

September 18, 2014

Roger Cohen of the NY Times wrote a column on the "great unraveling" presided over by this president.

It was the time of unraveling. Long afterward, in the ruins, people asked: How could it happen?

It was a time of beheadings. With a left-handed sawing motion, against a desert backdrop, in bright sunlight, a Muslim with a British accent cut off the heads of two American journalists and a British aid worker. ...

... It was a time of aggression. The leader of the largest nation on earth pronounced his country encircled, even humiliated. He annexed part of a neighboring country, the first such act in Europe since 1945, and stirred up a war on further land he coveted. His surrogates shot down a civilian passenger plane. The victims, many of them Europeans, were left to rot in the sun for days. ...

... It was a time of breakup. The most successful union in history, forged on an island in the North Sea in 1707, headed toward possible dissolution — not because it had failed (refugees from across the seas still clamored to get into it), nor even because of new hatreds between its peoples. ...

... It was a time of weakness. The most powerful nation on earth was tired of far-flung wars, its will and treasury depleted by absence of victory. An ungrateful world could damn well police itself. The nation had bridges to build and education systems to fix. Civil wars between Arabs could fester. Enemies might even kill other enemies, a low-cost gain. Middle Eastern borders could fade; they were artificial colonial lines on a map. Shiite could battle Sunni, and Sunni Shiite, there was no stopping them. Like Europe's decades-long religious wars, these wars had to run their course. The nation's leader mockingly derided his own "wan, diffident, professorial" approach to the world, implying he was none of these things, even if he gave that appearance. He set objectives for which he had no plan. He made commitments he did not keep. In the way of the world these things were noticed. Enemies probed. ...

... It was a time of hatred. Anti-Semitic slogans were heard in the land that invented industrialized mass murder for Europe's Jews. Frightened European Jews removed mezuzahs from their homes. ...

Ed Driscoll says the above shows the Gray Lady suffers from a malaise. And points out a lot of this is partly her fault.

Elizabeth Scalia, aka "The anchoress," describes Roger Cohen's piece in the New York Times titled "The Great Unraveling" as "an exquisitely-written dose of reality." Regarding America in the age of Obama, Cohen describes it in Dickensian terms; "It was a time of weakness": ...

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... Fair enough, but consider the source — over the past 12 years, the New York Times, when not going on benders on the evils of golf courses and air conditioning, and publishing outright fabulism, has, more recently, published pieces calling for the end of the US Constitution, and

mocking the [“fervid subsets of evangelical Christianity”](#) of its presidential candidates — only, upon further review, to discover that these extreme worldviews are Catholicism, Lutheranism and Mormonism, bedrock religions of America’s history. Its leading journalists have publicly called the citizens of the American midwest [“The dance of the low-sloping foreheads”](#) and filed William S. Burroughs-style stories of [openly experimenting with drugs](#). And of course, in 2008, it went all-in to champion a man who was clearly not ready to be president, to the point of actively [burying potentially damaging stories](#) about him and [refusing to run op-eds](#) from his opponent. ...

Roger Simon posts on the president's biggest lie.

There’s a lot of competition for Barack Obama’s biggest lie. The man who could assure the American public with a straight face over thirty times that they could keep their doctor under his health plan, when he knew that to be completely false, is one helluva fibber.

But execrable as that serial prevarication may have been, it doesn’t hold a proverbial candle to his most recent whopper — that the Islamic State is not Islamic — not to mention its corollary, or perhaps subsidiary lie, that real religions do not indulge in murder. Islam has been doing that pretty much straight through for fourteen centuries, both outwardly toward Christians and Jews, and inwardly in its unresolved pathological conflict between its Sunni and Shiite strains that continues, as the world well knows, to this day and undoubtedly into the foreseeable future, spewing an uncountable number of corpses as it goes.

