



A BETTER WAY

OUR VISION FOR A CONFIDENT AMERICA

A Better Way to Keep Us Safe and Free

Our Principle

A confident America keeps its people safe, and keeps the peace in a dangerous world.

Our Challenge

Our nation's foreign policy is failing at nearly every turn. From refusing to enforce its red line in Syria, to legitimizing Iran's nuclear enrichment program, to its failed reset with Russia, to tolerating a more bellicose North Korean regime, to cavalierly dismissing the threat while the most dangerous terrorist organization in history emerged, the Obama administration has experimented with a new foreign policy concept—leading from behind—that can now be declared an unambiguous failure.

Our enemies no longer fear us and our allies no longer trust us. Terrorists and rogue regimes are stepping up to fill the void, leading to a humanitarian catastrophe in Syria that is causing the worst refugee crisis since World War II.

Our Vision

There is a better way to keep you and your family safe. It starts with being uncompromising in defense of our values and our country.

We must do whatever is necessary to protect our homeland from terror, and we must take the fight to the enemy. Instead of making it up along the way, we set out a clear strategy to defeat ISIS. Instead of ignoring our traditional allies, we renew our ties with them, and we do so in a way that serves our mutual interests. Instead of leading from behind, we act as a force for liberty and free enterprise around the world. And instead of fighting with yesterday's tools, we make sure our men and women have what they need to tackle the threats of our time and beyond.

A confident America does not threaten the peace. A confident America keeps the peace, and keeps its people safe and free.

Our Ideas

Protect the Homeland. We must keep terrorists out of America, secure our borders, and stop cyberattacks.

Defeat the Terrorists. We must make it our top national security priority to prevail in the war against radical Islamic extremism.

Tackle New Threats. We must make sure our country is ready to tackle the threats of our time and beyond.

Defend Freedom. We must restore American influence, advance free enterprise, and expand the community of free nations.

PROTECT THE HOMELAND

The first duty of our government is to keep you and your family safe. Today, we have to carry out that responsibility in the face of multiple evolving threats. Extremist groups are sending operatives into our country and working every day to radicalize Americans so they can carry out homegrown attacks, while criminals, cartels, and agents of foreign governments target us with cyberattacks.

Our plan includes ideas to:

- **Keep terrorists out of America:** We should work to close security gaps in our transportation and immigration systems to prevent Islamist militants from reaching our shores. We should also address the unprecedented spike in radicalization here at home, which requires preventing Americans from being recruited and engaging communities to confront these threats.
- **Secure our borders:** The surge of illegal immigrants across our borders must be a call to action. As a nation of laws, we must insist that everyone come here legally and maintain legal status. We should accelerate the deployment of fencing, technology, air assets, and personnel at the border, and we should enforce our immigration laws.
- **Stop cyberattacks:** The web is a weapon, and America is vulnerable to attacks against our government, critical infrastructure, businesses, and personal data. We should strengthen our cyber defenses and confront terrorists who hide their communications on secure online platforms.

DEFEAT THE TERRORISTS

We are at war. Terrorists are on the march, and this administration has allowed radical Islamic groups to gain new momentum. We must make it our top national security priority to defeat these organizations—including ISIS, al-Qaeda, and their affiliates—and prevail in the war against radical Islamic extremism.

Our plan includes ideas to:

- **Take the fight to the enemy:** America must take the fight to the enemy so that our homeland does not become the primary battleground. We should take decisive action, assemble a broad international coalition, and implement a real strategy for victory in the war against Islamist terror.
- **Win the battle of ideas:** This war is not just a military struggle—it is an ideological one that respects no borders. We must counter Islamist terrorism by undermining the lie that fuels it. We should work with key foreign partners to counter extremist propaganda and empower credible voices to promote an alternative to these radical ideologies.

TACKLE NEW THREATS

We owe everything to the men and women who serve our country at home and abroad—our law enforcement officers, servicemembers, intelligence professionals, and diplomats. We also owe them the tools to tackle the threats of our time and beyond, so that they—and the country—can stay safe.

Our plan includes ideas to:

- **Build a 21st-century military:** In recent years, our military has been subject to damaging rollbacks, reducing some of our capabilities to pre-9/11 levels. We should provide our troops with the resources they need to accomplish their missions and protect us from those who want to hurt us.
- **Strengthen law-enforcement tools:** We should ensure that our law-enforcement and intelligence agencies are positioned to keep up with evolving threats by investing in technology and increasing collaboration with the private sector.
- **Care for our veterans:** A 21st-century military and a 21st-century VA go hand in hand. We should honor those who served by modernizing the institutions that serve them, improving the military retirement and health care systems, strengthening mental health research, and enhancing transparency and accountability at the VA. This includes ensuring that servicemembers, veterans, and their families receive quality care and services in a timely, convenient, and efficient manner.

- **Overhaul diplomacy:** We are confronting 21st century challenges with 20th century tools and a 19th century bureaucracy. We should overhaul foreign affairs, development assistance, and public diplomacy programs to account for rapid changes in the international system and to properly adjust to the social media age.

DEFEND FREEDOM

America is strongest when it is a force for liberty and free enterprise around the world. Nations that respect the fundamental human, civil, and religious rights of their people are less likely to engage in hostility or serve as breeding grounds for terrorists. And nations integrated into the global economy are less inclined to erect barriers to free markets that are the basis of peace and prosperity.

Our plan includes ideas to:

- **Restore American influence:** The Obama administration's policy of "leading from behind" and its philosophy of "strategic patience" have eroded our influence and the trust of our allies. We should restore our influence by tackling emerging threats before they metastasize, and insisting that our allies carry their share of the burden.
- **Advance free enterprise:** Free enterprise is the foundation of peace and prosperity. Trade offers opportunities to strengthen our ties of friendship, but trade agreements must serve our mutual political and economic interests. We should open markets, expand free trade, and make strategic investments that foster self-sufficiency and contribute to long-term growth.
- **Expand the community of free societies:** The defense of liberty at home depends on its success abroad. We should hold tyrannical regimes accountable, work to assist countries with peaceful democratic transitions, and promote freedom and human rights.