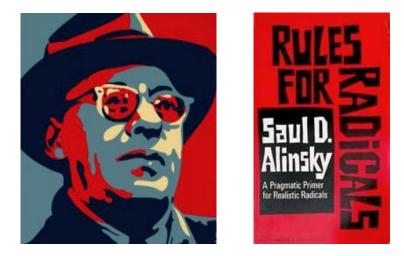
## BARACK OBAMA – THE MASTER OF DISGUISE AND DECEPTION!



Stephen L. Bakke 🛤 January 14, 2013

*As I understand "The Truth," Barack Obama is not usually encumbered by it!* – Stephano Bakkovich, obscure but very wise political pundit, and a willing purveyor of opinions on just about everything.

"Way back" in 2010 I distributed to you a book report and analysis of Saul Alinsky's classic "Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals" which was published in 1971. Alinsky is the "Godfather of community organizers" which was a budding and blooming movement coming out of the '60s, '70s and into the '80s. This book was a so-called "bible" for radical movements, primarily urban, of that era. **My reaction to the book was stunned admiration! Alinsky was truly brilliant – and frightening – and dangerous! And his creed lives on! Yes – in our President!** 



Alinsky died shortly after this book was published, but many studied his methods and became disciples based on the theories idealized in this brilliant book (Hillary Clinton wrote a graduate thesis about him and his prescriptions for radical success) – but no one really fully, and ultimately, exploited his methods until along came a young radical community organizer named Barack Obama. I speculated in 2010 about Obama's ability to ruthlessly transform America using these methods – and gave examples of what direction he was going. I speculate no longer – kick speculation to the curb! I now know how good Obama is at the "Alinsky Method." Here I revisit the now more relevant topic.

Rules for Radicals is written for the Have-Nots on how to take it away ... there are rules for radicals who want to change their world; there are certain central concepts of action in human politics that operate regardless of the scene or the time. To know these is basic to a pragmatic attack on the system ... As an organizer I start from where the world is, as it is, not as I would like it to be ...

# *My aim here is to suggest how to organize for power: how to get it and use it …* – Alinsky's own words from "Rules for Radicals" – describing the book's purpose.

After graduating from Columbia and in need of a job Barack Obama went to work, in 1985, for the "Developing Communities Project," an activist group built on the Alinsky model and using Alinsky tactics. It appears that thereafter, he spent years teaching the Alinsky Method in workshops. Numerous internet sources and publications confirm this association.

One of Obama's apparent early mentors in the "Method" was Mike Kruglik who had this to say about Obama in an interview with "The New Republic." Notice his admiration for Obama's ability to "manipulate and stir up the masses":

He was a natural, the undisputed master of agitation, who could engage a room full of recruiting targets in a rapid-fire Socratic dialogue, nudging them to admit that they were not living up to their own standards ... he could be aggressive and confrontational ... he would pinpoint the source of pain in their lives, tearing down their egos just enough before dangling a carrot of hope that they could make things better. – Mike Kruglik

Obama learned his lesson well. I am proud to see that my father's model for organizing is being applied successfully beyond local community organizing to affect the Democratic campaign in 2008. It is a fine tribute to Saul Alinsky as we approach his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday." – From a letter attributed to Alinsky's son David.

OK! Let's agree he was indoctrinated in the Alinsky Method, and promoted it. But did he truly agree with it enough to apply it as he moved up in society and in political circles. I'm convinced he did, but you decide for yourself.

#### What Alinsky Sez, Obama Duz!

## **RADICALS**

**Alinsky sez: Ridicule is man's most potent weapon.** The opposition is the enemy and they are 100% evil, without any redeeming features. To recognize any good points of/from the opposition is a sign of weakness. He subtly drives home the idea that those opposing him are the "enemy" of him and the people.

**Well ..... (recall how Ronald Reagan said "weeeell")** one of the best examples of this is the time in 2011 when Obama invited Paul Ryan, head of the House Budget Committee, to a public event, promising that "Congressman Ryan will like what the president has to say." Then in front of a national TV audience Obama gratuitously lashed out at Ryan – even accusing him of being "un-American" for his views on reducing deficits. Washington was stunned. And how many of his speeches before during and after the last campaign have been "mocking" in tone? Most! **Obama makes a practice of insulting and demeaning the very people he is negotiating with.** This has never been the way to conduct negotiations in Washington – until now!