The Islamic State is not only Islamic, it is the very paradigm of Islam, Islam distilled to its essence as practiced by Mohammed, massacring local tribes, raping and enslaving their women, and making war against everyone in his way until he had subdued as much of Arabia as possible. Who knows how many beheadings were involved, but can we assume the total significantly outstrips the Islamic State’s, at least for now ? Islam is far from the only violent religion — almost all have had their moments — but it is unquestionably the most unremittingly so. If Islam is said to have been hijacked, it is not by the thugs of the Muslim Brotherhood, ISIS, al Qaeda, al Nusra, Ansar al Islam, Ansar al Sharia, al Shabaab, Boko Haram, Jemaah Islamiyah, Hamas, Hezbollah and on and on. They are the true practitioners of the faith, following in the footsteps of Mohammed and obeying the prescriptions of the Koran and the Hadith to make the whole world Islamic or else. They don’t need to communicate with each other. They just do their thing, because the playbook has been written for them and they have studied it well. It is they who have been temporarily hijacked by a few whirling pacifistic Sufis or other moderate outliers ...

And a **NY Post OpEd** lists the five lies upon which the presidency was shaped.

If past presidents are remembered for their signature achievements, Obama will be remembered for his signature lie: “If you like your health care plan, blah, blah, blah.” The reader knows the rest. Although the most consequential of Obama’s lies — it got him re-elected — it’s far from his only prevarication.

I’ve counted 75 significant lies since his campaign for president began, but that doesn’t begin to tally the casual fibs and hyperbole he spouts seemingly every day. Here are five that illustrate just how much Obama’s presidency is built on falsehoods. ...

Andrew Malcolm says polls indicate the public does not believe Obama will prevail against ISIS.

Sowing distrust and discord among Americans has served Barack Obama well politically during his 68 months in office. But now as the former community organizer faces ISIS and the worst foreign policy crisis of his ineffective presidential tenure, that distrust and division has circled around to bite its master.

After his nationally-televised address Wednesday and a tepid Friday fundraiser talk justifying his belated actions, a new poll reveals that a large majority of Americans says it lacks confidence he can accomplish his stated goals of beating the brutal new terror group that released a video of its beheading of a British citizen over the weekend.

It's not that Americans doubt the effectiveness of the American military.

*Nor do they question the need to militarily confront the Islamic extremists that have seized large portions of Syria and Iraq, killing thousands and threatening to export their terror attacks to the U.S. and Europe. Indeed, previous polls showed a substantial majority calling for the Democrat **to attack ISIS even as he blithely admitted he had no strategy.***

The new NBC News/ Wall Street Journal/Annenberg Poll finds 62% of Americans support Obama taking action against ISIS.

But fully 68% of his countrymen say they have "very little" or "just some" confidence that Obama will achieve his newly-discovered strategic goals of degrading and defeating ISIS through bombing and an international coalition. ...

Sherman Frederick tells the president to get to work.

... Sometimes you get a president who exceeds expectations, and sometimes you don't.

President Barack Obama is a "don't."

He got elected. Twice. That's a skill. But he hasn't successfully parlayed that skill into effective leadership. His communication skills fail to rise to the level of the average manager at Taco Bell.

Recent events, sadly and clearly, underline this.

In the middle of a televised build-up of brutal terrorist activity in Syria and Iraq, our president stubbornly went on his scheduled vacation to Martha's Vineyard, where he golfed during the day and danced the night away at parties thrown by lobbyists.

Meanwhile, thousands of Iraqi soldiers and Christians were tortured, raped and slain by ISIS thugs before being pushed into mass graves.

Only when ISIS videotaped the beheading of an American journalist did the president emerge from vacation. He quickly acknowledged the act, saying it was all he could do not to weep in

public. Then, only 10 minutes later, he is in a golf cart on the links, yucking it up with an NBA celebrity.

I'll let shrinks analyze what kind of person can go from sniffing back a tear to a horselaugh. The cause for concern is this president's ineffective basic communication skills.

He's such a megalomaniac that he thinks he's gifted enough to manage from afar fast-breaking world events — Ukraine, Syria, Gaza, etc. Responding to criticism for this, his people explain this very special president doesn't have to come to work every day and sit at his desk at the White House, because he's so adept at modern forms of communication — email, texts, video conferencing, etc. ...

NY Times

The Great Unraveling

by Roger Cohen

It was the time of unraveling. Long afterward, in the ruins, people asked: How could it happen?

It was a time of beheadings. With a left-handed sawing motion, against a desert backdrop, in bright sunlight, a Muslim with a British accent cut off the heads of [two American journalists](#) and a [British aid worker](#). The jihadi seemed comfortable in his work, unhurried. His victims were broken. Terror is theater. Burning skyscrapers, severed heads: The terrorist takes movie images of unbearable lightness and gives them weight enough to embed themselves in the psyche.

