

Newt Gingrich: Winning the Future: A 21st Century Contract with America

Contributed by Deboarh Weigel

Possible future presidential candidate, Newt Gingrich, once again proves himself to be brilliant and insightful. In *Winning the Future*, Gingrich explains difficult concepts in a manner that anyone can understand. His theories can easily be passed as common sense, and it is definitely one of the most interesting books I have read this year.

This summer, I had the opportunity to meet Gingrich himself and he perfectly models everyone's favorite professor. His lectures were soft-spoken but serious and the entire room hung on every word. *Winning the Future* has the same tone and attitude and the content is phenomenal.

Throughout *Winning the Future*, Gingrich explains how we need to defend the war on terror, reform social security, defend *under God* and the *centrality of our Creator* in defining America, balance the Federal budget and what you can do to win the future. He offers great appendixes at the end that include the First Contract with America and *Our Creator in the Capital: A Walking Tour of God in Washington D.C.*

Gingrich's website describes in detail the purpose of his book: *Today America is faced with five challenges that, taken collectively, are as daunting and difficult as any America has confronted. Winning the future will require hard work, innovation, leadership, and a movement by our generation.*

The challenges we face are:

1. The potential for terrorists and rogue dictatorships to acquire and use nuclear or biological weapons.
2. The effort to drive God out of American public life.
3. The possibility that America will lose the patriotic sense of itself as a unique civilization.
4. The challenge of China and India will require transformations in litigation, education, taxation, regulation, environmental and health policies for America to continue to be the most successful economy in the world and the best source of high paying jobs and enough economic growth to sustain the Baby Boomers and their children when they retire, especially the transformation of math and science education in America. This is the single greatest challenge to our continued economic and national security leadership. Without a profound improvement in math and science learning, America will simply not be able to sustain its national security nor compete for high value jobs in the world market.
5. The very success of more people living longer will require dramatic transformation in pensions, Social Security and health so that seniors can have active, healthy aging and long term living without the demands on Social Security, Medicare, and related government programs collapsing the current system.

One of my favorite points Gingrich makes in his book is that it is *Freedom of Religion, Not freedom from Religion*. Gingrich states, *The Bill of Rights was designed to protect freedom of religion not freedom from religion. Any serious look at the Founding Fathers and their behavior would reveal how much they believed in freedom of religion and how deeply they would have opposed government trying to create freedom from religion.*

These are not empty or lofty points. Gingrich provides examples for each of our founding fathers and how they believed in this principle. *John Adams warned that "it is Religion and Morality alone, which can establish the Principles upon which freedom can securely stand."* *Thomas Jefferson and James Madison both attended church services in the Capitol. Church services were held in the Capitol until after the end of the Civil War. Imagine liberals hearing of such an atrocity.*

I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a quick and easy read, simply explaining where America should be headed in the future.