

A Conversation with JOE LIEBERMAN

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman was the 2000 Democratic nominee for vice president alongside presidential candidate Al Gore. From 1989 until 2013, Lieberman served as senator from Connecticut, first as a member of the Democratic Party and then, from 2006, as an independent. Previously he served in the Connecticut state senate and as the state attorney general.

In this conversation, Kristol and Lieberman discuss key moments of Lieberman's career in public service from his ascent in Connecticut politics to Gore-Lieberman in 2000, as well as his successful Senate campaign as an independent in 2006. Lieberman also reflects on colleagues and contemporaries such as Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Bob Dole, John McCain, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush.

On Gore-Lieberman 2000, Lieberman says: "It vindicated Gore's confidence that America was not going to judge me based on my religion. And it's a wonderful thing to be able to say."

On his support for the Iraq War, Lieberman says: "It really alienated me from a lot of the left of the Democratic Party and frankly some of the middle, too, who were anti-war and anti-Bush... A lot of them read it not that I was sticking with the Iraq war for reasons of foreign policy and American national interests but somehow I was doing it for President Bush...the fact that he and I might have...reached the same policy conclusions never dawned on a lot of these people."

On Two Democratic Presidents, Lieberman says: "Obama has very smart ideas but has not worked the Congress very well and people, even those who are loyal to him, don't see him, don't talk to him very much...Clinton, he'd call you and the problem was 'how do I get him off the phone?'"

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