It was a time of aggression. The leader of the largest nation on earth pronounced his country encircled, even humiliated. He annexed part of a neighboring country, the first such act in Europe since 1945, and stirred up a war on further land he coveted. His surrogates [shot down](#) a civilian passenger plane. The victims, many of them Europeans, were left to rot in the sun for days. He denied any part in the violence, like a puppeteer denying that his puppets' movements have any connection to his. He invoked the law the better to trample on it. He invoked history the better to turn it into farce. He reminded humankind that the idiom fascism knows best is untruth so grotesque it begets unreason.

It was a time of breakup. The most successful union in history, forged on an island in the North Sea in 1707, headed toward [possible dissolution](#) — not because it had failed (refugees from across the seas still clamored to get into it), nor even because of new hatreds between its peoples. The northernmost citizens were bored. They were disgruntled. They were irked, in some insidious way, by the south and its moneyed capital, an emblem to them of globalization and inequality. They imagined they had to control their National Health Service in order to save it even though they already controlled it through devolution and might well have less money for its preservation (not that it was threatened in the first place) as an independent state. The fact that the currency, the debt, the revenue, the defense, the solvency and the European Union membership of such a newborn state were all in doubt did not appear to weigh much on a

decision driven by emotion, by urges, by a longing to be heard in the modern cacophony — and to heck with the day after. If all else failed, oil would come to the rescue (unless somebody else owned it or it just ran out).

It was a time of weakness. The most powerful nation on earth was tired of far-flung wars, its will and treasury depleted by absence of victory. An ungrateful world could damn well police itself. The nation had bridges to build and education systems to fix. Civil wars between Arabs could fester. Enemies might even kill other enemies, a low-cost gain. Middle Eastern borders could fade; they were artificial colonial lines on a map. Shiite could battle Sunni, and Sunni Shiite, there was no stopping them. Like Europe's decades-long religious wars, these wars had to run their course. The nation's leader mockingly derided his own "[wan, diffident, professorial](#)" approach to the world, implying he was none of these things, even if he gave that appearance. He set objectives for which he had no plan. He made commitments he did not keep. In the way of the world these things were noticed. Enemies probed. Allies were neglected, until they were needed to face the decapitators who talked of a Caliphate and called themselves a state. Words like "strength" and "resolve" returned to the leader's vocabulary. But the world was already adrift, unmoored by the retreat of its ordering power. The rule book had been ripped up.

It was a time of hatred. Anti-Semitic slogans were heard in the land that invented industrialized mass murder for Europe's Jews. Frightened European Jews removed mezuzahs from their homes. Europe's Muslims felt the ugly backlash from the depravity of the decapitators, who were adept at Facebooking their message. The fabric of society frayed. Democracy looked quaint or outmoded beside new authoritarianisms. Politicians, haunted by their incapacity, played on the fears of their populations, who were device-distracted or under device-driven stress. Dystopia was a vogue word, like utopia in the 20th century. The great rising nations of vast populations held the fate of the world in their hands but hardly seemed to care.

It was a time of fever. People in [West Africa](#) bled from the eyes.

It was a time of disorientation. Nobody connected the dots or read Kipling on life's few certainties: "The Dog returns to his Vomit and the Sow returns to her Mire / And the burnt Fool's bandaged finger goes wabbling back to the Fire."

Until it was too late and people could see the Great Unraveling for what it was and what it had wrought.

Pajamas Media **[Gray Lady Suffers Malaise](#)**

by Ed Driscoll

Elizabeth Scalia, aka "The anchoress," describes Roger Cohen's piece in the *New York Times* titled "The Great Unraveling" as "[an exquisitely-written dose of reality.](#)" Regarding America in the age of Obama, Cohen describes it in Dickensian terms; "It was a time of weakness":

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Elizabeth responds, "It is, finally, perhaps a time of dawning realization that the centers are not holding; old orders are *in extremis*; new orders are in capricious adolescence":

The troubles briefly enumerated in this sobering op-ed are only the most obvious issues. They are the pebble tossed into the pond, rippling outward in ever-widening circles — expanding to include a unique "time" of global crisis: governments failing at every level, everywhere; churches are divided, their freedoms challenged; citizens are distracted, dissatisfied and distrustful, their election mechanisms in doubt; schools are losing sight of the primary mission of education; families are deconstructed and the whole concept ripe for dissolution; respect for human dignity is doled out in qualified measures; there is a lack of privacy; a lack of time to think, to process and to incarnate; a lack of silence.

