A Time to Fight: Reclaiming a Fair and Just America by Jim Webb

“I’m the only person in the history of Virginia elected to statewide office with a Union card, two Purple Hearts, and three tattoos.

Jim Webb—the bestselling author and now the celebrated, outspoken U.S. Senator from Virginia—presents a clear-eyed, hard-hitting plan of attack for putting government to work for the people, rather than special interests, and for restoring the country’s standing around the world.

Infused with the intelligence, force, and firebrand style that has earned Senator Jim Webb enormous national attention from his earliest days in office, A Time to Fight offers a thorough and provocative assessment of
the thorniest issues Americans face today, along with cogent solutions drawn from Webbs lifetime of experience as a much-decorated Marine, a widely traveled, award-winning journalist and novelist, a highly placed member of the Reagan administration, a Senator with a son who fought as a Marine in Iraq and, perhaps most important, a proud scion of Americas vast but frequently ignored working class.

Webb exposes how America has entered a dangerous, unprecedented cycle of seemingly unsolvable unknowns. Our economic policies, particularly in this age of globalization, have produced widely divergent results leading to a country calcifying along class lines. Our demographic makeup has been altered dramatically and is set to keep on changing, through both legal and illegal immigration. Our editorialists and politicians talk about the American dream, and some urge us to bring democracy to the rest of the world. But more than two million Americans are now in prison, by far the highest incarceration rate in the so-called advanced world. Our foreign policy is confused, without clear direction; increasingly vulnerable to such largely unexamined long-term threats as Chinas emerging power while it has become bogged down in the never-ending struggles of the Middle East. As this drift toward societal regression has taken place, Americas leadership has largely been paralyzed, unable or unwilling to stop the slide. Where are the leaders? Webb asks. Has our political process become so compromised by powerful interest groups and the threat of character assassination that even the best among us will not dare to speak honestly about the solutions that might bring us back to common sense and fundamental fairness?

Through vivid personal narratives of the struggles members of his family faced, and citing the courageous actions of presidents ranging from Andrew Jackson to Teddy Roosevelt to Dwight Eisenhower, A Time to Fight provides specific, viable ideas for restoring fairness to our economic system, correcting the direction of national security efforts, ending Americas military occupation of Iraq, and developing greater government accountability. Webb brings a fresh perspective to political dynamics that have shaped our country. His stirring, populist manifesto calls upon voters to make the choices that will change America for the better in this election season.

Features:
* ISBN13: 9780767928359
* Condition: NEW
* Notes: Brand New from Publisher. No Remainder Mark.
* Click here to view our Condition Guide and Shipping Prices
Dear Senator Webb:

Here in Afghanistan, where I am one of those many contractors you are rightly concerned about, books and magazines are left in common areas for others to read. If not for that, I'd probably have never known of your *A TIME TO FIGHT*.

But how could I resist a book by one, as the inside jacket put it, "...is the only man in the history of Virginia elected to statewide office with a union card, two Purple Hearts, and three tattoos."

We happen to be the same age. My 36 years in the Army began in 1967, just a year before you graduated from the Naval Academy and went to Vietnam. Fortunately, the Army, in its infinite wisdom, sent me to Thailand, knowing I wouldn't have lasted a week as the infantryman you were in that jungle meat grinder. (Let me commend to you *PLATOON LEADER*, by James McDonough, another first-line combat leader’s experience in Vietnam and on my Deserted Island Books list.)

Your valor in combat would be enough, but it's not the only thing I admire you for. *A TIME TO FIGHT* shows you are well-travelled and have experience in military administration, business, journalism and literature. You're very intelligent, able to use that intelligence to see through the haze, able to articulate your thoughts to those of us not able to see so clearly. You've also got a heart - as we Jews say, you're a mensh - unwilling to ignore the less gifted, less fortunate members of our society.

Some notes I scribbled as I read your book:

* In the chapter, "Strategy Is Not a Board Game," you deplore our country's recent leaders for not having a strategy for America, but I'd argue that President Bush's policy of pre-emptive war and the desire to spread democracy to the Middle East seemed to me quite strategic. Maybe not the right national strategy, certainly not the one you agree with, but it was clearly a foundation on which to base tactical decisions.