## **RADICALS**

Alinsky sez: You do what you can with what you have and clothe it with moral garments. Quoting: "We repeatedly get caught in this conflict between our professed moral principles and the real reasons why we do things ...... We are always able to mask those real reasons in words of beneficent goodness – freedom, justice, and so on." Furthermore, goals must be phrased in general terms like "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," "Of the Common Welfare," "Pursuit of Happiness," or "Bread and Peace." **Well ..... (like Ronnie)** Aren't Obama's sincerity and motives masked by such rhetoric? He's a master at generous but unspecific proclamations. **And everything he does is in the context of fairness, equality, and social justice (whazatt?)**. We are finding out his goals aren't really to "raise all the boats," but rather to accomplish the impossible – equality in result, even though he doesn't state that as the goal.

## **RADICALS**

**Alinsky sez:** If you push a negative hard enough and deep enough it will break through into its counterside. Quoting: "[An organizer] must have a reason for being there – a reason acceptable to the people ... If the organizer begins with an affirmation of his love for people, he promptly turns everyone off. **If, on the other hand, he begins with a denunciation of exploiting employers, slum landlords, police shakedowns, gouging merchants, he is inside their experience and they accept him.**"

**Well** ..... What could better describe the demagoguery of a fine gentleman (you must admit that even if you didn't support him), Mitt Romney – and all because he was successful as a businessman? **Obama and followers use fear and demagoguery in their rhetoric describing traditional American institutions and their political opponents**.

## s RADÍCALS

Alinsky sez: Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it. Quoting: "Before men can act an issue must be polarized. Men will act when they are convinced that their cause is 100 per cent on the side of the angels and that the opposition are 100 per cent on the side of the devil ... [The organizer] knows that all ideas arise from conflict." Alinsky wanted to get "his side," the "Have-Nots," polarized against those with wealth and influence, the "Haves." He also referred to polarizing the other side – causing infighting amongst the ranks of the "Haves." He implored his followers to manipulate otherwise "partners" into adversarial positions. Use the "Haves" against other "Haves" on some issues – e.g. "fiscal cliff" negotiations.

**Well ..... The Obama presidency has met more polarized reactions than any other president and that is by design.** The Republicans are definitely taking it on the chin for this conflict. What else could be the results of the demagoguery referred to in the prior item. As to polarizing the "other side," the Republicans, what better example could be given than the disorganization and bitter split among the Republicans during the recent "fiscal cliff" debacle. Obama teed them up for it and loved the result – rest assured, he designed it!

## **RADICALS**

**Alinsky sez: Convert close calls to absolutes** – e.g. if some issue is "52-48" in terms of desirability, the organizer must convince the community that they are 100% right and the opposition is 100% wrong. He emphasized that power is not only what you have, but what the enemy thinks you have.

Well ..... Obama won the 2012 presidential election by only a little over a couple percentage points. And the Republicans retained solid voting advantage in the House of Representatives. Yet Obama removes any impression of a closely divided country by referring to his "mandate" to accomplish all of his objectives. There was no such mandate!! This is exactly what Alinsky was calling for when he wrote about creating "absolutes" from "close calls," and making your enemy think you have more power than you really do.

## **RADÍCALS**

**Alinsky sez: Invent reality; make it up as you go along.** Here's what Alinsky actually wrote: "... a major job of the organizer is to instantly develop the rationale for actions which have taken place by accident or impulsive anger ... Possessing a rationale gives action a meaning and purpose."

Well ...... I'll pick just one example of Obama inventing reality. One of my frequent observations is that Obama often introduces a topic or redirects a question something like this: "First let me say this, many in the opposition claim that I am ..." or "Fox News says that my policies are ..." or "Talking heads' have been saying for weeks that this administration ...." Mr. President! It's fine to make those comments, but ONLY when objecting to that which

was ACTUALLY said by the opposition or critics. I have found myself reacting out loud, "Nobody said that!" The following hits the nail on the head!

DILBERT by Scott Adams



## **RADICALS**

**Alinsky sez:** Quoting: "For a variety of reasons the **organizer must develop multiple issues**." He believed in keeping the pressure on, with different tactics and actions. Alinsky seems to recognize the many different priorities any community has – to say nothing about the priorities of the entire country. He wrote: "The organizer recognizes that each person or bloc has a hierarchy of values."

Well ..... We often hear the contention that Obama is trying to take everything on at one time. This opinion is held by supporters and critics. Some say it is because he may have only a small window of time to address his agenda items. I think it's because that's the way he was taught – simple as that!

## 🚳 RADÍCALS

**Alinsky sez:** Quoting: "Something else that comes with experience is the knowledge that the **resolution of a particular problem will bring on another problem.** The organizer may know this, but he doesn't mention it ..."