It sounds terribly, terribly depressing, yes. Who wants to read that? Who wants to think about that?

Sadly, this is essential reading; this is essential thinking.

Fair enough, but consider the source — over the past 12 years, the *New York Times*, when not going on benders on [the evils of golf courses](#) and [air conditioning](#), and [publishing outright fabulism](#), has, more recently, published pieces calling for [the end of the US Constitution](#), and mocking the ["fervid subsets of evangelical Christianity"](#) of its presidential candidates — only, upon further review, to discover that these extreme worldviews are Catholicism, Lutheranism and Mormonism, bedrock religions of America's history. Its leading journalists have publicly called the citizens of the American midwest ["The dance of the low-sloping foreheads"](#) and filed William S. Burroughs-style stories of [openly experimenting with drugs](#). And of course, in 2008, it went all-in to champion a man who was clearly not ready to be president, to the point of actively [burying potentially damaging stories](#) about him and [refusing to run op-eds](#) from his opponent.

In the 1920s, there was only one H.L. Mencken, mocking democracy and religion as outdated and the American people as the "booboosie." In the 1960s and '70s, there was only one Hunter Thompson, [similarly calling America](#) "just a nation of two hundred million used car salesmen with all the money we need to buy guns and no qualms about killing anybody else in the world who tries to make us uncomfortable."

But as James Lileks wrote, shortly before Thompson committed suicide after a lifetime of drug and alcohol abuse, Thompson was "the guy who made nihilism hip. He's the guy who taught a generation that the only thing you should believe is this: don't trust anyone who believes anything. [He's the patron saint of journalism](#), whether journalists know it or not." A major city newspaper can't staff itself full of wannabe Menckens and Thompsons, and then blindly wonder why a great unraveling is occurring.

Menken and Thompson were at least bracing original voices for their times. In contrast, as Matthew Continetti wrote a few months ago when the then-recently fired editor Jill Abramson posed in a well-circulated publicity photo (including [on the cover](#) of the crosstown rival *New York Post*) wearing a trucker cap, wife-beater T-shirt, boxing gloves and tattoo, her former paper is, to paraphrase Martin Mull's old joke about show business, [high school with money and power](#):

Gossipy, catty, insular, cliquey, stressful, immature, cowardly, moody, underhanded, spiteful—the *New York Times* gives new meaning to the term “hostile workplace.” What has been said of the press—that it wields power without any sense of responsibility—is also a fair enough description of the young adult. And it is to high school, I think, that the *New York Times* is most aptly compared. The coverage of the Abramson firing reads at times like the plot of an episode of *Saved By the Bell* minus the sex: Someone always has a crazy idea, everyone's feelings are always hurt, apologies and reconciliations are made and quickly sundered, confrontations are the subject of intense planning and preparation, and authority figures are youth-oriented, well-intentioned, bumbling, and inept.

What made Jimmy Carter's Malaise Speech in 1979 [so doubly pathetic](#) was his assumption that “liberalism” was the sole political ideology in America *and* his epistemic closure in not understanding why it turned insular and withdrawn. With Cohen's essay today, which assumes that “the great unraveling” is somehow occurring without blaming “Progressivism's” role in both desiring it and influencing it, the *Times* has had a similar Malaise moment as well.

And note Cohen's conclusion:

It was a time of disorientation. Nobody connected the dots or read Kipling on life's few certainties: “The Dog returns to his Vomit and the Sow returns to her Mire / And the burnt Fool's bandaged finger goes wabbling back to the Fire.”

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Who is teach Kipling to American kids these days, when he has so many strikes working against him from [academia's point of view](#): (1) European (2) Male and (3) pro-Colonial and pro-Empire Building and (4) [Racist](#)?

