

## Accountability To The American Common Bond by M. Sandi Aigoro

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AS REPRESENTATIVES of the U.S. Common Bond, we are responsible to not only consider the right to vote, but also the right vote. We have to consider how, over the last eight years, America was unable to put a president into office that held values or core beliefs, particularly the right to privacy and freedom, shared by the majority of the American people. For this reason, our new leader must be the antithesis – a master at reasoning, sensing, communicating, and negotiating, all of which can help to reestablish the country's credibility, both domestically and globally.

The President must demonstrate clear values toward enforcing the Constitution and the Bill of Rights by reestablishing the rights of the American people. He must work with the government to be cautious in doing so by not integrating too excessively (with the American people) or allowing persecution by the media or outside countries, for that matter. It is also important for the President to be an honorable individual, one who respects agreements with our global partners (i.e. the Geneva Convention, which does not support the torture of prisoners). The United States of America has suffered greatly by setting a precedent that is difficult for other countries to ignore. For example, we launched a preemptive and unsupported (by the United Nations) war against Iraq in 2003. Now, Russia, a large, powerful country has taken a preemptive attack upon Georgia, a smaller independent state trying to establish its own power and rights to govern itself.

It is critical that Americans select a leader who is more sensitive to diversity and understand the need to be inclusive rather than exclusive. He must have knowledge of culture and international affairs to lead the world in tolerance and liberty, as well as seize opportunities to become more open to our neighbors to the South. At the same time, he should be communicative and forthright in recognizing the subtle nuances necessary to negotiate required conciliations. Perspective is a must have. Our leader's ability to manage media frenzy and political spin with clear objectives and decisions will bode well when communicating with the world. Americans were inundated with political marketing and persuasion usually afforded to rich men with persuasive objectives.

Our nation's leader must be comfortable dealing with accusations, insults and questions from the press. It would best to be far removed from jokes and anecdotes that could quickly be interpreted as insulting and, therefore, setbacks to global and cultural diplomacy. By ensuring his/her own house is in order, the president and vice president must demonstrate high family and community values. We want a leaders who have not been accused, found involved or in the appearance of actions that will put at risk respect for American values. Making sure that family is first and not last – assuring our core belief that children should always be protected, in marriage, divorce, war and by their government (i.e. enforcement of child labor laws, healthcare and recognizing the results of

neglect, which is drug and sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, prostitution and lewd, and lawless behavior).

Can America afford to have repeated the “We'll smoke *em* out of there!” judgment that ended up in America's unsupported invasion of Iraq? No, we cannot, as this was conducted under a poorly developed strategy that cost thousands of American and Iraqis lives as well as unmentionable costs to our own credibility and economic soundness. It is the American voter's responsibility to stay true to our common bond to articulate the right questions when assessing the candidates and, subsequently, deciding on the next President of the United States. What do you think?



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