

ARE WE PLAYING A
NEW GAME?
ONE CALLED
"PRETEND
NATIONAL
SECURITY?"

By Stephen L. Bakke 🇺🇸 January 18, 2016



Hey SB! Can you guess what I'm thinking after reading the latest on the Iran nuclear agreement? I think Larry Elder nailed it when he said that Obama apparently feels with enough U.S. patience and kindness, the Iranians "will abandon their ideology, their theology, and revolutionary principles." Iran acknowledges the agreement, but apparently is refusing to sign it because ...?? And then we had to listen to the President's State of the Union Address. Soon came the prisoner "swap" etc. A few months ago, I wrote something like this to you regarding the radical Islamic terrorism threat: *"This is the face of evil and the challenge of our time! History will judge us on how we deal with this existential threat to our country as well as to others across the planet!"* – Stefano Bachovich – obscure curmudgeon and wise political pundit – a prolific purveyor of opinions on just about everything – SB's primary "go-to guy."

♪ From the Halls of Montezuma ♪ To the Shores of Tripoli ♪ We will fight our country's battles ♪ In the air, on land, and sea ♪ First to fight for right and freedom ♪ And to keep our honor clean ♪ We are proud to claim the title ♪ Of United States Marine ♪

That was a perfectly legitimate expression of concern and commitment to national security in times past. It's an exaggeration to claim the simplicity of those lyrics reflect the complicated process of national security that we face as a nation, because **radical Islam is a combination religion, judicial code, and political, economic, and military systems.** I offer another set of lyrics to demonstrate a stark contrast of approaches. Compare this:



♪ If that's all there is my friends ♪ Then let's keep dancing ♪ Let's break out the booze ♪ And have a ball ♪ If that's all there is ♪

I personally feel some of the recent policy choices ARE reckless and irresponsible, and I will enumerate some in the balance of this report. I will present situations and facts as I understand them, offer some of my opinions, and will attempt to leave room for you to conclude on your own. You'll know where I stand. Fair and balanced? Fair, yes! To be balanced would require I create a piece of fiction! Consider the following:

- **The Iran nuclear deal** was sold as an important enhancement to our national security. How has that worked out? Now we find it's not what we thought! As Stefano pointed out it's becoming ever

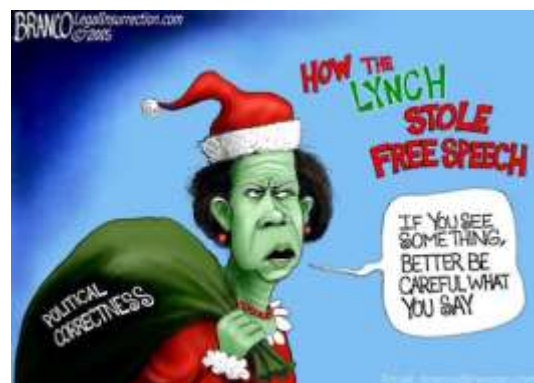
more complicated – so much so that **I am going to follow up this report with another one dealing specifically with the Iran nuclear agreement.** At this point, suffice it to repeat what Thomas Sowell had to say in his reminiscences of 2015:

This was the year when we essentially let the world know that we were giving up any effort to try to stop Iran – the world’s leading sponsor of international terrorism – from getting a nuclear bomb. Surely it does not take much imagination to foresee what lies at the end of that road.

- The administration is pushing hard the concept of “**see something, say something.**” That makes sense to me, but then what stand did the administration take in the situation of the boy bringing to school a very suspicious briefcase with wires hanging out. The boy became a folk hero who was invited to the White House just before he filed a lawsuit for \$15 million. Remember, he was never arrested nor did he miss school. He was only detained long enough to investigate the suspected bomb. Does that encourage citizens to “keep their eyes peeled”?



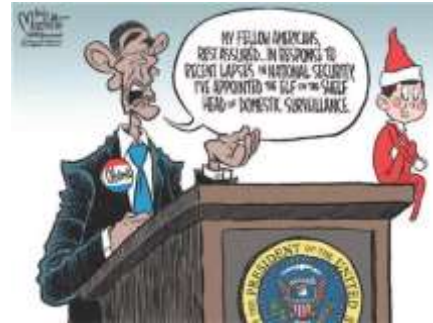
- Remember **Loretta Lynch – our Attorney General**? After the Paris massacre, and the California mass murders, Attorney General Loretta Lynch said her “greatest fear” is that expressions of anti-Muslim sentiment will lead to attacks on Muslims in the U.S. She stated: *The fear that you have just mentioned is in fact my greatest fear as a prosecutor, as someone who is sworn to the protection of all of the American people, which is that the rhetoric will be accompanied by acts of violence...* I agree that should be a concern, but “greatest concern”? Come on now!!