Exit Question for both Pinch Sulzberger and Roger Cohen: Regarding Ukraine, Iraq, Europe, Africa, and the other regions mentioned in Cohen's article — why should America do anything about them, when they're [“the other guy's country; we shouldn't be there?”](#)

Roger L. Simon **[Obama's Biggest Lie](#)**

There's a lot of competition for Barack Obama's biggest lie. The man who could assure the American public with a straight face over thirty times that they could keep their doctor under his health plan, when he knew that to be completely false, is one helluva fibber.

But execrable as that serial prevarication may have been, it doesn't hold a proverbial candle to his most recent whopper — that the Islamic State is not Islamic — not to mention its corollary, or perhaps subsidiary lie, that real religions do not indulge in murder. Islam has been doing that pretty much straight through for fourteen centuries, both outwardly toward Christians and Jews, and inwardly in its unresolved pathological conflict between its Sunni and Shiite strains that continues, as the world well knows, to this day and undoubtedly into the foreseeable future, spewing an uncountable number of corpses as it goes.

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But most of us know this. It couldn't be more evident, even to Barack Obama. But he chose to lie about it at the very moment innocent men were being beheaded in the name of Allah. This can't be the real Islam that is doing this said our president, our secretary of State, and their loyal clique at the State Department who would be outraged at Israel if it so much as sprained a Palestinian kid's ankle but could barely pronounce the word Islam if the Islamic Republic of Iran dropped an atom bomb on Philadelphia and killed a quarter of a million people. It would just be another instance of "work place violence," maybe of a slightly extended sort with a globalist overlay.

So everybody in our administration, and even most of our military, seems to lie these days, but the source of the lies comes from the top, POTUS. He governs our land where the truth dare not be uttered, the enemy never named. We all know we're in a civilizational war with Islam, have been for quite some time and likely to be for a lot longer, but our officials and our mainstream media will do everything possible not to admit it. They assume, I guess, if we tell the Islamic world they're peaceful often enough, they will become it. That's the most optimistic view of it. The pessimistic view is that a number of our leaders and media want us to lose. Either way we're in a pack of trouble.

NY Post

5 lies that have shaped the Obama presidency

by Jack Cashill

If past presidents are remembered for their signature achievements, Obama will be remembered for his signature lie: “If you like your health care plan, blah, blah, blah.” The reader knows the rest. Although the most consequential of Obama’s lies — it got him re-elected — it’s far from his only prevarication.

I’ve counted 75 significant lies since his campaign for president began, but that doesn’t begin to tally the casual fibs and hyperbole he spouts seemingly every day. Here are five that illustrate just how much Obama’s presidency is built on falsehoods.

5. “My father left my family when I was 2 years old.”

Obama made this claim in September 2009, when addressing the nation’s schoolkids. By then, the blogosphere knew that baby Obama had never spent a night under the same roof as his father, let alone two years.

For years, Obama and his advisers invested enormous political capital in what biographer David Remnick called Obama’s “signature appeal: the use of the details of his own life as a reflection of a kind of multicultural ideal.”

Remnick called Obama’s autobiography “a mixture of verifiable fact, recollection, recreation, invention and artful shaping.” In other words, the truth is never good enough.

4. “The Fast and Furious program was a field-initiated program begun under the previous administration.”

Obama spun this fiction at a September 2012 Univision forum knowing it was false. In fact, the bizarre, deadly idea to let American guns “walk” into Mexico, where they were used by drug cartels to kill dozens, began in October 2009.

Three months earlier, White House press secretary Jay Carney had made the same bogus claim virtually word for word at a press conference and got shot down on national TV. “It began in fall 2009,” corrected White House correspondent Jake Tapper, then with ABC.

Carney refused to acknowledge he lied, and the president continued to lie weeks later. It’s all part of Obama’s ducking of responsibility — it’s always someone else’s fault.

3. “Not even a smidgen of corruption.”

Obama said this in response to Bill O’Reilly’s question about the IRS scandal: “You’re saying no corruption?”

If there were not even a “smidgen of corruption,” as Obama insisted, it is hard to understand what outraged him, or at least seemed to, when news of the IRS scandal first broke. “It’s inexcusable, and Americans are right to be angry about it, and I am angry about it,” Obama said in May 2013. Obama routinely expressed anger when some new scandal erupted on his watch

— IRS, the failed ObamaCare website, the VA scandal, Fast and Furious — but never before had he shoved a scandal down the memory hole so quickly.

