

Competitiveness. America's prosperity will not be maintained in a vacuum. The international marketplace is a permanent reality of the 21st century, and America must successfully compete to continue its own economic growth; and this, too, depends on building on the individual's central role in American society. As Thomas L. Friedman of *The New York Times* has written:

If this moment has any parallel in American history, it is the height of the Cold War, around 1957, when the Soviet Union leaped ahead of America in the space race by putting up the Sputnik satellite. Yes, there are many differences between that age and our own. The main challenge then came from those who wanted to put up walls; the main challenge to America today comes from the fact that all the walls are being taken down, and other countries can now compete with us much more directly. The main challenge in that world was from those practicing extreme communism – namely, Russia, China, and North Korea. The main challenge to America today is from those practicing extreme capitalism – namely, China, India, and South Korea. The main objective in that era was building a strong state; the main objective in this era is building strong individuals. (Friedman, *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*, 2005)

Moderating the rise in health care spending without rationing services, restraining the growth of government, and expanding ownership in America's free enterprise system are essential to America's ability to compete. It is also necessary to reform the Federal tax code to boost incentives for growth and productivity.

Each of these reforms, based on these guiding principles, is designed to reclaim this American spirit. *A Roadmap For America's Future* is therefore a plan to solve America's fiscal and economic dilemma, building strong individuals throughout the 21st century.