OBAMA'S FOREIGN POLICY: Counterintuitive, and DANGEROUS! Part One

By Stephen L. Bakke September 4, 2014

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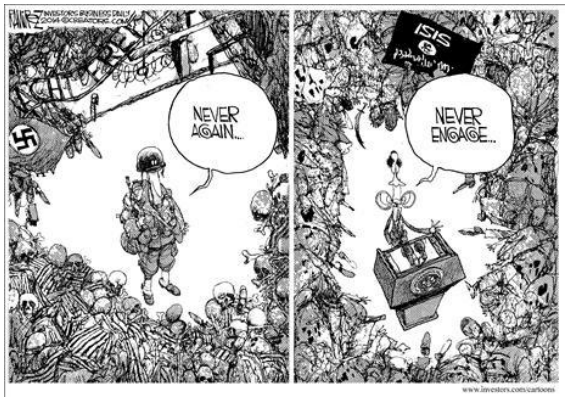

Hey SB! Are we really acknowledging the face of evil in our world? We knew it after WW II when we said "never again." And we knew it after 9-11 when we came together as a nation. But now where are we? Fred Thompson had Obama pegged "right on" when he commented: "A new report shows that President Obama's downsizing of the armed forces leaves America too weak to deal with today's global threats. In response, President Obama vowed to rebuild America's stockpile of strongly-worded letters." Yessiree, SB, at least Obama forcefully supports something ..... Inaction! **– Stefano Bachovich** – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB's primary "go to guy."

Stefano makes a good point. I'm reminded of the old quote most often attributed (probably incorrectly) to Thomas Paine: ***Lead, follow, or get out of the way!*** Have we rejected "leadership" in favor of alternately choosing the other two? Here's another I think is relevant for this discussion:

> ***Great nations have responsibilities to lead, and we should always be cautious of those who would lower our profile, because they might just wind up lowering our flag.*** – Ronald Reagan

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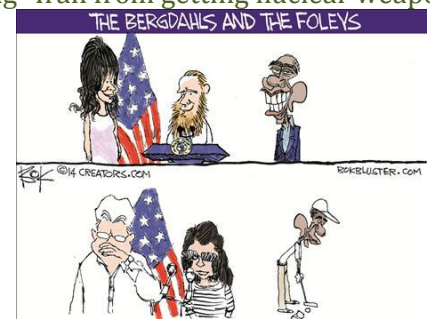
Foreign policy decisions for which Obama has received the most consistent criticism

Consider this list (a portion is from the man of "lists," John Hawkins):

- ***Russia*** - making armament and defense concessions to Russia which led to Putin flaunting that in Obama's face with bold actions in the Ukraine – unconcerned about Obama's empty threats!
- ***Ukraine*** – failing to support basic arms to the pro-U.S. Ukrainian government in their struggle against a Russian invasion. Recall that Ukraine was one of the coalition governments supporting our efforts in Iraq in 2003.
- ***Benghazi*** - failing to take basic precautions to protect and save lives – good people are dead!

- ***Libya*** – seeing to the removal of an otherwise cooperating and recently peaceful dictator – the result is that now Libya is ruled by Sharia Law.
- ***Iranian nuclear deal*** – giving Iran sanctions relief while receiving little in return – permitting uranium enrichment, but with a "deal" in place "stopping" Iran from getting nuclear weapons.
- ***Bowe Bergdahl swap*** – serving notice to every terrorist on the planet that kidnapping Americans could pay big dividends. Obama negotiated with terrorists in this case – but what happened with the ISIS hostages that he refused to negotiate with? Why wouldn't ISIS expect to gain ransom, or some other concession, from the U.S. after the concessions in the Bergdahl swap.



- ***Iraq/Isis*** – setting a timeline to pull out of Iraq, after which ISIS began building military power in Syria. After watching Obama continually move the "red line" in dealing with Assad in Syria, ISIS was emboldened and moved into Iraq with impunity – gaining former U.S. military assets as they moved and defeated the inferior Iraq military
- ***Obama's "Cairo Address to the Muslim World" and related statements*** – glorifying, early in his first term, other cultures and countries at the expense of the U.S. This went hand in hand with his exaggeration of U.S. "negatives," and essentially disclaiming American Exceptionalism.
- ***His overall naiveté in international motivations and incentives*** – foolishly believing that evil tyrants in the world would respond to cooperation and negotiation, without the need for a "stick" (Refer to American Thinker to see what else that publication has to say on this).

