 **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**
IN A NASTY WORLD,
A PASSIVE PRESIDENT
GUARANTEES A
DIMINISHED
UNITED STATES!



By Stephen L. Bakke  August 1, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

I read an opinion by Steve Chapman which took to task the conservative insistence that Obama has had a negative impact on the international political situation and our national security. He suggests that there's little chance that anything Obama could have done would have had the same dismal result – so why not “just be seen and not heard” (my words)? I had to react!

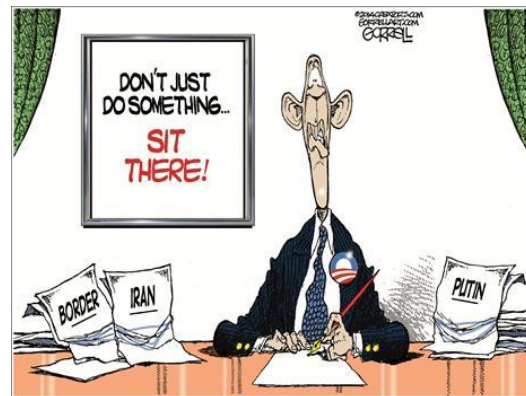
Here's my response:

In a nasty world, a passive President guarantees a diminished United States!

Steve Chapman, in his opinion published on 7-31, explains that it's unfair to blame Obama for the current conditions of rampant terrorism, warfare, and chaos. He claims that conservatives incorrectly feel that with a tougher or smarter President, “Ukraine would be intact, Syria's dictator would be gone, Iraq would be stable, Hamas would surrender, China would be a gentle lamb, and Iran would give up its nukes.”

Chapman reminds us that during the Reagan “golden age,” there was world-wide racial strife, civil wars, American hostages, terrorist bombings, and a general lack of tranquility in spite of the collapse of the Soviet Union. And in the 21st century we experienced the 9/11 attacks and its aftermath.

He generally discounts any advantage to be gained from strong U.S. international leadership, with toughness, resolve, and a clear willingness to exert our influence in ways other than endless diplomacy.



I fully concede that we don't know for sure that any strategy or tactic guarantees success. Since Mr. Chapman brought up the Reagan comparison, I feel free to continue it even though I don't like living in the past.

I hold firm to the conviction that with Reagan we had justifiable confidence things would get better. With Obama, there is no such public confidence in anything except reasonable certainty that U.S. influence and security in the world will be diminished. And I find that very unfortunate!

Hey SB! I like what you wrote – thanks for the advance copy! I hope the newspaper publishes it, but don't hold your breath on this one! The Reagan vs. Obama comparison reminded me of that old Robert Frost poem, "The Road Not Taken." He concluded his poem with:

***"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference."***

Here's how my old historian friend Victor Davis Hanson cleverly paraphrased that poem while criticizing Obama's presidential choices regarding the role of the U.S. in the world:

***"Two roads diverged in the world, and we –
We always took the one of least resistance –
And that has now made all the difference."***

– Stefano Bachovich – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB's primary "go to guy."