

Liberty University

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Point/Counterpoint: 100 Day Review

Mike A. Cobb, *Liberty University*



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In some ways, Obama's been a typical politician by having lobbyists in his administration after stating he wouldn't, to having signing statements after saying he wouldn't, or invoking the "state secrets" privilege after criticizing the practice. Regarding the interrogation memos, are legal opinions now potentially criminal?

What else?

Indebted Country

Obama can blame Bush for the recession, but not this year's budget deficit. The budget was approved by Democrats and signed by Obama as their idea for how to fix Bush's recession.

Consistent deficit spending seems intuitively unwise yet admittedly, Reagan's deficits, at 745 billion over 8 years, almost doubled those from the previous 130 years -- and many consider him a great president. While Bush accelerated the massive deficit spending to the tune of 2 trillion in 8 years, the CBO estimates Obama will reclaim the mantle of fiscal irresponsibility and overspend by 4.8 trillion in only 4 years. With Obama's plans, interest alone on the debt is estimated to be 601 billion in 2016, the same as total federal revenues in 1981 and 90 billion more than the combined 2009 budgets for 14 Federal departments. It's estimated the federal vault will have a 1.845 trillion dollar IOU for just this year alone. No wonder there's congressional salivating over the cap-and-trade plans that could give them \$645 billion over the next 10 years.

Arrogant Country?

Obama stated that: "there have been times where America has shown arrogance and been dismissive, even derisive." He then spoke of the anti-Americanism found in Europe and how we need each other to confront today's global challenges. Obama didn't call us an arrogant nation. As the international superpower, it's certainly possible that we may have been arrogant or dismissive at times. We fund, we support, and we lead in areas of international need or nothing gets done, with recent examples being Rwanda and Darfur.

It is dismissive, though, for Obama to go around our NATO allies and offer Russia a plan to drop a NATO approved missile defense program for their help in dealing with Iran. Interestingly, the French leader doesn't consider Obama arrogant. Instead, he described President Obama's efforts to recast American leadership on the world stage as unoriginal, unsubstantial and overrated.

Obama is right to work to improve relations with Cuba. A book by Jung Chang and Jon Halliday claims that Mao was responsible for well over 70 million deaths, yet we saw fit to interact with him. Castro's no more an evil dictator than Mao.

Christian Country

According to President Obama: "One of the greatest strengths of the United States is, although as I mentioned before, we have a very large Christian population, we do not consider ourselves a Christian nation, a Jewish nation or a Muslim nation. We consider ourselves a nation of citizens."

Obama is right. Thankfully there is no federal mandate for people to hold to theistic beliefs. While our founding fathers may have been theistic and wrote theistic principles into our founding documents, they elevated freedom over nationally mandated religious practice. That freedom has allowed for the blessed creation of an expansive Christian population in this country, but keeps others safe in choosing differently.

So long as Obama continues to allow free expression of religious truths, as opposed to the censorship of Canada, we are a free country that is at least not anti-Christian. Should Obama pass hate crime legislation that affects religious practice, we'll then have taken a stance of not just being a-religious but anti-religious.

A Safe Country

"While [he] was always guarded in his attitude toward [them], he believed that progress would be made if he could communicate directly with them -- be letter, telephone, or in person. " That's actually a description of Reagan from the introduction of "Reagan's Diaries". Obama gets too much criticism for similar views.

Obama deserves credit for authorizing the use of force against the Somali pirates, for ordering drone attacks in Pakistan, and for planning to increase troop levels in Afghanistan. Senator McConnell said Bush and Obama were "hardly distinguishable" on Iraq. Current CIA spy policies have "considerable continuity" with the Bush administration. A charming demeanor without demonstrating a willingness to use military force is weakness. So far I'm encouraged.

Conclusion

Obama's been acceptable in foreign policy overall.

Economically, Obama's never before seen level of deficit spending is unwise. It has increased the required loans from China and Japan so that they now hold 1.4 trillion of our debt in purchased treasury securities.

For those indifferent to the government mispending your retirement, you'll soon be able to trust them with your healthcare also.

For those thinking their energy bill is too low, you'll soon be able to pay more after Democrats pass cap and trade.

For those comfortable when the government promises things that it can't afford with money it doesn't have, Obama's your guy.

Our economy is not made stronger through borrowing. Our economy is not made healthier through dependence on foreign loans. Tax breaks that incentivize small businesses, private enterprise, and corporate growth will strengthen our economy. In this, I'm not encouraged.