The U.S. has been absent recently! This has led to a vacuum of international leadership!

Did you think these things could happen – all, I believe, the result of U.S. quiet and absence?

U. K. Prime Minister David Cameron "one ups" Obama – While the U.S. is denying the level of direct Islamist terrorist threat to our nation, the U.K.'s PM David Cameron raised the official threat measurement to the highest level, then he did a mia culpa by reversing (very un-Obama-like) a previous official position – he announced the introduction of certain anti-terrorist "relocation powers" a measure he previously scrapped.


British Prime Minister David Cameron

His announcement was one to drum up confidence using words such as: "legislation will be drawn up"; "the U.K. will challenge any attempt"; "plans to block"; "terrorism prevention and investigation measures"; "terrorists will be required"; "airlines will be forced"; etc. – all quite decisive and as such un-Obama-like! Consider his inspiring nationalistic words – how long since the U.S. has heard this:

> ***It is a duty for all those who live in these islands, so we will stand up for our values, we will in the end defeat this extremism and we will secure our way of life for generations to come.***

The European Council has also stepped up – witness the following statement:

The European Council believes the creation of an Islamic Caliphate in Iraq and Syria and the Islamist extremism and export of terrorism on which it is based is a direct threat to every European country.

Allies step into the U.S. leadership shoes and take action against Islamist forces – WITHOUT TELLING OBAMA! – Long-time U.S. allies, Egypt and the United Arab Emerates (UAE), joined forces and lunched airstrikes against Islamist military forces battling for contro of Tripoli, Libya. U.S. diplomats are "fuming" according to several officials. These allies really are worried about what Obama thinks aren't they? Are they telling us we can't be counted upon to provide dependable support or predictable reactions in difficult situations?

A bold reaction by the UAE – UAE stepped alongside the U.K. in boldly recognizing the threat posed by ISIS and using strong language in stating the necessity of destroying ISIS very soon.

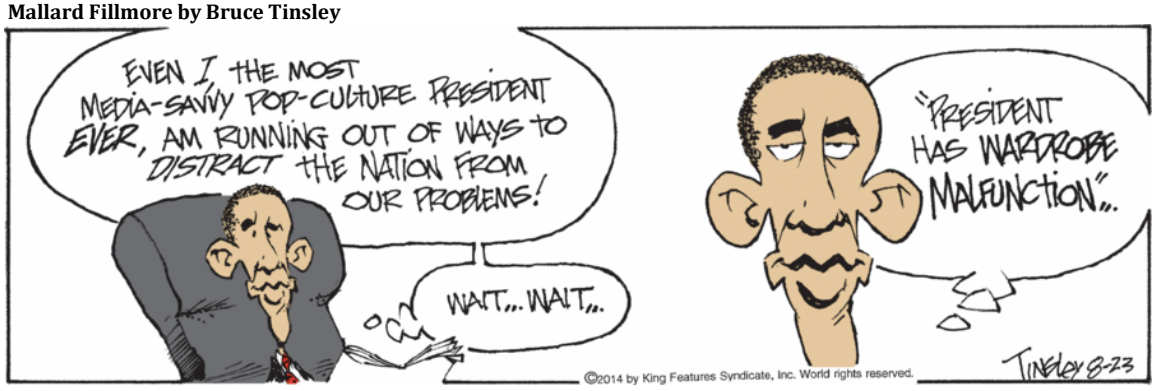
The Mexican president is now advising the U.S. – President Enrique Pena Nieto has boldly given specific instructions to the U.S. regarding immigration and firearm reform and legislation. Can you believe it's come to this type of blatant disrespect in just about 6 years?

Half-hearted support for our long-time ally Israel – while official support for Israel continues, the apparent tone has evolved from enthusiastic support, to quiet support, to occasional criticism.

U.S. Warnings followed by inactions – witness bold actions and advances by our adversaries in Libya, Egypt, Syria, Iran and Iraq. Obama failed to display leadership even after "red lines" had been drawn in the "sand." His reactions seem weak and impassive.

Allies no longer trust the U.S. resolve – even as I write this, Obama is making statements that seem to reflect unpreparedness and indecision in the face of swiftly advancing terrorism conducted by ISIS. International allies are confused by all the moving "red lines" and frustrated by Obama's recent statements of "we have no strategy" and vague reference to "managing the ISIS threat."

Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley



NEXT – In Part Two I will deal with:

What in Obama's background and thought process might have led to this reticence?
and
In the final analysis shouldn't we want our enemies to at least …… (to be continued)