems are highly complex. But I also know that the governing principles that can solve them, if we work together, are simple." Armed with little money but a lot of common sense, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee surprised the nation by coming in second during the 2008 Republican presidential primaries. He connected with millions of voters by calling for a smaller, simpler government that would get out of the way when appropriate. (Unfortunately, there weren't quite enough of those voters to prevent the election of Barack Obama.)

Since then, President Obama's message has morphed from "hope and change" to "tax and spend" and "borrow and spend" and "over-regulate and spend." The stimulus failed to stop the recession, the deficit exploded to unimaginable heights, and the Democrats jammed through Congress a financial "reform" bill that didn't really reform anything and a healthcare monstrosity that gave the government more power over our personal lives than ever.

Meanwhile, Huckabee has continued to be the voice of common sense conservatism, through his television talk show, his radio commentaries, and his lectures around the country. Now he's written a book that sums up the twelve things we "really" need from Washington to get the country back on the right track.

These twelve essential truths will have you nodding in agreement, whether you're a Republican, an Independent, or even an open-minded Democrat. They can help us put aside our differences, tone down the partisan rancor, and return to the simple principles of the Founding Fathers: liberty, justice, personal freedom, and civic virtue. And they can help us tackle even the most seemingly complicated of today's problems. For instance:

* You can't spend what you don't have; you can't borrow what you can't pay back. Families, businesses, towns, cities, and states all have to balance their budgets or face dire consequences. Why shouldn't the federal government be held to the same standard? And if that means making some hard choices now, it's a far better alternative than saddling our kids and grandkids. * The further you drift from shore, the more likely you are to be lost at sea. The Founders expected the federal government to be subordinate to state and local governments. How can politicians in DC know the best way to help farmers in Iowa, autoworkers in Michigan, or teachers in California? They can't. So every problem should be solved at the most local level capable of solving it.

* Bullies in the playground only understand one thing. There's a time and place for diplomacy, but we can't protect the country just by negotiating with our enemies. We need a strong national defense and a counterterrorism policy that focuses on effectiveness, not political correctness.

* The most important form of government is the family. In the long run, the only way to ensure prosperity, safety, and equal opportunity is to make sure we raise our children to be ethical and productive citizens. No bureaucracy can replace parents in that essential role, so we have to do everything possible to help parents do their job.

A Simple Government will inspire any American looking forward to a better future.

A Simple Government: Twelve Things We Really Need from Washington (and a

Trillion That We Don't!) Details

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From Reader Review A Simple Government: Twelve Things We Really Need from Washington (and a Trillion That We Don't!) for online ebook

Kristen Wampner says

This book is Mike Huckabee's version of what the government should be like. In each chapter, he briefly describes one aspect of what the government should or shouldn't do. The majority of his ideas are nothing new or groundbreaking.

The basic concept is the federal government should do what the constitution says it should do, namely unify the states and protect the borders.

Here are some of the ideas that he covers in various chapters:

- family values
- local vs federal government
- control spending and limit debt
- simple and fair taxation system (based up national sales tax)
- responsible healthcare (meaning take care of yourself)
- improve education (focus on students)
- take responsibility of the environment
- immigration reform
- be tough on terrorism
- effective military strength
- strengthen our global image
- focus on the values of our founding fathers

Huckabee doesn't shy away from controversy and we get some policy ideas we hadn't heard before. It is clear from the beginning, Huckabee is not playing politics as usual. This book is a fairly quick read. There is plenty of news in here, and plenty of controversy. Huckabee simply tells us the way he sees it, in simple terms.

Dennis says

While there may be a few particulars on which Gov Huckabee and I do not see completely eye-to-eye, I certainly find the whole of his opinions valid and important for all Americans to consider. While our country has many problems in policy and attitudes, there is hope and some common sense changes that can be made to bring us to a level of stature and prominence on the world stage we have had in the past. I highly recommend this book to all!!