* That Marine 3-star at the Pentagon meeting twenty years ago, when interrupted by a civilian with "General, we don't pay you to think," what did he do? Did he sit through the rest of the meeting? I can't imagine I would, but I'm wondering what he then said or did. Or if there were any consequences to the civilian.
I supported our removing Saddam's regime. I still believe it was a just war, if only to remove a despot, but with too little thought given to "What happens after we take Baghdad?" On page 204, you write: "...many of our military and our veterans still believe strongly that in the tenor of the times, our national goals in Vietnam were commendable, even though the policies that evolved to carry them out had become acutely flawed." Substitute Iraq for Vietnam, and it's exactly what I'm thinking now.

Invading Iraq and deposing Saddam was not a mistake. The mistake was staying there, thinking we would be welcomed liberators and that democracy would flourish. Or maybe not a mistake. Maybe the lost blood and treasure, and I don't intend to minimize the pain of just how much it has been, will in the end have been worth it, both from the foreign policy lessons we've learned and from the new generation of experienced warriors to keep our military strong.

With your unwillingness to involve the US in a Middle East war, what would you do about Afghanistan? Arguments are convincing on both sides of staying/leaving. I'd sure like to hear your analysis.

Who could not agree with your assessment of CEOs being grossly overpaid while their employees' wages stagnate. The statistics you cite, comparing our nation's CEO compensation with those of other countries, are astonishing. But I hope you don't propose that the government interfere with these foolish practices. We have to let the marketplace fix this, as it eventually will. It is inevitable, since the advent of the container ship, that manufacturing jobs will go where the worker's pay is a tenth of ours. And yes, I hold unions partly to blame for not making us more efficient, for unproductive work rules, for protecting incompetent or uncaring employees.

The chapter on GEN MacArthur was fascinating and helps put our subsequent wars and how we fought them in perspective.

Your excellent chapter on the military-industrial complex, if coming from anyone else, could be easily dismissed. But like Nixon going to China, you have the credentials (Secretary of the Navy, decorated USMC Vietnam veteran) to state the unpopular. You helped me better see the revolving door that too many senior military leaders take, one day in uniform, the next working for the companies doing billion-dollar business with the Pentagon, and the impact that can have on programs and procurement. Your observations of the problems with contractors on the battlefield ring true to me, as I've been one in two of the past four years.

You blamed the Bush administration for not doing more to solve the Israeli-Palestinian problem. I happen to think President Bush's strong support for Israel was exactly right. I sense you, like most Democrats, don't agree. You would still get my vote because, as much as I love Israel,
it's America I love more, and I trust your judgment to be the leader America needs. But please never abandon Israel to its mortal enemies.

* I was in your corner many chapters earlier, but your second-to-last one, "A Criminal Injustice," sealed the decision. Almost twenty years ago I read THE CASE FOR LEGALIZING DRUGS, by Richard L. Miller, and ever since have been convinced, for many of the reasons you stated, that our "war on drugs" is the worst self-inflicted wound America has ever suffered except, of course, the Civil War. At least that war was committed for principle. This "war" is over morality, and misguided morality at that. Alcohol, legal; more benign mind-altering drugs, not. Someday, when sanity returns, we'll look back at this period in our history and marvel we could ever have been so destructive to our own people. I applaud your courage; we both know this chapter will come back to bite you in your next election.

I think we elected the wrong Democrat as President in 2008. I wish you were ten years younger. You might be too old, at age 70, to run in 2016, but a meager check is enclosed for your next Senatorial race's campaign expenses in 2012. I wish the contribution had many more zeroes. It's the first check I've sent a political leader since John McCain's run for the presidency in 2000. Imagine how different our country - the world - would be if he had won. As I saw so often in my own military career, leadership makes the difference. I hope you have a chance to lead us out of our current wilderness.

Thank you for your service to our country, both during the Vietnam War and today. I sleep a little better knowing you are in the US Senate. Though you have but one vote, I'm sure your thoughts and voice influence many of your peers.

Sincerely,

Steve Kohn

-----------

13 Mar 10. Now I'm not so sure about Mr Webb's judgment.

The Marine Corps Times reports that Webb suggested that U.S. commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan should reconsider allowing "alcohol for stress relief."

Alcohol causes enough tragedy in America, but to allow it in an environment where everyone is ARMED? Where tempers are short, stress is high, grievances are frequent?

Maybe in rear areas, under controlled situations, after weapons have been secured from the soldier.
But even then, I'd say it's a bad idea. Alcohol, common sense and young men just don't mix.

I need to hear Mr Webb's reasoning on this, because right now I'm regretting the con

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
A Time to Fight: Reclaiming a Fair and Just America by Jim Webb 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!