

On THE GREATNESS OF AMERICA

That is the true genius of America, a faith in the simple dreams of its people, the insistence on small miracles. (2004 Democratic Convention)

The true test of the American ideal is whether we're able to recognize our failings and then rise together to meet the challenges of our time. (June 4, 2005)

On CHANGE:

Change doesn't come *from* Washington. Change comes *to* Washington. (DNC speech, Aug. 28, 2008)

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek. (Feb. 5, 2008)

On HOPE

Hope is what led a band of colonists to rise up against an empire; what led the greatest of generations to free a continent and heal a nation; what led young women and young men to sit at lunch counters and brave fire hoses and march through Selma and Montgomery for freedom's cause. Hope is what led me here today--with a father from Kenya, a mother from Kansas; and a story that could only happen in the United States of America. Hope is the bedrock of this nation; the belief that our destiny will not be written for us, but by us; by all those men and women who are not content to settle for the world as it is; who have courage to remake the world as it should be. (Jan. 3, 2008)

YES WE CAN! (campaign slogan, 2008)

On COMPROMISE IN POLITICS

The challenges we face require tough choices, and Democrats as well as Republicans will need to cast off the worn-out ideas and politics of the past... The reality of gun ownership may be different for hunters in rural Ohio than for those plagued by gang-violence in Cleveland, but don't tell me we can't uphold the Second Amendment while keeping AK-47s out of the hands of criminals. I know there are differences on same-sex marriage, but surely we can agree that our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters deserve to visit the person they love in the hospital and to live lives free of discrimination. Passions fly on immigration, but I don't know anyone who benefits when a mother is separated from her infant child or an employer undercuts American wages by hiring illegal workers. This too is part of America's promise - the promise of a democracy where we can find the strength and grace to bridge divides and unite in common effort. (Aug. 28, 2008)

On THE ECONOMY

Americans have always pursued our dreams within a free market that has been the engine of our progress. It's a market that has created a prosperity that is the envy of the world, and rewarded the innovators and risk-takers who have made America a beacon of science, and technology, and discovery. But the American economy has worked in large part because we have guided the market's invisible hand with a higher principle - that America prospers when all Americans can prosper. That is why we have put in place rules of the road to make competition fair, and open, and honest. (Sep. 16, 2008)

On DEFEATING TERRORISM

And, where the stakes are the highest—in the war on terror—we cannot possibly succeed without extraordinary international cooperation. Effective international police actions require the highest degree of intelligence sharing, planning and collaborative enforcement. (July 12, 2004)

We need not throw away 200 years of American jurisprudence while we fight terrorism. We need not choose between our most deeply held values, and keeping this nation safe. (Jun. 18, 2008)

You don't defeat a terrorist network that operates in eighty countries by occupying Iraq. (Jul. 31, 2008)