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# THE ROAD FROM HERE

## Liberalism and Realities in the 1980s

### by Senator Paul Tsongas

In the wake of the sudden, striking conservative majority across the United States, which has captured the White House and transformed the Congress, a pressing need has arisen in the Democratic Party for new voices and new initiatives. Prominent among those who have been consistently writing and speaking out on the nature and goals of liberalism during the decade ahead is Senator Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts.

Senator Tsongas, who is 39 years old, served for four years as a Congressman before his election to the Senate in 1978. Since that time he has been active on three committees that bridge key national concerns—the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Senate Banking Committee, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. In these areas, as in many others critically affecting America's future, he has sought to temper traditional liberal ideology with the fast-changing realities of the world in which we live. This is the perspective of the Senator's urgent new book....

"This book is no call to arms, nor an attempt artificially to stir the soul or tug at the heart. It is an effort to convince and persuade. It seeks to identify clearly the forces that make up our world and to demonstrate that a liberal program consistent with those forces has a legitimate—indeed necessary—place in our society."

"The core of my book is realism—non-ideological, clear-eyed realism. My interest is in what works, not what should work. I believe that the demise of the Democratic Party rule was due to one basic fact: reality does not bend to fit political theory."

"Much of the thrust of the 1980 Democratic platform reflected the realities of the 1930s and 1960s, not those of the decade ahead. The same observation, of course, applies to the current Republican takeover: their political policies must be congruent with existent reality, or they too will come a cropper."

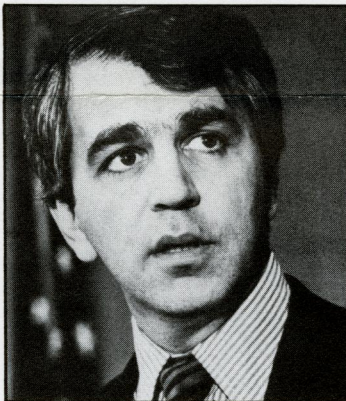


Photo: © U.P.I.

"I also believe that there must be an overlay of compassion—the embrace of those values that have given texture to the liberal tradition. The message of this book is the binding of realism and compassion in a manner that does not disrupt society. This combination requires judgment devoid of the dogmatic blinkers of ideological extremes."

"Some people argue that realism and compassion are by definition incompatible. That may be true in a totalitarian country, but not in a democratic society based on the consent of the governed."

"It is no revelation to say that there exist on our planet certain phenomena whose inevitability cannot be avoided. And America, which became man's greatest nation by harnessing its own inevitabilities—revolution, expansion, industrialization, world leadership—finds itself trying to ward off realities in the vain hope that they will disappear. They won't."

*"This book deals with eight realities, the handling of which will determine our future, our children's future, and conceivably the future of life on this earth. These realities, these irresistible forces, have the capacity to destroy you and me, but none of them is unduly hazardous if recognized, respected, and, above all, dealt with."*

#### Eight Realities

**Energy:** Oil is a diminishing, finite resource and should be saved for transportation needs.

**The Soviet Union:** Why an American attempt to achieve nuclear superiority would be an unproductive answer to the Russian threat to our security.

**The Economy:** He advocates tax and regulatory reforms to encourage savings and investment vital to long-term economic health.

**The Third World:** Why we must not base our policies toward developing nations on their relationships with the Soviet Union.

**International Trade:** The folly of banking and anti-trust laws that inhibit U.S. companies from competing in the export market.

**The Environment:** A chilling report on the overload of our biosphere.

**Resource Allocation:** Energy/defense/economic growth—dealing with any one in isolation is futile.

**Inflation:** He emphasizes the importance of the long view and presents a bold ten-point plan attacking the causes, not the symptoms, of inflation.

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