


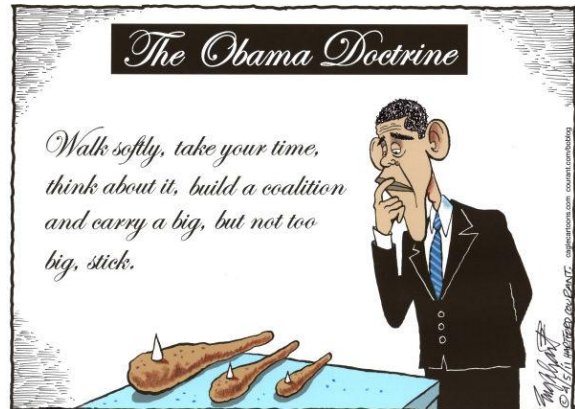
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 **THE OBAMA DOCTRINE:**
Leading from (the) behind ☹☹
- or perhaps
from the closet!
- Part Two -



Stephen L. Bakke  July 18, 2014

(Obama is) betraying and bullying friends, playing the fool, and toady toward our enemies. – An observation by historian Brian Birdnow.



Piecing together a foreign policy doctrine for Obama.

I have been accumulating notes and other information since “election time” in 2012 in an effort to piece together a brief statement of The Obama Doctrine. Finally what I should write came into focus because of all the things that have happened in the world since: Benghazi, announcements of armed forces withdrawals from Iraq and Afghanistan, and the events in Syria, Egypt, Libya and elsewhere. Always in the background are the dissing of our traditional friends like Great Britain, Germany, and the ultimately important Israel. Lots has been written but I strongly recommend what The Heritage Foundation has published on the topic – my opinion is very much reflects that organization’s influence on my thinking.

Just because we have the best hammer does not mean that every problem is a nail. – Obama, West Point, 2014

This is a list of characteristics which I believe reflect the Obama Doctrine.

- The U.S. does not have the moral right to be leader of the world – proclaiming American Exceptionalism shall cease.
- We have no inherent historic mission to be brought to bear on the world.
- Exceptionalism should be replaced by a more humble attitude a modest acknowledgement that we are lucky to be blessed with unique resources, experiences, and devotion to freedom.
- We should always turn to international organizations to take the lead in conducting international affairs. Collective action should always be preferred to unilateral initiatives by the U.S. This has lead to an emphasis on international agreements and deference to the United Nations and NATO.
- Closely related to our more restrained attitude, talks, sanctions, diplomacy, summits and foreign aid should be the dominant problem solving technique.
- Radical Islam, in general, is not inherently hostile to the U.S. and if shown respect they can become our allies.
- **In order to improve our relationship with radical Islam and the countries that support them, we may have to weaken ties to traditional allies.**

I believe the Obama Doctrine, by definition, relies on the “opposition” (Obama might call this our “negotiation partner”) doing the right thing for the right reasons – and it’s naïve to think that’s likely, or even possible in the world we live in!

There you have it. Fairly short and sweet. But I bet even our President would have trouble arguing that this is a representative characterization of the facts, but the conclusions would be challenged. This approach rips out by the roots our tradition of world leadership. And I find it painful! We must forge ahead and try to influence the things that we can!



“Withdraw” is his rule – and he isn’t talking about birth control! – Stefano Bachovich – Obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB’s primary “go to guy.”

(Intervention or invasion) is not 21st-century, G-8, major-nation behavior. – Secretary of State, John Kerry, 2014

(Kerry) makes invasion sound like a breach of etiquette – like using the wrong fork at a Beacon Hill dinner party. – Charles Krauthammer, referring to a statement by John Kerry.

Hey SB! OK, not bad! Even I learned something this time. I guess “leading from (the) BEHIND” can mean “BEHIND the scenes, BEHIND the lines, and BEHIND the eight-ball” – maybe all at the same time! I guess a winning strategy for conservatives in the next lesson is to walk the very difficult line between O’s equivocation and W’s grandiose but unpopular “freedom agenda.” – Stefano Bachovich – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB’s primary “go to guy.”

Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley

