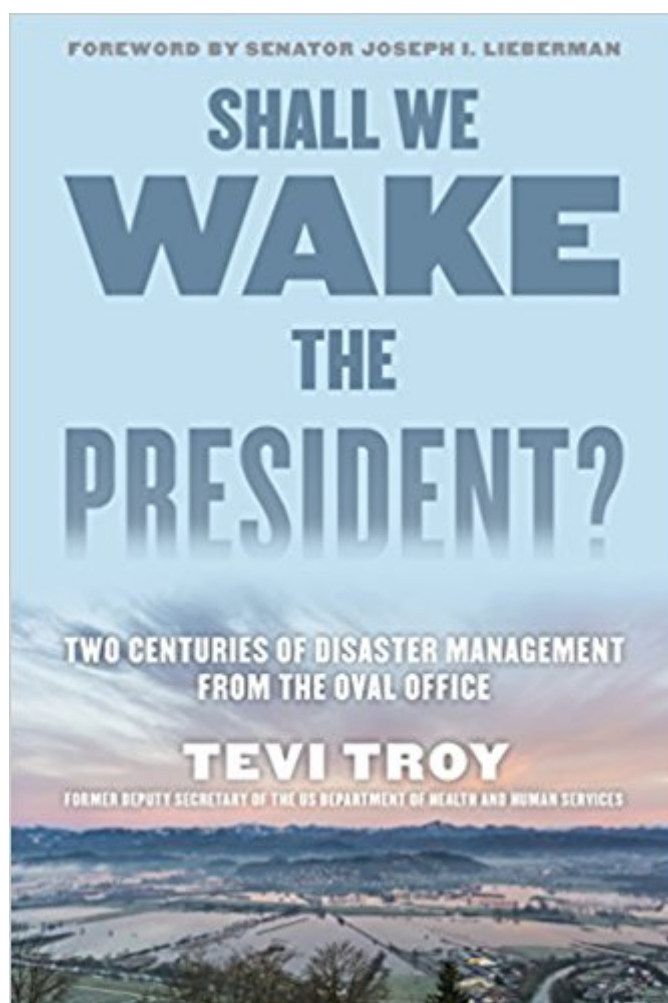


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# Shall We Wake The President?: Two Centuries Of Disaster Management From The Oval Office



## Synopsis

The history of presidential dealings with disasters shows that whatever their ideology, presidents need to be prepared to deal with unexpected crises. In recent years, the expectations have grown as the disasters seem to appear to be coming more frequently. Since 2001, numerous unpredictable crises, including terror attacks, massive storms, and an economic collapse, have shaken Americans to their core. It seems as if technology, for all of its beneficences, also provides mankind with increasingly powerful ways to wreak destruction, including nuclear explosions, bioterror attacks, and cyber-attacks. In addition, instantaneous and incessant communications technologies send us word of disasters taking place anywhere in the nation far more rapidly, giving disasters an immediacy that some may have lacked in the past. In 21st century America, the eyes of the American people look to the president to lead the response to whatever disasters happen to strike. President Obama and his team learned this and were taken aback by the sheer number of crises that a president needed to deal with, including swine flu, BP's Macondo oil spill, and the Somali pirates who attacked an American ship. Many of these did not quite reach disaster status, but Obama's reaction to the constant stream of crises was both revealing and unnerving: "Who thought we were going to have to deal with pirates?"

In *Shall We Wake the President?*, Tevi Troy, a presidential historian and former senior White House aide and deputy secretary of the Department of Health & Human Services, looks at the evolving role of the president in dealing with disasters, and looks at how our presidents have handled disasters throughout our history. He also looks at the likelihood of similar disasters befalling modern America, and details how smart policies today can help us avoid future crises, or can best react to them should they occur. In addition, he provides information on what individuals can do to prepare for disasters. This book includes sections on how American presidents have dealt with a variety of disasters, including health crises, terror attacks, economic upheaval, bioterror and cyber-attacks, natural disasters, and civil breakdown. In doing so, *Shall We Wake the President?* will provide lessons from presidents of the past that will inform policy strategies for presidents of the future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Leaders in every sector must do one thing: expect the unexpected. Crises cannot be predicted nor necessarily prevented, and sometimes leaders have to manage multiple crises at once. In *Shall We Wake the President?*, Tevi Troy provides very useful information for leaders in government and business, as well as personal preparation tips for families, based on his considerable management experience in the Executive Branch. The book is a good reminder that it isn't enough to prepare for the next day; instead, leaders must be well equipped to handle a crisis from day one. (Dana Perino, Former Press Secretary to President George W. Bush and co-host of "The Five" on Fox News) The art of leadership emerges not during calm, but in crises "21st-century, premodern, episodic, multiple, sudden, simmering, solvable and existential" and never more so in the age of spreading nuclear weapons and instant communications. Tevi Troy's fascinating new survey of how presidents dealt with disasters and near disasters is both historical and didactic: what has made a president in the past keep calm and yet forceful during an unforeseen challenge "and what can those in government and the public in their daily lives learn about dealing with catastrophes from our successful and not so successful Commanders-in Chief? (Victor Davis Hanson, Senior Fellow, the Hoover Institution, Stanford University and author of the national bestsellers *Carnage and Culture* and *A War Like No Other*) *Shall We Wake the President?* is an entertaining and informative tour of how presidents have responded to disasters, and what our country, including future presidents, should do when disaster strikes again. They should be prepared! Dr. Troy will convince you that farsighted preparation can make our nation stronger and our citizens safer. (Tom Ridge, former Governor of Pennsylvania and first Secretary of Homeland Security) I sure wish I had a copy of Tevi Troy's *Shall We Wake the President?* when I served in the White House. His emphasis on the importance of communications in successful disaster planning and response is spot on, and he taught me a great deal about how past presidents have taken on the challenge of disaster communications. (Ari Fleischer, former White House Press Secretary) Disasters, natural

