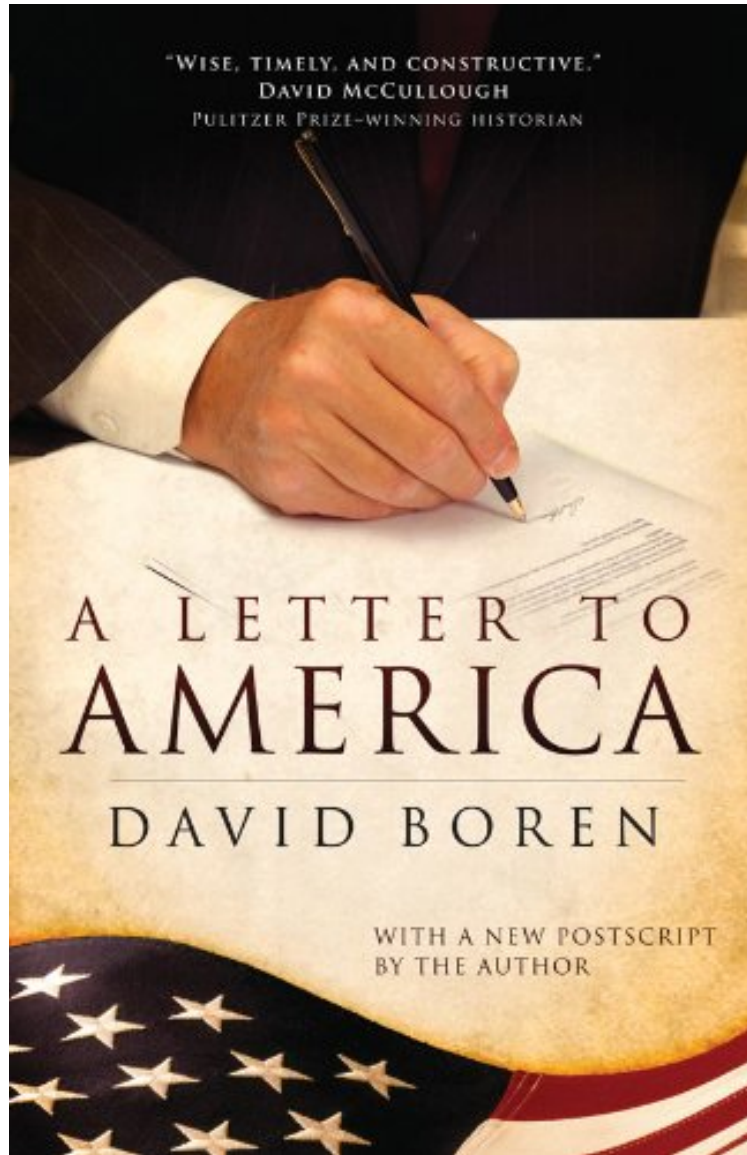


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## A Letter to America

David L. Boren

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**David L. Boren : A Letter to America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Letter to America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. When do we get solutions?By Theodore A. RushtonIn the introduction, Boren states, "One of our greatest shortcomings as Americans is our failure to be intellectually curious about what is happening to us as a people." This book is exemplifies such lack of curiosity. Boren lucidly outlines current and growing problems, but he doesn't offer solutions other than to "Be Nice" or very briefly "increased taxation of luxury items", adoption of "cost-saving preventive medical actions" and perhaps a few revisions to Social

Security, Medicare and deficit financing. Granted, in February 2008 he could hardly foresee the collapse of the economy ... He does have one very intriguing sentence just seven pages from the end, "Historian Gordon Wood argues that a unique combination of factors produced a first generation of leaders of such remarkable wisdom, foresight and civility that they will never be surpassed." He's describing Canada. That "unique combination of factors" he refers to was British rule until 1776. If America has not produced "leaders of such remarkable wisdom, foresight and civility" since then, perhaps something is basically wrong with the founding ideology. Yet, apart from a good health care and maple syrup -- does any American really want Canada? Some of his major complaints center on the cost of elections. Okay, elections are national discussions of issues; is there anything in the First Amendment that says freedom of speech should be limited or controlled when elections are involved? It's true one cannot shout "Fire!" in a crowded theatre; but is there a reason to ban someone from shouting "Vote for Boren!" any time they please? The result may be a "fatal" stampede in both situations; but who will cite fatalities in the second case? Indeed, these are interesting times. It's basic enough to describe just how interesting these times have become, and to debate whether or not tomorrow will be even more interesting ... but isn't it time someone offered ideological solutions instead of partisan blather?