And how could Obama know there wasn't a smidgen of corruption before the investigation was even over? Perhaps because the administration knew that any proof of that was gone with deleted emails and destroyed hard drives?

2. “We revealed to the American people exactly what we understood at the time.”

During that same Super Bowl Sunday interview, Obama made this claim in response to O'Reilly's inquiry about the attack on the American consulate in Benghazi. Obama continued to dissemble: “The notion that we would hide the ball for political purposes when a week later we all said, in fact, there was a terrorist attack taking place and the day after I said it was an act of terror, that wouldn't be a very good coverup.”

In fact, it was exactly a week after the attack, on Sept. 18, that Obama took his first questions about Benghazi. Bizarrely, he did so to David Letterman. “Here's what happened,” Obama said.

“You had a video that was released by somebody who lives here, sort of a shadowy character who — who made an extremely offensive video directed at — at Mohammed and Islam.”

We know now that the administration knew this wasn't true. Not a week later; not even the very night of the attacks.

On many levels, this was Obama's most telling lie. He only deals with the world as he sees it, not as it is.

1. “Transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency.”

Obama told this whopper to his assembled staff on his first day in office. He promised it to the press. Instead, his administration refuses to hand over documents and Obama refuses to answer questions. As liberal constitutional scholar Jonathan Turley assessed the presidency, “Barack Obama is really the president Richard Nixon always wanted to be.”

What do these lies, just a sample of many, tell us? Obama never stopped “artfully shaping” his life.

The scary thing is he might actually believe these lies. He believes that posting a shot from his personal photographer online is “transparent.” That targeting conservative groups for audits isn't corrupt. That everything that has gone wrong with his presidency is Bush's fault.

Knowing that, how can we believe anything that he says?

Jack Cashill is the author of “You Lie! The Evasions, Omissions, Fabrications, Frauds and Outright Falsehoods of Barack Obama” (Broadside Books), out Oct. 7.

IBD

Poll: Americans don't believe Obama will defeat ISIS; Now what?

by Andrew Malcolm

Sowing distrust and discord among Americans has served Barack Obama well politically during his 68 months in office. But now as the former community organizer faces ISIS and the worst foreign policy crisis of his ineffective presidential tenure, that distrust and division has circled around to bite its master.

After his nationally-televised address Wednesday and a tepid Friday fundraiser talk justifying his belated actions, a new poll reveals that a large majority of Americans says it lacks confidence he can accomplish his stated goals of beating the brutal new terror group that released a video of its beheading of a British citizen over the weekend.

Its not that Americans doubt the effectiveness of the American military.

Nor do they question the need to militarily confront the Islamic extremists that have seized large portions of Syria and Iraq, killing thousands and threatening to export their terror attacks to the U.S. and Europe. Indeed, previous polls showed a substantial majority calling for the Democrat **to attack ISIS even as he blithely admitted he had no strategy.**

The new [NBC News/ Wall Street Journal/Annenberg Poll](#) finds 62% of Americans support Obama taking action against ISIS.

But fully 68% of his countrymen say they have "very little" or "just some" confidence that Obama will achieve his newly-discovered strategic goals of degrading and defeating ISIS through bombing and an international coalition.

Perhaps worse, only slightly more than one-in-four (28%) have "a great deal" or "quite a bit" of confidence their president will achieve the murderous group's demise.

Part of the faith deficit stems from Obama's chronic tardiness, in person and in policy. You may recall for years now, even after the deadly Benghazi attack proved him delusional, Obama's been touting how badly al Qaeda's leadership had been "decimated" and how dead Osama bin Laden was.

Obama's excuse now is the terrorists have become more "diffuse." We now know his daily intelligence warnings warned him of the rise of ISIS at least a year ago. Yet in January he called it a "JV" squad. Suddenly, after stalling for years the president has decided to arm moderate Syrian rebels, whoever they are, which just last month he derided as a "fantasy" army of mere doctors, farmers and pharmacists.

And at least one year late he claims to be constructing an international coalition of countries to do what he's unwilling to do: Send ground troops to confront the ISIS hordes taking advantage of the power vacuum and chaos that President Bush warned about if the U.S. withdrew prematurely, as Obama did in 2011. (*Scroll down for video of Bush's prescient warning seven years ago.*)



Obama admires his Nobel Peace Prize

Friday night at a Baltimore fundraiser Obama put on full display his stubbornly naive view of the world and the United States' role as its sole surviving superpower, telling donors:

"We're going to be able to build the kind of coalition that allows us to lead but also isn't entirely dependent on what we do."

