

March 23, 2015

Back to the Washington Miscreant. We start with Josh [Kraushaar](#) from the left/liberal National Journal. You know things are bad when even liberals can see what a disaster this president has become. Imagine policies so dumb both parties in congress will soon unite in opposition.

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*But the reason the president is facing such bipartisan backlash is that an overwhelming number of voters are deeply worried about the direction of the negotiations. Think about how rare, in these polarized times, mobilizing a veto-proof majority of congressional Republicans and Democrats is for any significant legislation. Yet despite all the distractions, Congress is close to achieving that goal: requiring the administration to go to Congress for approval of any deal. ...*

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*Obama views that equation backward: Getting the outcome he wants, and then attacking his opponents for not going along with him. It certainly hasn't proved to be a healthy process domestically. Now he's trying to extend that approach to the international stage.*

**Jonathan Tobin** thinks we have had enough of amateurs in the White House.

*Last week, our [Seth Mandel](#) wrote an interesting piece about the way radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt might shape the 2016 Republican presidential contest both by hosting a GOP debate and*

through his probing no-holds-barred interviews with the contenders. Yesterday, as if acting on cue to prove Seth's point, Hewitt had Dr. Ben Carson on his show in what should be considered one of the first real tests of the likely candidate's mettle. Rather than lob softballs at the good doctor as most conservative talkers would do, Hewitt not only asked tough questions but paid particular attention to what was likely to be Carson's weak spot: foreign policy. The results were illuminating and should alert those right-wing populists who think Carson is ready for the presidency that he is anything but.

A famed neurosurgeon, Carson is surely as intelligent as anybody who's ever run for president. He's not completely ignorant about foreign policy and seems to be a supporter of a strong America and an opponent of terrorism. But he was soon tripped up by faulty knowledge of some basic facts about the world and history. Though quick to offer opinions about what to do about Russia, Carson didn't know that the Baltic States are already NATO members. When asked to identify the roots of Islamic terrorism he replied by citing the Biblical conflict between Jacob and his brother Esau, failing to realize that Islam is only 1,400 years old and not "thousands" as he claimed. He also cited the possibility that Shia and Sunni Muslims would unite against the United States when in fact the two factions are at each other's throats in a conflict that is fueling Iran's quest for regional hegemony.

Carson says he's planning on studying the issues more closely in the future and seems to regard this as a minor detail that can be corrected but as Hewitt said:

"I want to be respectful in posing this. But I mean, you wouldn't expect me to become a neurosurgeon in a couple of years. And I wouldn't expect you to be able to access and understand and collate the information necessary to be a global strategist in a couple of years. Is it fair for people to worry that you just haven't been in the world strategy long enough to be competent to imagine you in the Oval Office deciding these things? I mean, we've tried an amateur for the last six years and look what it got us. ..."

**David Harsanyi** posts on the left's ugly Israel freakout.

After years of ginned-up conflict, Barack Obama has finally found a pretext to change the contours of the United States-Israel alliance. Israel's policies might not be changing, but the administration will "reevaluate" the relationship, anyway.

POLITICO reports that Obama may, among other things, stop shielding Israel from international pressure at the United Nations. So Americans can look forward to joining Sudan or Yemen—feel free to pick any autocratic dump, really—in condemning Jews for living in their historic homeland and relying on democratic institutions rather than a consensus at the United Nation to decide their fate.

So our morally chaotic foreign policy is coming to a predictable climax. At least on this issue. Obama, with no more elections to run, will now use these threats to pressure Israel into compliance on an Iran deal that looks more dangerous every day. That's not surprising. What is, though, is how self-proclaimed Zionists have co-opted some of the most absurd justifications for throwing Israel to the wolves. ...

**Michael Goodwin** says Israel should be aware of obama.

*First he comes for the banks and health care, uses the IRS to go after critics, politicizes the Justice Department, spies on journalists, tries to curb religious freedom, slashes the military, throws open the borders, doubles the debt and nationalizes the Internet.*

*He lies to the public, ignores the Constitution, inflames race relations and urges Latinos to punish Republican “enemies.” He abandons our allies, appeases tyrants, coddles adversaries and uses the Crusades as an excuse for inaction as Islamist terrorists slaughter their way across the Mideast.*

*Now he’s coming for Israel. ..*

*... Against the backdrop of the tsunami of trouble he has unleashed, Obama’s pledge to “reassess” America’s relationship with Israel cannot be taken lightly. Already paving the way for an Iranian nuke, he is hinting he’ll also let the other anti-Semites at Turtle Bay have their way. That could mean American support for punitive Security Council resolutions or for Palestinian statehood initiatives. It could mean both, or something worse.*

*Whatever form the punishment takes, it will aim to teach Bibi Netanyahu never again to upstage him. And to teach Israeli voters never again to elect somebody Obama doesn’t like.*

*Apologists and wishful thinkers, including some Jews, insist Obama realizes that the special relationship between Israel and the United States must prevail and that allowing too much daylight between friends will encourage enemies.*

*Those people are slow learners, or, more dangerously, deny-ists.*

*If Obama’s six years in office teach us anything, it is that he is impervious to appeals to good sense. ...*

**Kevin Williamson** has an interesting post on Arabs voting in Israel.

*In Reihan’s post*, this from the New York Times jumped out at me:

*“Arab voters are streaming in huge quantities to the polling stations.”*

*It is impossible to imagine a Jordan or a Syria or a country pretty much anywhere else in the Middle East in which a journalist might write of Jewish voters: “They were being bused in in droves.”*

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## National Journal

### On Iran, Obama Is Ignoring Public Opinion at His Own Peril

*The president's pursuit of a nuclear deal with Iran underscores the lengths to which he is willing to bypass public resistance.*

by Josh Kraushaar

Throughout the contentious debate between the White House and Congress over the Iran nuclear negotiations, one important piece of the equation has been largely overlooked: American public opinion. If voters were confident that President Obama was striking a good deal with Iran that would prevent Tehran from getting nuclear weapons, he'd have little trouble getting support from the legislative branch.

But the reason the president is facing such bipartisan backlash is that an overwhelming number of voters are deeply worried about the direction of the negotiations. Think about how rare, in these polarized times, mobilizing a veto-proof majority of congressional Republicans and Democrats is for any significant legislation. Yet despite all the distractions, Congress is close to achieving that goal: requiring the administration to go to Congress for approval of any deal.

The administration is so focused on process and protocol in attacking the opposition because it's a useful distraction from how unpopular the administration's eagerness to strike any deal with Iran has become.

Consider the polling: In this month's [NBC/Wall Street Journal poll](#), 71 percent of respondents said they believed a deal would not prevent the Iranians from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Earlier in March, [a Fox News poll](#) found that a 57 percent majority believed the U.S. wasn't being "aggressive enough" in preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear program, while nearly two-thirds supported military action as a last resort. In a February [Gallup Poll](#), 77 percent of Americans said they believed Iran's development of nuclear weapons posed a "critical threat" to the United States.

The one recent outlier was [CNN's survey](#), which found a surprisingly large 68 percent majority of voters—most Republicans included—supporting negotiations "in an attempt to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons." But the phrasing of the question skewed the results. The question assumes that the end result of the negotiation is preventing Iran from getting nukes. But the reason for the growing opposition is that many voters don't believe the agreement will come close to stopping Iran's nuclear program, a point that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu underscored in his congressional address.

(It's a lesson in how the precise wording of questions can elicit dramatically different results. Another loaded question on the Fox News survey asked if it's a good idea to allow Iran to get nuclear weapons 10 years from now—an outcome that the critics of a deal believe is likely. A whopping 84 percent called it a bad idea. But looking at the most directly phrased questions, it's evident that there is clear public concern over the negotiations.)