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A letter from a great American

By Al Jay

In 1974 I began hearing about a young Oklahoma state congressman named David Boren who was considering a run for the state governor's office. At the time I was traveling for a major drug company and part of my territory was his hometown of Seminole, Oklahoma. So, on my next trip to Seminole I stopped by his office to try to get a sense of the Rhodes Scholar, attorney, and now hopeful candidate and to determine if I wanted to support his candidacy. Unfortunately, he was in Oklahoma City that day serving his district at the state capital. I did, however, get to visit with his law partner with whom I left my business card. I stayed in Durant and Shawnee the next two nights, returning home to Tulsa on a Thursday. In the stack of mail that my wife had placed on my desk was a two page, hand written letter from David Boren. He talked little of himself but instead thanked and encouraged me for being interested in our state's future. I joined "The Boren Broom Brigade" that day. I have never regretted that commitment. He was an outstanding governor, an exemplary three term U.S. Senator, and is unquestionably the most effective university president ever to serve O.U. A few months ago he and former Georgia Senator, Sam Nunn hosted a meeting of some of America's best and brightest leaders and statesmen. They organized the meeting out of a deep concern for the nation and the direction that our political system has taken in recent years. This book by Boren, *A LETTER TO AMERICA*, is a wake up call to each of us and should be required reading in each of our nation's high schools. His text says out loud what so many of us have been quietly worrying about; i.e., that our country is sliding into its final days of greatness. His command of the nation's history is inspiring, his experience in the halls of the U.S. Capital and his legendary ability to reason, communicate, and negotiate make the message of this book both alarming and hopeful. One cannot come away from this literary flashing red light without a fresh understanding of how partisan politics and greed have thrown a wrench into the machinery of our Federal system. The book is not only an urgent warning to America but is also a guide to the way back to the nation that we all grew up believing in - the America that is still within our reach to save.

Jim Hess

Bartlesville, Oklahoma

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Opened my eyes!

By S. Watkins

This book really opened my eyes to many issues. David Boren is a class act. After reading this book, I am sickened by our government and often wonder how we will ever fix this mess we have created... especially when the good honest people are trumped by the greedy and wealthy.

*A Letter to America* boldly faces the question of how long the United States, with only six percent of the world's population, can remain a global superpower. University of Oklahoma president David Boren explains with unsparing clarity why the country is at a crossroads and why decisive action is urgently needed. He draws on his experiences as the longest-serving chair of the U.S. Senate's Select Committee on Intelligence and as a state governor and leader of a major public university. Boren asserts major reforms to restore the ability of our political system to act responsibly. We have shared values, and we should use them to replace cynicism with hope and the determination to build a better future. Bipartisan cooperation on behalf of national interests needs to replace destructive partisanship, and we should not rule out electing a president independent of both existing parties. We must fashion a post-Cold War foreign policy that fits twenty-first-century realities--including several contending superpowers. We must adopt campaign finance reform that restores political power to the voters, rather than special interests. Universal health care coverage, budget deficit reduction, affordable higher education, and a more progressive tax structure will strengthen the middle class. Boren also describes how we can renew our emphasis on quality primary and secondary education, revitalize our spirit of community, and promote volunteerism. He urges the teaching of more American history and government, for without educated citizens our system cannot function and our rights will not be preserved. Unless we understand how we became great, we will not remain great.

Wise, timely, and constructive views from one of the leading public servants and educators of our time. This book should be read, re-read, and passed along to all who care about our country and its future.

David McCullough

Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *John Adams*

Here now is the letter to us all, the one we have been waiting for

dash;and sorely

need. It is a message of alarm but also of hope. Our problems as Americans are huge but most are of our own making and thus capable of our own fixing. I say, Amen, David Boren. Jim Lehrer Executive Editor, The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer David Boren's unique insights present us with a summons to action. Not all that he suggests will be palatable, but all should be debated. Above all, his letter calls us back from the precipice of narrow self-interest to the solid ground of the public good. Ruth Simmons President of Brown University A powerful, compelling analysis of the major crises facing the United States today. Treating each crisis in a nonpartisan, compassionate way, and believing that 'we Americans are natural problem solvers,' Boren suggests excellent solutions for the well-being of our own and future generations of Americans. Howard R. Lamar former President of Yale University David Boren defines our nation's challenges with clarity, common sense, and courage. Americans concerned about the country their children and grandchildren will find Boren's diagnosis and prescriptions refreshing, compelling and inspiring. Sam Nunn U.S. Senator from Georgia, 1972-1997 --From the Publisher About the Author A Rhodes Scholar, David Boren is President of the University of Oklahoma. A former governor of Oklahoma, he served as U.S. Senator from Oklahoma from 1979 to 1994 and chaired the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence from 1987 to 1993.