and otherwise, can dominate the actions of government leaders and shape dramatically the lives of a country's residents. Preparing for the worst is a high-priority for both. Using historical analysis and his own experiences from inside the Bush White House, Tevi Troy provides a useful guide for presidents and all Americans for every variety of disaster we have seen or might see. (Norman Ornstein, co-author of *It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism*) Drawing on history as well as his own years in government, Tevi Troy has brought us an excellent, cogent and sensible look at the looming national traumas that have become a crucial part of an American President's responsibility and of the complex experience of being an American in the 21st century. (Michael Beschloss, Presidential Historian)

Tevi Troy is the founding president of the American Health Policy Institute, a former Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and a best-selling presidential historian. He is a frequent television and radio analyst, and has appeared on CNN, Fox News, Fox Business, CNBC, C-SPAN and The News Hour, among other outlets. On August 3, 2007, Dr. Troy was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As Deputy Secretary, Dr. Troy was the chief operating officer of the largest civilian department in the federal government, with a budget of \$716 billion and over 67,000 employees. In that position, he oversaw all operations, including Medicare, Medicaid, public health, medical research, food and drug safety, and disaster preparedness. He served as the regulatory policy officer for HHS, overseeing the development and approval of all HHS regulations and significant guidance. In addition, he led a number of initiatives at HHS, including combating bio-terrorism and public health emergency preparedness. Dr. Troy has extensive White House experience, having served in several high-level positions over a five-year period, culminating in his service as Deputy Assistant and then Acting Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy. At the White House, Dr. Troy also specialized in crisis management, creating intra-governmental consensus, and all aspects of policy development, including strategy, outreach and coalition building. Dr. Troy has held high-level positions on Capitol Hill as well. From 1998 to 2000, Dr. Troy served as the Policy Director for Senator John Ashcroft. From 1996 to 1998, Troy was Senior Domestic Policy Adviser and later Domestic Policy Director for the House Policy Committee, chaired by Christopher Cox. Before serving on Capitol Hill, Dr. Troy was a Researcher at the American Enterprise Institute. In addition to his senior level government work and health care expertise, Dr. Troy is also a presidential historian, making him one of only a handful of historians who has both

studied the White House and worked there at the highest levels. His 2013 book, *What Jefferson Read, Ike Watched, and Obama Tweeted: 200 Years of Popular Culture in the White House* (Regnery History), was a Washington Post bestseller. Dr. Troy is also the author of *Intellectuals and the American Presidency: Philosophers, Jesters, or Technicians?* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002), and has written over 150 articles, for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Forbes*, *The New Republic*, *Commentary*, *Reason*, *Investor's Business Daily*, *National Review*, *Washingtonian*, *The Weekly Standard*, and other publications. Dr. Troy has a B.S. in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University and an M.A and Ph.D. in American Civilization from the University of Texas at Austin. He lives in Maryland with his wife Kami and four children.

Once again, Tevi Troy writes an insightful and fascinating book on the American Presidency. Riveting from beginning to end, this book is unique in that it not only provides an inimitable perspective on the history of presidential crisis management, but it also astutely utilizes these anecdotes of presidential leadership (or lack thereof) to impart to the reader the importance of personal crisis management preparedness. Millions of Americans – myself included – have faced the reality that when disaster has struck, we have been forced to depend on family, neighbors and friends to confront the immediate consequences of the crisis before help arrived from federal or local authorities. A must read not only for any presidential history buff, but also for anyone who is (and should be) concerned about maintaining their family and communities safe during a disaster.

It's been a while since I've come across a book that I can't put down. This is so wildly interesting and well written. It peeks behind the scenes into how things work are your thing (as they are mine), this one is particularly for you.

An outstanding view of the incompetence in the past-a great map for the future.

a real eye opener!!!

thank you

affbdbad

A lot of interesting facts and opinions but reads like a manual for survival. Not all that exciting.

Another great book by Tevi Troy. The book is centered on how presidents have responded to emergencies over the past 200 years. Tevi artfully explains the circumstances of many of this nation's historic crisis. He then gives the details and ramifications of how our past presidents have responded to them. Many of these events are a long distant memory. However, at the time, they had huge political and sociological ramifications. The Watts Riots in the long hot summer, come to mind as an example. Because Tevi had worked among the leadership of the George W Bush administration and is a constant student of history, he is uniquely qualified to write a book like this and make it interesting. The biggest takeaway of this book, for me, rests around the size and scope of government. It seems that with every problem that occurs, we as citizens expect a rapid solution from our leadership. With this in mind, it is almost impossible for our government to get smaller and less expensive. We all agreed and clapped when Ronald Reagan once said "Government is not the solution to our problems. Government is the problem." However, tell that to the person who's home is flooded in a hurricane or tell that to a city that expects to be protected from terrorism.

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