

Foreword

In my inaugural address, I declared: “Our democracy must be not only the envy of the world but the engine of our own renewal. There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America.”

In the first 6 months of our Administration, we called upon America’s historic strengths to revitalize the economy, restore the middle class, rebuild our national security for a new era, and renew the people’s sense of national community and their faith in public institutions.

We built upon the entrepreneurial energy of our free enterprise system with an economic plan that cut the Federal deficit, invested in our workers’ skills, expanded college opportunity for the sons and daughters of the middle class, rewarded the efforts of the working poor, and helped businesses expand and create new jobs. We strengthened American families with the Family and Medical Leave Act, which helps Americans be good parents and good workers. We enhanced America’s world leadership with efforts to open foreign markets, ensure the readiness of our military forces, promote democracy abroad, preserve our planet’s natural environment, and advance regional security in Europe, Asia, the Mideast, and throughout the world. We strengthened America’s sense of community with initiatives here at home to encourage young people to serve their country, to protect our people from violent crime and drug abuse, and to reinvent government to make it reflect American values. And we began the work of preserving what is right, and fixing what is wrong, with America’s health care system.

Most of all, this volume is a testimonial to those who embody what is best about America, the citizens of our country. The American people called for the changes chronicled in this volume; they held the President and the Congress accountable for achieving these changes; and, in countless actions in their own lives—from raising their children with values of responsibility and faith to helping to keep their own neighborhoods safe from crime and violence—they are continuing the work of renewing our democracy.

William Clinton