That'll work. On Sunday Obama sent his chief of staff, the haunted Denis McDonough, out to repeat the sales pitch, as if repeating Obama's manufactured hopes will make them come true.

Let's just say for planning purposes that Iraq's Army and the Free Syrian Army prove inadequate to the task of stopping ISIS, let alone pushing it back, as they have been every day so far. Even with the help of recruited military powerhouses like, say, Albania.

What's left is -- *tah-dah!* -- U.S. air power. And Obama's oft-repeated vow of no U.S. ground troops. Yes, yes, Obama often repeatedly vows things he doesn't do; Is your health insurance cheaper under ObamaCare?

Like so much of Obama's actions, his ISIS moves seem designed to sound good during a turbulent PR period and then be abandoned later when the heat is off. The [Institute for the Study of War](#) has become a major source of information and perspective on ISIS. Read [this analysis](#) and see if you think Obama's narrow U.S. role tailored to domestic politics will do the trick, even with really smart bombs:

"ISIS has built a holistic system of governance that includes religious, educational, judicial, security, humanitarian and infrastructure projects....ISIS has allowed local employees to keep their jobs, while appointing loyal foreign fighters to top management positions. This enables ISIS to undertake large governance projects and project control over the local population with only a limited number of personnel.

"By maintaining large detention facilities in Raqqa and Mosul, ISIS has been able to neutralize potential opposition. ISIS has routinely carried out extra-judicial punishments of civilians, including public executions, has conducted mass executions of captured enemy personnel, and has waged assassination campaigns against influential security officials. Finally, ISIS conducts psychological operations and exercises nearly complete control over the flow of information, enabling it to broadcast messages of dominance."

Las Vegas Review-Journal

Get to work, Mr. President

by Sherman Frederick

With apologies to the movie "Forrest Gump," presidents are like a box of chocolates — you never know what you're going to get.

Sometimes you get a president who exceeds expectations, and sometimes you don't.

President Barack Obama is a "don't."

He got elected. Twice. That's a skill. But he hasn't successfully parlayed that skill into effective leadership. His communication skills fail to rise to the level of the average manager at Taco Bell.

Recent events, sadly and clearly, underline this.

In the middle of a televised build-up of brutal terrorist activity in Syria and Iraq, our president stubbornly went on his scheduled vacation to Martha's Vineyard, where he golfed during the day and danced the night away at parties thrown by lobbyists.

Meanwhile, thousands of Iraqi soldiers and Christians were tortured, raped and slain by ISIS thugs before being pushed into mass graves.

Only when ISIS videotaped the beheading of an American journalist did the president emerge from vacation. He quickly acknowledged the act, saying it was all he could do not to weep in public. Then, only 10 minutes later, he is in a golf cart on the links, yucking it up with an NBA celebrity.

I'll let shrinks analyze what kind of person can go from sniffing back a tear to a horselaugh. The cause for concern is this president's ineffective basic communication skills.

He's such a megalomaniac that he thinks he's gifted enough to manage from afar fast-breaking world events — Ukraine, Syria, Gaza, etc. Responding to criticism for this, his people explain this very special president doesn't have to come to work every day and sit at his desk at the White House, because he's so adept at modern forms of communication — email, texts, video conferencing, etc.

“The office” is wherever he is — be it in Hawaii, Martha’s Vineyard, a fundraiser, golfing or doing “The Tonight Show.”

That’s a rookie conceit, as any Taco Bell manager would tell you. There is no substitute for face-to-face communication. There is no better way to make a fast decision during a crisis than when the boss is in the room and 100 percent engaged.

Why do you think football coaches don’t take holidays during the season? They don’t watch their games on TV and then video conference their thoughts to the players at halftime. They don’t text plays from the golf course to the sidelines. They show up.

Imagine if President Obama had showed up for ISIS and Benghazi?

While President Obama kicked back on vacation, his people in Washington breathlessly revealed how dangerous ISIS had become. Previously, the president had dismissed ISIS as the “jayvee” team.

It created a horribly mixed message. It scared American citizens.

