



## **The 2008 Presidential Election:**

### *The Politics of Misdirection & Our Greed for Salvation*

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[Part 2 of 2]

[New York, 05 December 2008]

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect Safety and Happiness.*

That is what the founding fathers believed. It is what all Americans should believe. It is what people across the world have admired and aspired towards for over two centuries. It is oratory worthy of crowds and cheers, oratory of a tone we would have liked to have heard from our next president. But Obama is on the wrong side of almost every issue of importance today, on the side of the issues he would find the founding fathers absent. We wish Obama believed the following assertions of our conservative principles, asked the following questions, and suggested an adherence to the spirit of our founding fathers as described below:

- Successful and profitable companies should not have to suffer a windfall profits tax; that taxing the most productive of our society, whether they be individuals or companies, at constrictive limits will only serve to limit exploration, development, entrepreneurialism, which leads to lower tax revenue; that corporations should not be taxed at their current levels, let alone have those taxes increased; that we already represent a nation third in line for the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world and should be ashamed of such a ranking.



- The death tax (inheritance tax) is completely and unquestionably un-American; that for a family to build a successful business, creating jobs along the way and increased tax revenue, and then be taxed at upwards of 45% (the current rate; 55% the projected rate) *every time* the business passes from one generation to the next is nothing short of government-sponsored rape.
- Redistribution of wealth is un-American. Redistribution of wealth is un-capitalistic. Redistribution of wealth is socialism. Where is the incentive for the currently poor to rise above their current condition in life if the government provides them a handout? Where is the incentive for the currently wealthy to create businesses, greater wealth, and thus greater tax revenue, if the government is to take from them the fruits of their labor and hand them to the unproductive non-contributing of our society? Redistribution of wealth is socialism, and socialism is treasonous.
- We live in a global village; we all are connected. And across history civilizations that conducted themselves under the umbrella of a free trade of ideas and goods thrived more than any others. Jobs are created, and jobs are made obsolete. And when jobs are exported overseas to nations where labor is less expensive, it results in lower-priced goods in the exporting country. It is our responsibility to keep our finger on the pulse of the markets and adapt to our changing environment, to add to our skill set, to continue our education well past the traditional graduation day at eighteen (for high school) or our early twenties (for undergraduate work). The reason we become uncompetitive is not because we transferred jobs overseas, but because we failed to create new jobs right here at home. Stifling free trade, erecting barriers and imposing tariffs, works to our detriment, not our continued productivity.
- Government should be small and non-intrusive. It should exist to ensure the constitution is not violated, but not so far as to reinterpret it or suspend it or blatantly disregard it when not in the government's best interest. The government's best interest should be the liberty of the people. Governments should not create fear in the people, but rather suffer fear of the people for it is the people that determine their fate, not their governments.
- Personal responsibility is a categorical imperative; all successes and failures in our lives begin and end with that. Unfortunately, that is a maxim ignored, rejected, or willfully forgotten by the general populace. They look toward the government to save them from their inequity; they look to businesses to assign blame for their poverty; they look outside themselves for all that they are displeased with in themselves, instead of looking in themselves for the strength to manage that which exists outside. The



counter-point to personal responsibility is a sense of entitlement, and it is that sense which pervades too many corners of our nation and its developing fabric.

- There is a time for diplomacy and there is a time for unadulterated, unmitigated, unrestrained force against those who wish to do harm to this country and the values it cherishes. The idea that there are those in the halls of our government who advocate diplomacy with the current leader of Iran—who as a young adult participated in the hostage taking of Americans inside the US Embassy in Tehran for over one year; who denies the actuality of the holocaust and has proclaimed his desire for all Israelis to be perished from the earth—is absurd. The idea that there are those in the halls of our government who advocate diplomacy with the current leader of North Korea—who inherited the position from his father who ruled for decades, and who himself has now ruled for over a decade, and who denies his people basic food and water while living a lavish life inside his palace threatening nuclear proliferation—is absurd. Diplomacy legitimizes their existence and rule. Isolation of and brute force against these regimes, not diplomacy, asserts our intolerance for what threatens our existence.
- While health care should be more affordable for all Americans, nationalizing it violates the above declaration for smaller government. Placing our ability to manage our own health in the hands of government not only affords government significantly more expression over our liberty than we should be comfortable with, but it creates an environment where we are financially responsible for the abusive health care practices of others, not to mention those who are not citizens and therefore not taxpayers—not to mention the almost fifty percent of Americans who despite their citizenship comprise a segment of our redistribution-of-wealth environment who do not pay any taxes at all. As with so much of what is going on today, the markets' inability to figure out the issue is not reason to nationalize the issue; it should be reason to offer the markets less government intrusion so as to create greater incentive to solve the issue. Government intrusion at the expense of faith in the free market economy is a recipe for failure.
- Just as unions at one point in our nation's history worked to improve labor and conditions for work, today they seem to have destroyed every major industry that has been maligned over the last several decades: the auto industry, the airline industry, steel, education, and healthcare. Where unions are allowed to rule public policy as they do in the aforementioned industries, those industries are collapsing or have collapsed. The auto industry today, for example, is looking for a government bailout to stave bankruptcy from their field, when in fact it is the strong arm of the union which has forced unprofitability and stifled ingenuity and investment through what can only be



