

The Good Fight

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The Senate Majority Leader presents a narrative tale of Washington politics interspersed with the story of his own life, during which he describes his impoverished rural childhood, his dangerous stint at the head of Nevada's Gaming Commission, and his decades in Congress.

Senator Harry Reid was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1982, then to the U.S. Senate in 1986. Currently serving his fourth term as senator, he was unanimously elected Senate Minority Leader in 2004, and after the elections of 2006, Senate Majority Leader.

Mark Warren is executive editor of Esquire magazine, where he has worked since 1988, directing much of the magazine's political writing. Previously, he directed or worked on several national, state, and local political campaigns out of Austin, Texas. Reid became the leader of the Democrats in the Senate in 2004 when his friend, Tom Daschle of South Dakota, lost his reelection in a bitterly contested race as the Republicans pushed for the kind of domination that White House advisor Karl Rove hoped would last a generation or longer. Reid was part of the push back as Democrats began defying President Bush, most prominently on issues of the war in Iraq and efforts to privatize Social Security. Reid recalls his own support of the war, his regrets, and the sickening realization that Congress had been misled. He is blunt in his criticism of Bush, acknowledging that the animosity is likely mutual. Reid alternates between details of political battles in Washington, D.C., and the struggle of growing up in the hardscrabble gold-mining town of Searchlight, Nevada. The town had no steady schoolteacher but plenty of prostitutes, and no indoor plumbing in most houses. The reader might expect the switch between the two to be jarring, but both arenas are populated with interesting characters and hard-fought battles. --Vanessa Bush
Other Books

The Good Fight, More than six years after the September 11 attacks, the close friendship forged between George W. Bush and John Howard remains. But in their nations more broadly, the common purpose has withered, drained by the sense that both men have failed the moral and intellectual challenges of that day. In this powerful and provocative book, Peter Beinart offers a new liberal vision, based on principles liberals too often forget: that America's greatness cannot simply be asserted, it must be proved. That American leadership is not American empire. And that liberalism cannot merely define itself against the right, but must fervently oppose the totalitarianism that stalks the Islamic world today. Peter Beinart's The Good Fight is a passionate rejoinder to the conservatives who have ruled Washington since 9/11. Beinart argues that America can again embrace the creed that brought it greatness in the past, but only if liberals remember that democracy begins at home. Above all, it is a call for liberals to revive the spirit that once swept America, and inspired the world.

Victor Davis Hanson, "The Iron Veil," in Victor Davis Hanson, An Autumn of War: What America Learned from September 11 and the War on Terrorism, 1st ed. New York: Anchor Books, 2002, p. 200-113 "Jefferson, Rousseau or ..."