Excerpt:"Christian believers who have read to the end of the Bible have the confidence that, no matter how

challenging things can be, the ultimate outcome will be positive and victorious. That's one reason, among many, that there should be no gloom and doom in the mind, heart, or spirit of a true believer." -- Mike Huckabee

Melissa Armato says

This was my first Non-Fiction read in a long while so it didn't intrigue me as much as the other books I read. I am still processing my thoughts on this book. Sure, he has an ideology that makes sense and I agree with most of what he says needs to be done, but how he backs his arguments...I just think too much of it is opinion. He needs cold hard evidence to convince the people who need to make the change, ie Congress and President Obama. I am also a little torn on some of his beliefs but that doesn't go into my ratings. The book was written well minus the debate of fact and opinion I fore mentioned and laid out simplistic enough that a good part of society can understand it ,which was his objective. Some parts were intriguing but others I had to drag through (it's a non-fiction comparable to a condensed text book-it's to be expected). He did try and keep it short and straight to the point. Overall, for it's genre it's a well written book and you really do learn about his beliefs and the kind of government he wants to instill in our country. He wants us to follow the policy of our fore-fathers , little federal government, let the states make decisions in the best interest of their people and get back to family values, for a good citizen is made at home with good parents. It all sounds great but some people do not come from good families. He does make a good point on family values (if your family has them already) and keeping the funds and legislation local and depend on the government for protection and to fill the gaps that the states can't fill on their own. There are many different areas in which he writes about like foreign policy and such that you will just have to read and sort out your thoughts for yourself. It definitely gets into details and breaks down things that I didn't originally understand and he tried his best to keep it interesting. I would recommend the book, not because I agree with everything he believes because (I don't)but its a good peek into our government and simply put you learn something new.

Rachelle says

"A Simple Government" offers 12 governing principles to solve our nations problems. His priorities are: family values, local government, government spending and debt, simple and fair taxation, health care, education, the environment, immigration reform, terrorism, military policy, foreign relations, and faith in God. In general, Huckabee's solutions are optimistic and reasonable, but he can't resist some sarcastic and pointed criticisms of President Obama. It seems to be a campaign brochure masquerading as a book, obligatory for presidential candidates. I think that one simple truth should have been highlighted in large type: "People actually want much less from their government than politicians think" (page 206).

Book says

A Simple Government: Twelve Things We Really Need from Washington (and a Trillion That We Don't!) by Mike Huckabee

"A Simple Government" is an insightful look at Mike Huckabee's political philosophy. He espouses a simple government and provides twelve talking points that would help get our country back on track. Former

governor of Arkansas, ordained Southern Baptist minister, and conservative talk show personality Mike Huckabee shares his views in a straightforward manner. Find out why this progressive reviewer though finding Huckabee quite pleasant disagrees with his outdated theocratic agenda. This accessible 208-page book includes the following twelve chapters: 1. The Most Important Form of Government Is a Father, a Mother, and Children, 2. The Further You Drift from Shore, the More Likely You Are to Be ..., 3. You Can't Spend What You Don't Have; You Can't Borrow What You ..., 4. If You Drain the Lake, All the Fish Will Die, 5. Once Humpty Dumpty Falls, It's Hard to Put Him Back Together, 6. If You Don't Hear the School Bell Ring, Class Never Starts, 7. Leave Your Campsite in Better Shape Than You Found It, 8. Good Fences Make Good Neighbors, 9. Bullies on the Playground Understand Only One Thing, 10. When the Bullets Are Real, There Aren't Any Toy Soldiers, 11. With Enemies Like This, Who Needs Friends?, and 12. - Hope Is More Than Just the Name of My Hometown.

Positives:

1. A well-written, concise book.
2. I'm always interested in the political views of prominent politicians.
3. An easy to follow format that readers can easily reference back. Very accessible and a breeze to read.
4. Thankfully and to my surprise Huckabee keeps his religious views to a minimum. Certainly, his religious views affect his frame of thinking but in this book he doesn't allow it to completely fog his entire thinking.
5. Does a good job of going over the levels of government.
6. Probably the strongest case conservatives make is the need for financial responsibility. The national debt is a problem and it needs to be addressed. I agree. "As we peer into society's future, we—you and I, and our government—must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering for our own ease and convenience the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage. We want democracy to survive for all generations to come, not to become the insolvent phantom of tomorrow."
7. Makes some interesting points on social security. "Social Security was never intended to finance retirements lasting decades. When the legislation was passed in 1935, and the retirement age was set at sixty-five, life expectancy was in the late fifties for men, early sixties for women."
8. I like the idea of long-term investments at lower capital-gains rate thus encouraging longer term investments.
9. One of the best and most sensible chapters is the need to take better care of ourselves. "First, to be healthy, we need to change our lifestyles, not just our waistlines. Second, Americans by nature don't want to lose but to win. If the goal is to lose weight, it goes against our instincts. Set a goal to win health, and when you take the steps to do it, weight will take care of itself." He also commends the First Lady for combatting child obesity.
10. Makes the compelling case for the importance of education. I like the idea of merit pay. "Firings ought to be based on performance. It's a shame to keep a bad teacher because he's been there boring his students to death for twenty years and fire a gifted, inspiring teacher just because he or she arrived a year ago. Cuts should be an opportunity to get rid of deadwood, not those bearing the most fruit." I also like his stance on the value of art and music.
11. Huckabee's position on environmental conservation is refreshing. "Simply put, it is vital for us, for the sake of our national health, to cut back on pollution-causing emissions."
12. In defense of nuclear power. I agree, my friends on the left may disagree with me but I always side with the best of our current knowledge. "Of the 104 American nuclear power plants operating in thirty-one states and generating about 20 percent of our nation's electricity, not one emits greenhouse gases."
13. Interesting points on immigration. Arizona is indeed a mess.
14. Brings up some valid points on cyber security. "Clarke predicts that America would fare far worse than Russia or China in a cyberwar. Apocalyptically, he imagines that our banking system, power grids, and air and rail systems could be completely shut down, while our oil pipelines and chemical plants could be

destroyed in explosions. All it would take to inflict absolute chaos on our lives and economy, in this scenario, would be some clever computer hacking.”

15. The need to do more with regards to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Commends the president’s efforts but we really need to do more. The need to improve the VA. “Believe it or not (considering the time it typically takes to process claims), the VA evaluates claims processors by how quickly they process the paperwork, not by the correctness of their decisions. Obviously, claims processors need better training. The VA needs to create a system that values accuracy above all, no matter where the claimant lives.”

16. The need for better military strategy. Some good points here. “Because of this scattershot, imprecise mission, a small group of Americans has borne the brunt of these wars by deploying again and again. The problem is that the DOD is calling on them to do tasks that should instead be undertaken by U.S. civilian agencies and our NATO allies.”

Negatives:

1. Lacks depth.

2. Huckabee makes the case that the family is the foundation of American power. If that’s the case why do you stigmatize gay people to the point of breaking up families? Why not support same-sex marriages? Allow our gay citizens the dignity of family life. Huckabee’s stance on gay marriages is appalling and it divides our people.

3. Careless comments that undermines his credibility. “Liberals are just fine with that, since one of their goals seems to be getting as many people as possible on public assistance.” Not true.

4. Respect women’s reproductive rights. Abortions should be accessible, safe and rare. Fund planned parenthood so that women can have access to the means to avoid abortions in the first place. By the way, do you realize that most abortions occur naturally, if “God” was so adamant against it you would think such abortions would never occur but they do! It’s time we provide women with the tools necessary to help them make the best choices for themselves and their families.

5. You know what they call couples that practice abstinence? Parents.

6. I agree with the notion of personal responsibility so let’s take that to the next level. Time to let go of superstitious nonsense such as religion. Time to let go of the ultimate dependency, the celestial sugar daddy, the imaginary friend. Nothing would help people be more self-reliant than letting go of religion and hence accepting their lot on life in hopes of a better life next time.

7. We are the only industrialized country without a comprehensive universal healthcare system but you will never get a practical alternative by the likes of Huckabee.

8. Attacks unions. True leadership can find a way to work with unions. Unions protect their members and it’s up to sound leadership to negotiate fair terms. The abuses we see in unions are caused by poor contracts.

9. Social security is not the problem that it’s made out to be. Am I wrong here? Increase the cap to say \$120,000...

10. On the surface you would think that corporations that do well would translate to employees doing likewise but that’s not necessarily the case. CEOs and upper managements do disproportionately much better. It’s not to say that those who orchestrate the risks should not reap the rewards but to say that the discrepancy is outrageous.

11. Corporate taxes may be higher than other competing nations but there are so many loopholes that it allows a company like GE to pay in essence \$0.

12. Huckabee didn’t have the courage to state his stance on teaching creationism in science classrooms. Teaching creationism in a science classroom is a joke that hinders progress and sets us back as a country.

13. “When well-trained climatologists and environmental scientists don’t agree on the basics, what do I know?” Global warming is a scientific fact. The scientific consensus among the subject matter experts is overwhelming.