**Well** ..... Haven't you often thought that Obama is naively blind to some ramifications of his policies and legislation? I am guilty of having frustration over his apparent ignorance of "unintended consequences" and the damage they can do. **But might that be his plan – that problems feed on themselves and gives him more to solve?** 

## **EADICALS**

**Alinsky sez:** Quoting: **"The first step in community organization is community disorganization** ... No politician can sit on a hot issue if you make it hot enough ... the organizer's first job is to create the issues or problems ... What the organizer does is convert the plight into a problem."

**Well** ..... Often it seems to me that Obama and his "disciples" believe in creating chaos or making sure that no crisis is ever wasted (they said it!). Can you think of any instances that you felt that Obama was using false hyperbole and misinformation to stir up the emotion about an issue? A great example is the press conference today (1/14) regarding the debt ceiling and gun control debate – he stirs the pot and then steps aside, out of the fray.

## RADICALS

Alinsky sez: Quoting: "Change means movement. Movement means friction ... abrasive friction of conflict ... The organizer's job ... [is] to agitate, introduce ideas, get people pregnant with hope and a desire for change ... The organizer dedicated to organizing the life of a particular community must first rub raw the resentments of the people ... fan the latent hostilities ... stir up dissatisfaction ..."

**Well** ..... Recall Obama's own words imploring his supporters argue and "get in the face" of critics. Once again regarding the debt ceiling debate, he benefits from stirring the pot of annoyance among citizens toward his opposition – and he ensures no agreement will soon be forthcoming by refusing to negotiate on the ceiling. He loves it and is a genius at making

everybody who doesn't agree with him his enemy and an enemy of the American people. Please recall the **Alinsky rule about polarizing the "Have-Nots" vs. the "Haves.**"

## **RADICALS**

**Alinsky sez:** Quoting: "They [the "Have-Nots"] must believe in [the organizer's] capacity not just to provide the opportunity for action, power, change, adventure, a piece of drama in life, but to give a **very definite promise, almost an assurance of victory.**"

Well ..... Obama's campaign and governing style is to use his charisma and infectious grin in front of live audiences to whip the crowd into feverish and vocal support for whatever the issue is. Did this talent come naturally for him or was his penchant for the dramatic and romantic approach carefully developed as part of his training and philosophy? Hmm?

**Alinsky sez:** Quoting: "Ego must be so all-pervading that the **personality of the organizer is contagious, that it converts the people from despair to defiance,** creating a mass ego ... An organizer must accept, without fear or worry, that the odds are always against him. Having this kind of ego, he is a doer and does."

**Well** ..... Few would question the statement that **there has never been an ego stronger than Obama's.** His supporters revel in his self assuredness while detractors use words such as narcissism. In any case, he was trained in this approach and is a master at "pulling it off."

#### s RADICALS

**Alinsky sez:** Quoting: "The job of an organizer is to **maneuver and bait the establishment** so that it will publicly attack him as a 'dangerous enemy.' The word 'enemy' is sufficient to put the organizer on the side of the people, to identify him with the 'Have-Nots' ..."

Well ..... Doesn't this point directly to Obama's penchant for pouring gasoline on the fire of class warfare? And his opponents do "holler and yell" their opposition to what he is doing. Perhaps his acquired "Alinsky style" requires that his opponents vocalize their impression of him and that his ideas as dangerous? He's a "them and us" kinda' guy!

## **RADICALS**

**Alinsky sez:** Quoting: **"The 'Have-Nots' have little faith in the worth of their own judgments.** They still look to the judgments of the 'Haves' ... It is essential that issues be simple enough to be communicated ... One of the great problems in the beginning of an organization is, often, that the people do not know what they want."

**Well ..... Obama certainly is dismissive of the general citizenry and generally believes that elite public servants know, better than citizens, what is best for them.** Time and again he and his administration have shown that they have a low regard for the intelligence of the average American citizen, and have little faith in their abilities for discernment. Their legislation and proposals clearly send the message that the general public needs help in deciding what is best for them and in providing what they need.

## **RADICALS**

Alinsky sez: Quoting: "... we are concerned with how to create mass organizations to seize power and give it to the people; to realize the democratic dream of equality, justice, peace, cooperation, equal and full opportunities for education, full and useful employment, [and] health ... Today revolution has become synonymous with communism while capitalism is synonymous with status quo."

Well ..... Do you recognize Obama's words – equality, justice ...? Who wouldn't argue that **he brought to the table a theme of finding radical leftist solutions** for our problems ... perhaps even socialism, Marxism or communism? – (nope not yet convinced of all that!).

I say it again! Kick speculation to the curb! I now know just how good Obama is at the "Alinsky Method." Alinsky's creed lives on ..... in our President!