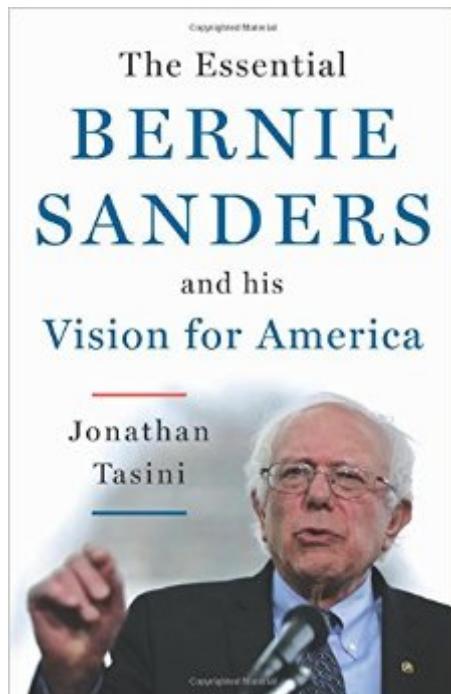


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The Essential Bernie Sanders And His Vision For America



Synopsis

Meet the essential Bernie Sandersâ •an authentic and uncompromising champion of the people. Independent United States Senator Bernie Sandersâ •with a thirty-five-year career in public service, first as Burlington, Vermontâ ™s mayor, then as Vermontâ ™s sole representative to Congress, and currently as a United States senatorâ •is now campaigning to become president of the United States. His goal is to build a movement to take back our country from the rich and powerful, and return it to its rightful ownersâ •we, the American people. Sandersâ ™ common sense, populist message is resonating with Democrats, Republicans, independents, as well as ordinary working- and middle-class Americans from all walks of life, including millennials, seniors, veterans, immigrants, environmentalists, union workers, and more. In this short, accessible book, author Jonathan Tasini draws heavily from Sandersâ ™ ample public record of speeches, statements, and interviews, and couples his working-class spirit with specific legislation he has championed on a number of core proposals that comprise a broader peopleâ ™s agenda for America, including: A national, single-payer health care system; Free public higher education; Taking on wealth and income inequality; Preserving Social Security; Caring for our veterans; Ensuring civil rights for all; Combatting climate change; Reforming Wall Street, and much more. The Essential Bernie Sanders and His Vision for America is a must-read for anyone who shares a vision for a forward-looking, sustainable, and more just United States of America, and is eager to change the course of history.

Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Chelsea Green Publishing (September 8, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1603586679

ISBN-13: 978-1603586672

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.4 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsâ • See all reviewsâ (108 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #298,796 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #132 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > United States > Legislative Branch #430 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > Elections #450 in Books > Business & Money > Finance > Corporate Finance

Customer Reviews

Note: Of course the "great person" part of the title stems from my personal sentiment and is therefore subjective. At first it was "great politician" but I felt like that would be a vast understatement and in some way, injudicious degradation. A great politician might not be a highly revered epithet on any intellectual scale. But Sanders is more. He's a clear-headed, ideologically transparent, shrewd humanist. I subscribe to the notion of regarding one who harbors the wonderful value of secularity, one who puts his money where his mouth is as a true humanist - bravely spearheading nonconformist reform, one who values rational thinking, one who's proudly liberated from dogma, and one who resides, especially in the political sphere, as one who deserves adorned veneration at the very least. As we all know, Bernie Sanders is a Democratic nominee currently running for president. The goal of the book as stated by the author is to present Sander's authenticity, accomplishments, and vision for the United States. This book is systematically tabulated by titled sections ('chapters'), the focus of each is to concisely illuminate Bernie's opinions and sentiments on the subject matter with his own interpolated dialogue. The order is as follows:

Preface and Introduction- The preface basically outlining the author's connection with Sanders and the introduction is an interpolation of his commencement for [presidential] candidacy speech.