termed a sense of entitlement. The idea that the secret ballot in unionization votes may in fact be made public this year, allowing unions to intimidate and continue their strong arm tactics to force unwanted unionization, represents one more support pulled from the teeming structure of our economy—and freedom. The threat of elimination of the secret ballot in strike votes takes an individual’s right to work away from them, and places it in the hands of a union whose interests are power and influence over their respective industries, not the enfranchisement of their members.

- We cannot talk about “relieving our dependence on foreign oil” as the mantra of our nonexistent energy policy, and then the most talked about action toward the realization of that empty rhetorical policy is the windfall-profit taxing of the American energy companies that bring energy to our doors and shores. Demonizing the energy companies that are actually delivering energy, fear-mongering around nuclear energy—an energy source which could take us a long way in that idea of relieving our dependence on foreign oil—and talking up “green” energy which is neither presently scalable nor sufficiently abundant to manage our current energy needs, is good for nothing other than politics between the parties. And while they continue to talk, the Saudis maintain their economical grip over the developed and developing world.
- A women’s right to choose whether she is to give birth to a child exists in her choice of whether or not to engage in sexual intercourse and whether or not to use contraceptives—with the exception of instances of rape, incest and where the mother’s health is at risk. Abortion by choice is no different than pre-meditated murder. And to have a single cent of our taxes directed toward such practice makes us immoral accomplices by association. It is hypocritical to assert lack of maturity in raising a child without addressing the level of responsibility asserted in the act which facilitated conception.
- Education is the silver bullet for our defeat of every social injustice that has or will manifest itself in our society. It is what elevates us from a position of dependence to one of independence. As such, honest education reform in our primary and secondary public institutions must not be held hostage by the teachers union and politicians more concerned with staying in power courtesy of union votes than with helping our children prepare for a global economy. Teachers unions in our public school system should be abolished and teachers should operate in the same environment as do business executives with respect to merit-based pay and job security. School choice should be made available to all public school children and their families, as mandatory mediocre education is an abomination in an advanced society.



But Obama doesn't believe in these positions, nor does his party which will control both the House and Senate. That is not to say that McCain entirely shared the aforementioned perspectives on the issues—he didn't; nor is it to say that his party's platform represents entirely the aforementioned perspectives—it does not. But with each election we are faced with the question: Who will best represent my viewpoints? The Republican Party represented the only force aligned against the socialism of the Democratic Party. It is today far from a perfect party, far from being representative of what our founding fathers envisioned, but the Republican Party is either going to redefine itself as the party of our founders—not only of Reagan or Lincoln—or is going to deconstruct into a complicit accomplice in the Democratic Party's destruction of our founding values. Obama and his party elite failed to make a single principled stand with respect to the financial crisis wreaking havoc on our globe today, nor did any of them at any point since the crisis began take responsibility for their complicity in allowing the crisis to manifest itself to such a degree. They allowed a financial bailout to be passed which has partially nationalized our financial markets—and they are threatening more, including taxpayer loans to an auto industry inept at standing against the abuses of their related union—but done little to restore investor faith in the financial system. As a result, trillions of dollars have been wiped out as investors have watched upwards of forty percent of their invested savings disappear inside of just eight weeks. They have dismissed the acumen of the free markets and talked up increased government regulation and involvement, when it was their very involvement and regulation that aided and abetted the current crisis (*read* scapegoating deregulation as the cause of the crisis without acknowledging their participation in forcing banks to make loans to low income individuals who were nowhere near qualified to pay them, jeopardizing the balance sheets of the banks, the jobs of the bank employees, the individuals invested in the banks, and the communities depending on the presence and continued growth of the banks—all to promote the idea of wealth redistribution.) Not everyone can afford a house. But when you have both a government and a public believing in the continued idea of everyone's sense of entitlement, houses go to those who shouldn't have them. And the financial world crumbles.

