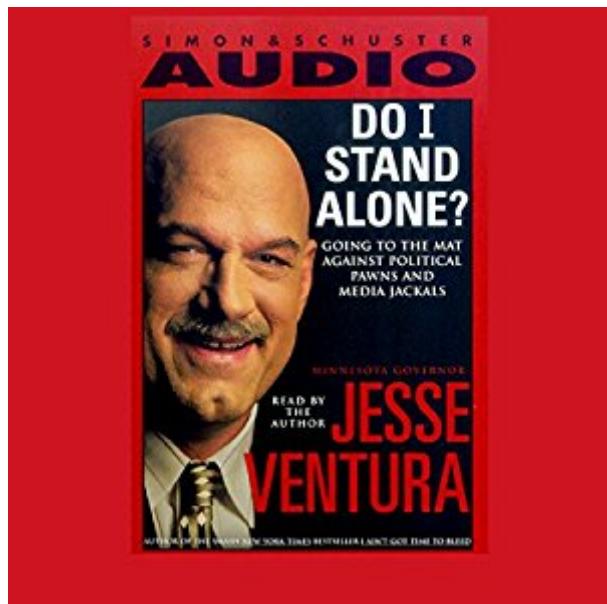


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Do I Stand Alone?



Synopsis

Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura decries the ease with which most Americans surrender their freedoms and apathetically accept a system of governance driven more by pork patronage than by the best interests of the constituency. He also denounces an irresponsible media, taking them to task for too often confusing fame with notoriety, and for driving the news instead of simply reporting it. And he unabashedly speaks out on today's hot-button issues, including welfare, racism, abortion, campaign finance reform, and gay rights. Giving us fascinating insights into the future of independent parties, Governor Ventura ushers us deep into the polished corridors of power, exposing the best - and worst - of our current crop of political personalities, while laying out a workable strategy for bringing our political system - and its politicians - back to greatness. In a forthright, razor-sharp, and entertaining critique, Governor Ventura has thrown down the gauntlet, challenging today's politicians as well as a disenchanted public to transcend the tired rhetoric and defiantly reclaim the freedom and opportunity that is our American birthright.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Once in your life you may be able to make a difference in the course of our great nation. If you can get beyond the hairdo's of Clinton and company, and dig for real substance than the only logical choice to lead our country is a true American like Jessie Ventura. Unconventional Yes But Blunt and No B/S . Why waste time on pussy footing around. Time Is short! His wisdom may humble you! One thing is for sure.. he is not afraid to go to the Mat!

The author is a great writer, very informative, and doesn't use all the political wording that confuses the average american

Great audio book, Ventura is a fantastic speaker and I happen to agree with a lot of his views. Real good listening for a road trip in your car.

Having vivid memories of Jesse "the Body" Ventura ,professional wrestler, I expected a brash, highly opinionated book. I was surprised by the sensible,well-thought-out political positions and ideas in this book.I believe that he was 100% accurate in his 2000 assessment of George W. Bush as well as his statement that elected officials all too often serve the party instead of the people.The advantage for incumbents and the never ending campaign cycle for reelection are also valid observations.Jesse Ventura did provide some interesting ideas-unicameral state legislature,national sales tax(looks a lot like the Fair Tax of this current Presidential election season), 4 year term for Senators and Congressmen, tort reform, trade with Cuba, repealing the 16th Amendment.I don't agree with all of Ventura's positions, but he has a thoughtful, no-nonsense attitude about tackling the political problems that have only gotten worse since the printing of this book! A lot of his ideas are bold and worth a long look.

This second book by the Governor of Minnesota gives his viewpoints on current events.He wants a unicameral legislature for his state. Will a single chamber automatically reduce voter apathy and the influence of special interests? Instead of limiting terms, limit the meeting time of the legislature so they'll only concentrate on important items. They should spend most of their time with the citizens, not the lobbyists. Alexis DeTocqueville's "Democracy in America" explained why there are two chambers. A yearly elected Assembly to respond to the people's wants; a triannually elected Senate to provide a more farsighted view as to the people's needs. The Senate would also impeach judges, state officials, and the governor as needed. The one state with a unicameral legislature may also have an egalitarian and homogenous population with similar interests.The cure for too-powerful representatives is simple: select committees and chairman by lot. Once these elections can't be fixed the power of the special interests will be greatly reduced.The correct campaign reform law is to ban all broadcast political advertising; they are either lies or half-truths. Printed literature will last long enough to check the promises against the achievements. Candidates will not have to sell their souls to the devils of special interests. The next step should be to ban any contributions from

corporate entities; they are not real people. This will return campaigns to a very level playing field. In "Tort Reform: Civilizing Our Civil Courts" he asks why so many lawyers are politicians. That was answered by DeTocqueville in Volume I. That's like asking why so many people in rural areas go hunting. In "Tax Reform" he complains about the income tax, and high property taxes. (Isn't an income tax just a type of property tax?) To lower property taxes you must either give localities and counties part of the state sales tax, or part of the income tax. You can't do anything else! There are many other topics covered in this book. Most are common-sense proposals that are unusual to hear from a politician; but J.V. is not an ordinary politician. You should read the chapter on "Education".

Two things upon which Mr. Ventura elaborates are common knowledge: 1) Government is completely out of touch with "we, the people." and 2) The media distort, rather than simply report, the news; like the government itself, the media has become totally self-serving. However, Ventura's numerous examples from his own experiences reveal THE GIGANTIC EXTENT of the corruptedness, which is so shocking it's unbelievable. A good example is how the media can completely slander someone's reputation using a complete fabrication, no sources even needed. However, this is permissible under the guise of "protecting the sources." This book has fired me up so much for the hope that a socio-political revolution might take place within the generation. Very few issues he discusses I disagree with. I especially support his anti-prohibition views (regarding prostitution, marijuana, etc.) and I get the impression most Americans, certainly of the young, open-minded generation, would agree. I admire him one thousand percent for being one of the few politicians who is vocal in his decree that the War on Drugs has failed, and particularly, in his call for marijuana legalization. He declares, I believe quite rightly, that less prohibition actually LOWERS crime, and he offers sound testimony for this opinion with his own personal account of his visit to Amsterdam's Red Light District, which he says has no more crime than the average white, middle-class suburban neighborhood. I've heard the same thing from other people who've been to Amsterdam (and purchased pot from the "Cannabis Coffee Shops"). Most important is his cry for the American public to break out of its current indifference. He reminds us that political corruption only flourishes when we lose touch with our system, thereby submitting our will to our officials' own ends. I don't know how many others feel as passionately about this as I do, but I sincerely believe every American should read this book.

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