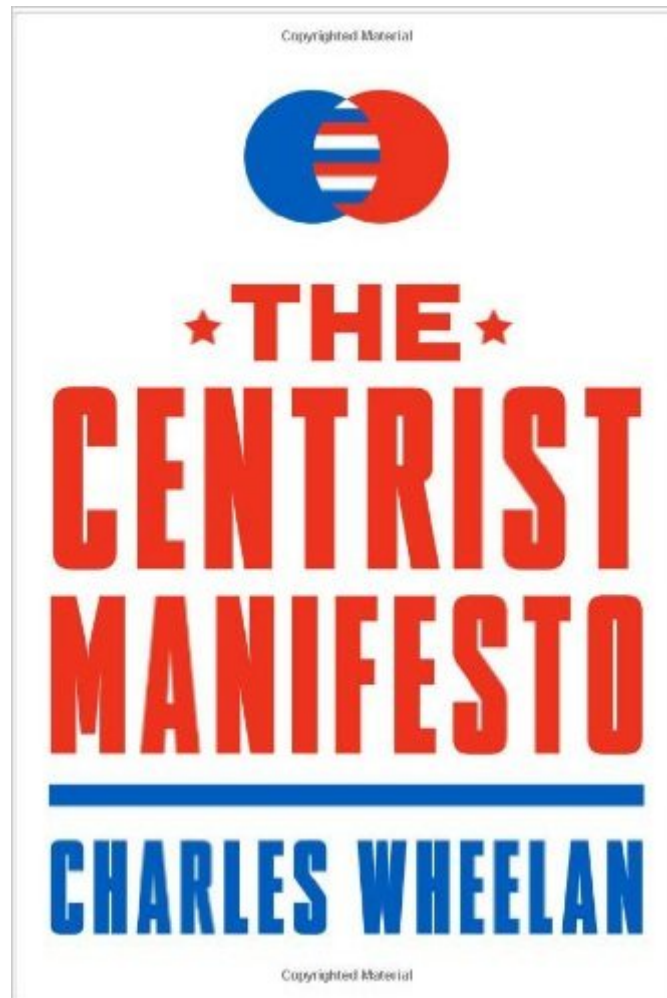


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The Centrist Manifesto



Synopsis

A vision and detailed road map to power for a new party that will champion America's rational center. From debt ceiling standoffs to single-digit Congress approval ratings, America's political system has never been more polarized or paralyzed than it is today. As best-selling author and public policy expert Charles Wheelan writes, now is the time for a pragmatic Centrist party that will identify and embrace the best Democratic and Republican ideals, moving us forward on the most urgent issues for our nation. Wheelan—who not only lectures on public policy but practices it as well (he ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2009)—brings even more than his usual wit and clarity of vision to *The Centrist Manifesto*. He outlines a realistic ground game that could net at least five Centrist senators from New England, the Midwest, and elsewhere. With the power to deny a red or blue Senate majority, committed Centrists could take the first step toward giving voice and power to America's largest, and most rational, voting bloc: the center.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There is much to like in Wheelan's *Centrist Manifesto*. First and foremost, he does not fall into the usual trap befalling most third party fantasists - challenging the Republican/Democrat duopoly by running a candidate for President of the United States as a means to popularize and organize the party. While Wheelan does not specifically mention the historical futility of running a third party presidential campaign, he clearly understands that it is a path that leads to failure. His third party strategy neatly sidesteps this political land mine by simply not focusing on the Presidential race. The

core concept of The Centrist Manifesto and what Wheelan calls "The Big Idea" is to elect 5-6 independent Senators who will act as a swing vote to moderate and broker the legislative agenda for the federal government. It is, in fact, a big idea because it is a third party strategy that can work. Unlike the Presidency, Independents like Angus King can and do get elected to the Senate in the United States. The modest goal of electing a handful of Senators is reasonable. Yes, It's still an extraordinarily difficult task. It still entails soliciting massive funding and creating all of the infrastructure of a national political party. It still entails convincing a significant voting block to organize around Centrist Party principles and identify as Centrist Party members. It still entails recruiting serious candidates of national stature to run under the Centrist Party banner. It's still an extreme long shot. But it could work. I am an advocate of voting to maintain a divided government in Washington D.C. in order to force moderation and bipartisanship. This is a complementary voting strategy with compatible objectives to the ones outlined in The Centrist Manifesto.

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