



The Price of Politics

By Bob Woodward

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See how and why Washington is not functioning.

Bob Woodward's freshly reported, thirty-five-page Afterword to his national bestseller, *The Price of Politics*, provides a detailed, often verbatim account of what happened in the dramatic "fiscal cliff" face-off at the end of 2012 between President Obama and the Republicans.

Now it's happening again. In fall 2013, Washington faces a new round of budget and fiscal wars that could derail the American and global economies.

"We are primarily a blocking majority," said Michael Sommers, Speaker John Boehner's chief of staff, summarizing the House Republican position.

It was the land of no-compromise:

On health care cuts over ten years, Boehner suggested to Obama, you are \$400 billion, I'm at \$600 billion. "Can we split the difference here? Can we land at \$500 billion?"

"Four hundred billion is it," Obama replied. "I just can't see how we go any further on that."

After making \$120 billion in other concessions, Obama pleaded with Boehner, "What is it about the politics?"

"My guys just aren't there," Boehner replied.

"We are \$150 billion off, man. I don't get it. There's something I don't get."

The Price of Politics chronicles the inside story of how President Obama and the U.S. Congress tried, and failed, to restore the American economy and set it on a course to fiscal stability. Woodward pierces the secretive world of Washington policymaking once again, with a close-up story crafted from meeting notes, documents, working papers, and interviews with key players, including President Obama and House Speaker John Boehner. Woodward lays bare the broken relationship between President Obama and the Congress.

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Editorial Review

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Woodward's seventeenth book takes interested readers—and they will need to be very interested—behind closed doors to observe how the nation's debt crisis developed over the past three-and-a-half years. Copious interviews with major players in this stand-off between the president and congressional Republicans (more than 100 individuals, so the author states) led the author to prepare a you-are-there, fly-on-wall approach to detailing the "struggle...to manage federal spending and tax policy." The specific focus, and subsequently a big chunk of the book, centers on the 44-day high-stakes negotiations between the two sides in June and July, 2011, a brutal haggling over raising the debt ceiling. The cast in this drama is huge, but of course President Obama and House Speaker John Boehner loom largest upon the stage. These two key players attempted to reach a "grand bargain" that would ease the crisis for some time to come. Woodward's purpose is to reveal how close they came and why an agreement failed. If readers are looking for an unbiased chronicle of these events, they better look elsewhere. Woodward appears to have walked into the writing of this book ready to lay most of the blame on the president. Some journalists in the know have reported that there is really nothing new here, but political junkies surely will read to the last page. For most readers, though, much of this will be TMI. --Brad Hooper

Review

"A highly detailed dissection of the debt-limit negotiations. ... A remarkable achievement. ... Woodward, being Woodward, digs deeper and draws more out of the protagonists than anyone else has." --Jeff Shesol, "The Washington Post"

"Groundbreaking" --David Gregory, NBC's Meet the Press

"Takes us inside the room once again." --Charlie Rose

"Fabulous book and great reporting." --Norah O'Donnell, CBS This Morning

"Bob Woodward, in characteristic fashion, does his competitors one better by filling in blanks and providing even finer detail." --Miranda Green, "The Daily Beast"

"A book everyone is talking about." --Diane Sawyer, ABC

"A very revealing, insightful book." --Sean Hannity, Fox News, "Hannity"

"Required Reading" --Elizabeth Titus, Politico

"Almost every bookshelf in the U.S. capital holds a thin volume called "13 Days", Robert F. Kennedy's account of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Memo to Washington: Make room on those shelves for Bob Woodward's latest behind-the-scenes book, "The Price of Politics", which might as well have been called "44 Days". The centerpiece is a riveting account of the tedious negotiations to reach a 'grand bargain' on the federal budget." --David M. Shirkman, Bloomberg Businessweek"

About the Author

Bob Woodward is an associate editor at *The Washington Post*, where he has worked for forty-four years. He has shared in two Pulitzer Prizes, first for *The Washington Post's* coverage of the Watergate scandal, and later for coverage of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He has authored or coauthored twelve #1 national nonfiction bestsellers. He has two daughters, Tali and Diana, and lives in Washington, DC, with his wife, writer Elsa Walsh.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marcos Gorman:

The reserve untitled *The Price of Politics* is the book that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to an individual. The language that author use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The copy writer was did a lot of study when write the book, hence the information that they share to you is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of *The Price of Politics* from the publisher to make you considerably more enjoy free time.

Muriel Colvard:

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