14. So much emphasis on what’s wrong with immigration but really no practical suggestions on how to improve it. He keeps repeating the notion that the only way to address immigration is by securing the border.

A huge fence along the border? How do we expedite legal immigration?

15. Spent a large portion of what would have otherwise been a fascinating topic of terrorism speaking about the president's use of politically correct language instead of the use of direct language. A waste of a chapter. Policies should be based on a high level discourse and rational, evidence-based human centered issues.

16. Once again Huckabee is on the wrong side on history and gay rights. Homosexual soldiers should be allowed to serve just like every other soldier. Stop stigmatizing these young men and women who want to serve our country. Give them the same respect and love as you would every other American that serves. Unite, don't divide!

17. Talks about a supernanny state but doesn't mention the government's intrusion of women's reproductive rights.

18. No mention of his stance on gun rights.

19. Doesn't link to notes.

20. No formal bibliography.

In summary, this is a very easy book to follow. It will give you insights into Huckabee's views on a simple government but his theocratic agenda is an impediment to social progress. His views on gay rights are absolutely appalling and go against modern family values. Social issues aside, not all is lost, his views on financial and personal accountability makes some good points but not enough to overcome a dismal social platform. Read if you are interested as I was in Huckabee's political philosophy.

Further suggestions: "Attack of the Theocrats" by Sean Faircloth, "Decision Points" by George W. Bush, "The War on the Middle Class" by Lou Dobbs, "The Price of Politics" by Bob Woodward, "The Price of Inequality" by Joseph E. Stiglitz, "The Post American World" by Fareed Zakaria, "That Used to be Us" by Thomas L. Friedman, "American Fascists" by Chris Hedges, "Against All Enemies" by Richard A. Clarke, "Foreign Policy Begins At Home" by Richard N. Haas and "A Nation of Moochers" by Charles Sykes.

Kristin says

A simple book. He criticizes Obama's administration issue by issue and talks about how he'd do it better. It was quite hard to swallow his views on same-sex marriage and homosexuality as well as his Christian perspective but I read on and agreed with a lot of his other points especially education and the economy.

The fact that he is smart enough to stick to TV and radio, where he can make money instead of running in 2012, makes me think he actually has his head on pretty straight.

Kris says

There's a fine line between simple and simplistic. Huckabee hovers around that line. In certain places he makes great points, expresses good ideas, and writes well. In other places he tends to over-simplify the problem and leaves me unsatisfied. I had to knock this down a star for the times he singles out things/ignores things/doesn't explain both sides as well as he should.

But then again, it is his book! He can focus on whatever he wants.

Maryann says

If you watch Fox News, then you already know 90% of what Mr. Huckabee covers in this book. I was put off in the beginning when he states that "this book is for 80% of the people out there to read and if half of us bought and read his book, he and his wife would be set for their retirement." On the Kindle the book is only about 80%, the last 20% is the bibliography/index. He has some ideas for changing government, but since he has pulled out of the race, I skimmed over them. So, for me, this book is "just okay."

R. Riddle says

This review was not requested nor was I paid to do a review.

Mike Huckabee's *A Simple Government* proved to be an excellent read. I often find books about government issues usually dry and difficult to read. This was not the case with *A Simple Government*.

Although I am a busy man, I found myself continually brought back to the book. Page after page was intriguing. The only thing that kept me from finishing it much faster than I did was the fact that I injured myself (no fault of Huckabee's) and suffered from Sciatic nerve pain. I hope none of you ever have to suffer such pain!

But once the pain was gone, I returned to reading the book.

Huckabee has a conversational style that allows him to take complex issues and explain them in simple (pun intended), yet understandable terms. While many people have talked about the same issues, most of them bring their own prejudices to bear, but Mike goes out of his way to be fair.

Although the book was written in 2011, it is still fresh today. As a fan of his TV show, I find that he expresses himself just as clearly in his writings as he does speaking.

The twelve chapters touched on the same issues that we have today: family values, local Government, debt, healthcare, and more. He provides insights not only in his thinking, but the thinking of President Obama and the left. I imagine that if they actually read the book they would find themselves in agreement with his analysis of their positions without agreeing with his common sense solutions.

But Mike laid out the facts, supported them with initial statistics and other material. I particularly liked his discussion of immigration reform. He talked at length about the beginnings of our nation and how legal immigration paid a huge role. Because of these legal immigrants, we became the great nation of today. Then he compared them to the typical illegal immigrant.