1. Economy- 10 examples of how we can raise revenue and reduce spending in a fair way (e.g. stop corporations from using tax havens, robin hood tax on Wall Street speculators, progressive estate tax, etc)

2. Health Care- Supporter of single-payer, Medicare-for-all health care system- ACA didn't go far enough- High costs of prescription drugs

3. Education- Ending student debt; free tuition- College for All Act- Tuition in comparison to other countries- Speculation fee on stock transactions to harness money for plan

4. Environment- Supports climate change activism- Introduced the Climate Protection Act

5. Taxes- Strongly opposed to Bush tax cuts- Big corporations with tax breaks- Taxing the wealthy- Proposal to raise estate tax on a few hundred of the wealthiest families

6. Wall Street- Financial transactions tax- Federal Reserve bailouts- Reckless behavior on wall street- Audit of Federal Reserve

7. Workers- Union support- Lack of health insurance- Diminishing wealth- Labor conditions

8. Family Values- Paid leave and vacation for workers (esp pregnant women)- FAMILY Act- LGBTQ and women's right issues

9. Society- Expand Social Security, medicare, and medicaid- Wants to lift cap on social security payroll taxes- Social Securities Expansion Act- Keeping Our Social Security Promises Act

10. Politics- Unfair campaign funding

11. Infrastructure- D+ infrastructure grade by American Society of Civil Engineers- Deficient bridges and old pipes- Heavy investment in infrastructure

12. Veterans- Increased benefits wanted- Health care

13. Agriculture-GMO Labeling- Dairy farmer support- Abated milk prices and recession

14. Immigration- DREAM ACT- Immokalee Florida immigrant workers situation- Amount

living poverty- NAFTA trade deal15. Civil Rights- Racism and hate groups- Colored community16. Foreign Policy- Semi pacifism- Amount spent on wars, etc- Profligate Pentagon spending17. Foreign Trade- NAFTA opposition- Offshoring- Abated amount of manufacturing jobs18. Media- Net Neutrality- Big media corporation oligarchies19. Government Oversight- The fed- Wall Street bailouts- Federal Reserve audit findings20. Personal Liberty- Government surveillance- Gun ControlAnd a brief biography of Bernie.4.5/5

This book is a must have for any Bernie supporter or organizer! The majority of the text is straight from Bernie's mouth - his speeches, policy proposals, and public addresses with added comments from the author. Bernie is a truly unique politician in so many ways, one of his many strengths is speaking in a way that voters can easily understand. Author Jonathan Tasini leverages this skill by showcasing Bernie's words exactly as he said them. Tasini wrote this book with organizers in mind; chapters are short and very easy to digest making it ideal for use while educating others about Bernie's progressive plans. I read most of the book myself in just a couple days and shared several chapters with some Bernie-skeptics close to me. The response is unanimously positive! The text provides a comprehensive look at Bernie's stance on all of the important issues such as healthcare, workers rights, defense, international trade, campaign finance, climate change, education, and more. The language is very easy to understand and really provides a clear understanding of HOW Bernie plans to make the necessary policy changes to save our country. I highly recommend this incredibly informative book for anyone who has even the slightest interest in Bernie Sanders!

#feelthebern

The Sanders campaign should thank Jonathan Tasini for such a timely compilation of the senator's speeches over the last decade. I was struck by Sanders's attention to the places he visits and the people whom he meets. Visiting China, he notes that a Wal-Mart appears stocked with American brand-name goods, simple soaps and the like. His interest perked, he asks the manager what percentage were actually made in the U.S.--less than 1% he learns. It's not surprising; some 50,000 U.S. factories closed down from 2001-2011. Back home, Sanders listens to the financial struggles of retired folks trying to get by on Social Security. For many, Social Security is their only income, and every cost-of-living adjustment counts towards their getting by, or if no cola, moving closer to the edge of ruin. In another section, Sanders speaks with veterans, learning the reason so many have bad teeth is that their dental care is not covered. We're presented with Sanders's vision of all the ways people in the U.S. suffer from class inequality and a grossly inadequate safety net of public

housing, health care, education and other basic goods. But having learned about his diagnosis of America's ills, I wish the Sanders campaign would now turn to strategy. Which of the many programs he supports can best serve as a wedge to begin the process of social reform? How will he finance it? How will he get a bill through Congress? I'd also like to know how Sanders proposes to reboot industry in the U.S. Which industries can be brought back from overseas? Can we learn to accept paying more for American made goods if we know their workers make living wages? Just what new American industries could produce goods competitive on the world market?

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