- There’s uncertainty among “the great unwashed” (like me), as to what the **anti-violence and national security policies and goals** actually are. Regarding “guns,” what are the goals and how do calls for gun control interact with committed radical Muslim terrorists? Might the goal be to reduce guns rather than directly discouraging violence and terrorism? It’s not clear! As to dealings with entities such as Iran, does Obama believe that after we lift sanctions and their economy begins to grow, (quoting Larry Elder) *“that they will abandon their ideology, their theology, their revolutionary principles, [and] their meddling”*?
- Only a small percentage of Muslims are terrorists, but someone needs to explain to us “phobics,” how we are expected to ignore the fact that the **radical mutation of Islam** espoused by ISIS, al-Qaida, et.al. have sprung from the communities and mosques of traditional, truly peaceful Islam groups. Either help us understand that nuance, or hush up about our “made up” phobia!
- I agree that the vast majority of Muslims are peaceful and good neighbors for us. But help us “phobics” understand how we can resolve in our mind the traditional “allegiance to the U.S.” with the fact that a **significant percentage of peaceful Muslims believe they should follow Sharia.** Many peaceful Muslims prefer their interpretation of Sharia Law to the U.S. Constitution.
- Consider the push by Obama to automatically exclude those on the “**no fly list**” from purchasing firearms. On the surface I could almost agree, except that it’s a mostly arbitrary list of individuals

that has been developed without careful scrutiny and caution necessary for firearms regulation. I understand that there are approximately 800,000 names on that list and that 300,000 is a reasonable estimate of the names incorrectly included. This “no fly list” appears to be a bureaucratic “accumulation” of names put together without the caution or vetting expected from a list of potential violent terrorists. This list is invalid for several reasons, including the requirement of “due process” in our Constitution.

- Imagine if you will, who you would choose – what background would you choose – for the head of Homeland Security? Some of Obama’s choices don’t pass the “smell test”! The Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security came in with absolutely nothing close to “qualifications” to do this crucial job. **Jeh Johnson had absolutely no experience of any sort in “security.”** He was a “bundler” of political contributions – guess who for! And one of Johnson’s assistant secretaries is a former San Francisco Police Chief who has a reputation of being uncooperative in enforcing labor laws, and was a “sanctuary city” supporter.



- In a speech alongside French President François Hollande, President Barack Obama said that the upcoming **United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris would be a “powerful rebuke”** to ISIS.



- Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama have ALL pretty much ignored implementing an effective **“entry-exit” visa system.** This became shockingly clear when U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) tried to obtain information about the number of foreign nationals who overstay their visas each year. He asked this of DHS assistant secretary Alan Bersin who answered: “We don’t know.”

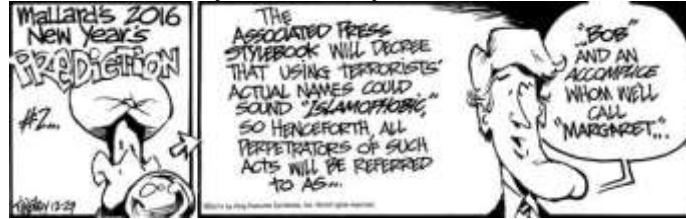
- Unless there is a sense of urgency and energy to vet immigrants that apply routinely, how can we be relatively certain of the veracity of the refugees. Consider **the tragic Syrian refugees** who will be brought to our country. The administration, and many others, find fault with the mere suggestion that we temporarily pause the processing of Syrian refugees in order to put in place proper measures necessary to keep terrorists from entering the U.S. under the cover of refugee status. And a very important point is that **the FBI director has testified to the fact that they aren’t currently able to adequately identify and vet these Syrian refugees.** We need to take a deep breath and find out where we are at – then proceed when ready.



- The administration would have us believe that certain insults, provocations, economic circumstances, blatant Islamophobia and (you fill in the blanks), are the **real causes of recruitment of homegrown Muslim terrorists.** I contend that truly moderate, peace loving

American Muslims are NOT going to go to the “dark side” just because of some tough talk by Americans.

Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley



- And a brief comment about our **national defense budget** it's now a fraction of historical levels, even for non-war periods. What does that say about our priorities?
- Obama said this early in 2015:

What I do insist on is we maintain a proper perspective and that we do not provide a victory to these terrorist networks by over-inflating their importance and suggesting in some fashion that they are on existential threat to the United States or the world order.

Here's what opinion writer Kaywin Eleanor had to say about this type of statement:

Cowardice lets the wicked do as he pleases When we trumpet peace over righteousness and tolerance over moral conviction, we lay down our weapons and hope others will do the same. They will not.

To give Americans more confidence, Obama should have a sense of urgency and energy! We need to enthusiastically “vet” immigrants and refugees. That’s not too much to ask. **We must realize the value of secure borders. Anything else is foolishness.** Yet every bit of Obama’s “body language” conveys impatience and annoyance with those who think security is a problem. I’m losing patience with an ideology which keeps us hovering just outside the perimeter of success against this threat!

I’m from Minnesota, a hotbed of recruiting American Muslim youth to enter service to ISIS. These young men come out of communities generally thought to be moderate peace-loving Muslims. I have no doubt that’s what those communities represent. Scott Johnson had an insightful December 18 article in the Minneapolis StarTribune and I’ll borrow some of his thoughts: Is it Islamophobic to turn to those communities to try find potential future “converts”? NO! Is it racist to request those communities to take some responsibility in the process of quelling this trend? NO! Is any fear of Islam necessarily crazy? NO! **Are we becoming afraid to talk about perfectly reasonable fears? YES, WE ARE!**