Mike Huckabee is obviously a thoughtful person driven by love of country and a desire to solve the problems facing America. He takes strong stands, backs them up with facts, and seeks to make a difference. Conservative leaders, as well as liberal Democratic leaders, should be required to read this book and study the suggested solutions.

I rated this book a 5 out of 5 stars because it's a great book that is well written and thought provoking. Mike Huckabee

Steve Comstock says

I don't disagree with most of his points, but the entire book is the same Reaganite arguments every other big name Republican writes. What I mean is, he is not grounded in his thesis (spending an entire chapter on the downfall of family and solutions to proper family life, when his book is supposed to be restricted to "a simple government"). He quotes iffy statistics (I do not really trust statistics anyways, but we conservatives have a nasty habit of doing horrible research). He is certainly affable, and like I already said I agree with most of his points, but all I read was typical regurgitation of Republican platform statements. This book did not really contribute anything new to the political conversation.

Tom Lange says

No surprise that this is basicly a "this is my platform" peice for a candidate. No problem there but also no real groundbreaking substance. This is, for the most part, one mans view on the state of society and the country. A view that he widely has already communcated on other platforms of media. The vast majority is conservative wish lists and arguments that conservatives have been talking about since the Reagan administration ended. Normally never making much headway even when the "conservative" gets elected. I agree with the majority of his 12 points in one way or another (although not completely) so the book is not hard to digest for someone of the same political viewpoint. The primary issue I am lockstep with Mike Huckabee on is he is one of the few that really push the "Fair Tax" theory. Most conservatives view "Flat Tax" as the better option but I think that would hit the poor harder then they would need to be. It also was not new to me to know this. Really the most interesting part of the book to me was in Chaptor 2 in which he discusses States Rights and how the Federal Government has effectavily bought the rights of the States from them. His writing style would be much like my own in that he writes as if he was sitting down talking to you. I don't mind that at all, but some literary elitists may find it not of high standards. Overall it's an average checklist of the average christian conservatives political viewpoints.

Naomi says

I don't know how else to say it, but same stuff...different book. I love Mike Huckabee's story books, but his political books irritate me to no end and remind me why I would never vote for him for President. In all political books from every angle, the same thing is said over and over and over again with either different authors or even the same authors recycling information. Huckabee did have some interesting study results in the book, but it wasn't enough to keep my interest.

Amber says

Honestly, this book was too much for me. I couldn't get through it. He has a few.. VERY few accurate points, and if the subject matter .. or his opinions were in less contrast to mine he would be an easy author to

read. But to Mike Huckabee the world exists in black and white, .. which is never the case when it comes to people.

Purely on writing style I found it to be easy and friendly. Much like having a conversation.

... Its just a conversation I would walk away from because I'm not into posturing stereotypes and slander. But to each their own.

Michael says

I find Mike Huckabee to be entirely affable. He just seems like a nice man. Sure, he's a politician and sometimes says foolish things (as he did today on some radio show), but overall, he's incredibly likable. Does he have a snowball's chance in Hell of becoming President? I don't think so: he's too conservative, I think, to have wide appeal to the moderates and independents who actually elect Presidents in this country. With that said...who knows? Could anyone have predicted Barack Obama five or six years ago? I certainly didn't. Anyone truly can become President. What a great country!

This is Governor Huckabee's latest book. He lays out twelve areas of concern about America, as well as telling about how he'd approach each issue. Much of what he writes is, in fact, common sense (secure borders, energy independence, etc.) I found myself nodding along much more often than I disagreed. The book is written with a very chatty tone, full of stories and anecdotes that make the author's point. It was a fast read.

So here is my first political book for the POTUS 12 cycle which begins...last month. Newt Gingrich is ready to throw his hat into the ring sooner rather than later. Mike Huckabee may, or may not run (I'm thinking he will). Romney, of course. Personally I don't see an easy win for the GOP this time through: the President is excellent at getting elected, and there simply isn't a clear GOP front runner. With that said, there will be unlimited corporate and union spending this time around, so anything could happen. Would I vote for Mike Huckabee? For the time being, I'd have to give a definite maybe.

Liv says

Beyond horrible. Negative five stars. Might actually be the most sickening and stupid book I have ever read.