Had the president been at work behind his desk, instead of squeezing ISIS beheadings between rounds of golf, perhaps there would not have been this unnerving disconnect.

And history will never forget the night of Benghazi two years ago. President Obama did not even show up at the situation room during the time that our ambassador in Libya was under attack. A new book out last week says a small force of heavily armed CIA fighters were ready and willing to save the ambassador, but were told by the CIA to stand down. Team Obama disavows that. But I’ll believe the guys on the ground before I believe the politicians in Washington.

The overarching point is that the president wasn’t even in the room. He slept through it, presumably, waking up early the next morning to fly Air Force One to Las Vegas for a meaningless political rah-rah event.

That’s this president in a nutshell. He’s a full-of-himself part-timer, never fully engaged.

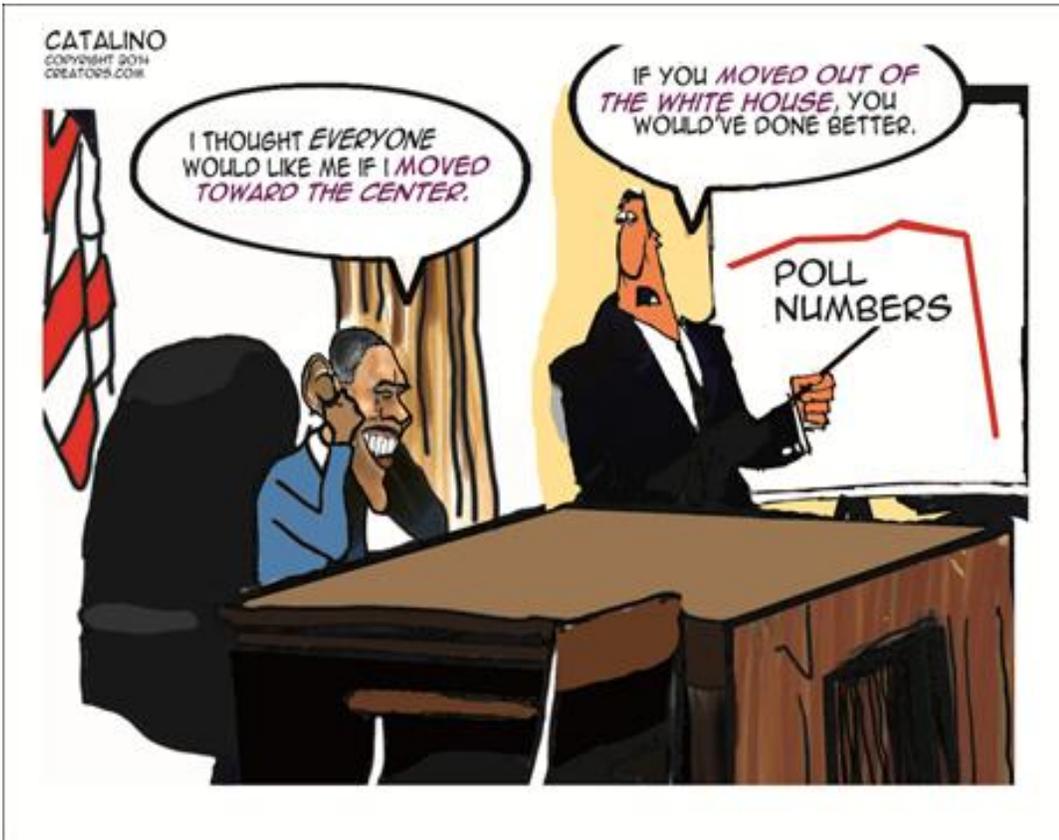
Unless President Obama starts showing up for work every day and meeting face-to-face in the same room with his team for some real communication and decision making — no texts, no video conferencing, no vacations, no golf, no fundraisers — he’ll repeat the error. But, hey, it’s just management theory. NFL coaches do it. Taco Bell managers do it.

Try it, Mr. President.



Malignant Narcissism

I AM the dream!



IS HILLARY RUNNING?

IT DEPENDS ON
WHAT THE MEANING
OF THE WORD 'IS' IS.

WHAT DIFFERENCE
AT THIS POINT
DOES IT MAKE?



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inevitabillary (n) the high probability we will get really sick of these two over the next 25 months.

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