Where is the check against such debilitating policies?

So along with over fifty eight million Americans (forty six percent of the voting electorate) we voted against Obama. We cast our vote in opposition to his party and what it has done and what it is saying it will do, and for a party we wish would retake the high ground it once held on



conservative issues. We cast our vote for a party that, while nowhere near articulate or comprehensive enough on their plan for our country, while nowhere near aggressive enough on abuses of power among its members or the pork-barrel buffet too many of them condone, it did not partake in Obama's misdirection. Our detractors attempt to pacify us suggesting what we ironically wish were true, that it is the same with every election, that this election campaign was not any different in that respect: the candidates promise X,Y and Z and deliver something either far short or even radically different from those promises. However, perhaps we need to revisit our American History to compensate for some lack of clarifying knowledge, or maybe we simply view the outcome of this political election as just plain more significant than any other in recent times. We remain stricken by the choice Americans made this time around and their failure to comprehend the misdirection of the president-elect—or even more succinctly, their willingness to swallow the empty rhetorical promises without heeding A) the long-term social consequences if those promises are seen to fruition, i.e. wealth redistribution, or B) what it says about the electorate placing such a messianic faith in a political candidate and the power they have entrusted in a Christ-aspiring figure if his promises are not met, i.e. when the country remains as or grows increasingly more divided over the culture war no candidate on either side of the political aisle is doing enough to quell.

The misdirection lies in Obama's stunning ability to maintain the people's attention in Circus Ring A where he promises to take the country in a bold new direction, proclaiming to fulfill the promises of our founding fathers, entrusting the country back to the people—the middle class, seemingly—and restoring the freedoms and securities and hopes for a better tomorrow which have been extinguished by the outgoing president, his party, and his party's nominee for president. Bold ideas, indeed. However, this is where the rabbit comes out of the hat for this magician, it is where the woman is sawed in half and where the straight jacket is undone and we all gasp in impressed awe, not wanting to probe any deeper or ask too many questions for fear of spoiling the trick and extinguishing the positive, captivating feelings and emotions magic is designed to instill. No one, though, is paying any attention to what is transpiring way across the arena in Circus Ring C where the high jacking of free market capitalism is taking place, where the intentions of the founding fathers are raped, violated without sentiment of remorse, where socialism is being injected into the soul of the populace until we no longer doubt its superiority over capitalism, accepting the demise of what the founding fathers created with not even a whimper for the tears that will be shed over capitalism's death, when finally realized, would have been borne by a generation since past. While the magic tricks and misdirection continue to divert our attention from the dismantling of our country's strengths, this president-elect and his party will supplant what may have once been opposition with a new voter base



beholden to them because of the generousities they afford: socialized medicine so all can seek medical care without regard to the medical innovation that has all but vanished, *read* Canada; nationalized 401Ks so market downturns don't wipe out portfolios of the overly brazen or unfortunately ignorant without regard to the fact that the market has lost its comparative advantage and no longer grows while the government doles out your life savings to even more failed social welfare programs, *read* Argentina; unionization of industry so all can be assured of having work and at a minimum wage without regard to the cessation of business innovation and expansion due to financially debilitating union contracts, *read* General Motors and the infamous Job Bank where you are paid not to work as per union rules while the company founders on the one hand while demanding billions of dollars in taxpayer money with the other. Yeah, that one *reads* United States of America.

We should want our children to inherit a country for which they can be proud, which they will not question to defend, and for which they deserve to have without having to defend it against other Americans. We should want our children to inherit the country intended by the founding fathers, not the country being reconstructed by president-elect Obama, the Democratic-controlled Congress and the inept Republicans doing little to represent what they are fond of calling Reagan's Party.

Our children deserve better. It is well past time we step up, beat our drums, and fight for the country we are not prepared to lose to a movement as insidious as socialism.

**End of Part 2 of 2. Read Part 1 of this post at [www.ourfoundingsons.com](http://www.ourfoundingsons.com)**