All of the polling is causing a significant number of Senate Democrats to consider breaking with their president to join Republicans in overriding a presidential veto over the deal. Far from being a bunch of hard-liners or hawks, congressional skeptics of an Iran deal [run the gamut](#) from the most liberal senators (Robert Menendez, Ben Cardin, Chuck Schumer) to moderates (Gary Peters, Robert Casey, Joe Donnelly) to the GOP hawks (Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, John McCain).

A senior official with a pro-Israel group said the two senators to watch as bellwethers are Democrats Cory Booker and Kirsten Gillibrand, whose voting records are closely aligned with the Jewish state's interests but who also have national ambitions and represent liberal constituencies that are still deeply supportive of Obama. But the fact that senators from New York and New Jersey—states with the highest concentrations of Jewish voters—could clinch the opposition's veto-proof majority shows how challenging the administration's counter-lobbying effort will be.

Recognizing its challenge in persuading the public, the White House has latched onto tangential issues, such as the propriety of Netanyahu speaking to Congress before his election and Sen. Tom Cotton's open letter to Iran warning the regime that any deal needs congressional approval. But even those issues haven't scuttled Democratic resistance. Far from a political disaster, Netanyahu's speech divided Democrats, united Republicans, and underscored the lengths to which the administration was willing to go to overshadow an ally's message.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu's argument ended up being amplified by the nonstop national attention; his critical remarks are regularly referenced in news coverage about the Iran negotiations. After the speech, Gallup found Netanyahu's favorability in the United States at a still-solid 38 percent approval/29 percent disapproval despite dropping among Democrats; polls showed majorities of Americans [disapproving of the process](#) by which he was invited but supportive of the prime minister's [message](#) and [right to speak](#).

Meanwhile, Cotton's letter was a tactical mistake for Republicans, giving Democrats a reason to rally behind the president even though the GOP's goal is to win over the remaining wavering Democrats to secure a veto-proof majority. But as a matter of substance, the episode underscored the administration's chutzpah. Obama [crowed to Vice](#) that "for them to address a letter to the ayatollah—the supreme leader of Iran, who they claim is our mortal enemy—is close to unprecedented." This, even as the president himself secretly reached out to Iran's supreme leader last fall with [a letter](#) urging the country's cooperation against ISIS in the region, [according to The Wall Street Journal](#).

History has shown that Obama is willing to ignore public opinion to accomplish his goals even when it's against his own political interest. The ends, in the White House's view, ultimately justify the means.

When Scott Brown won Edward Kennedy's deeply Democratic Senate seat in Massachusetts by running against the president's proposed health care plan, Obama forged ahead with polarizing legislation that is dogging his administration to this very day. Even though his advisers warned him against issuing any executive order on immigration before the 2014 midterms—citing battleground-state polling showing it would be highly unpopular—he pursued it anyway after his party lost nine Senate seats. In his postelection press conference, Obama copped that he cares as much about the views of the people who didn't vote, rather than citing the decisive rebuke from those who went to the polls to reject the direction he has pursued.

On Iran, Obama's behavior toward the people's representatives in Congress is even more dismissive. Knowing how widespread the opposition is in Congress, the administration is looking to bypass the Senate's role in weighing in on a deal. It's a position that has alienated him even from usually reliable allies [such as Sen. Tim Kaine](#).

Democrats aren't opposing the president out of spite. They're clearly worried that an administration looking too eager to strike a deal with a leading terrorism-sponsoring state could find itself resoundingly rejected by the public—and many of their constituents.

After Netanyahu's decisive reelection in Israel, administration officials [leaked](#) that they were mulling punishing the Jewish state by not vetoing anti-Israel measures at the United Nations, an outcome that would align the U.S. with the Palestinian Authority's position. This, despite [recent Gallup polling](#) showing that only 15 percent of Americans sympathize more with the Palestinian side, with 62 percent backing the Israeli position.

Being so dismissive of public opinion is a dangerous game to play, especially when it comes to foreign policy. For all his mistakes in conducting the Iraq War, former President George W. Bush secured a bipartisan congressional authorization for declaring war against Iraq, working to rally public support in 2003 to win that approval.

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## Contentions

### [No More Foreign Policy Amateurs in the White House](#)

by Jonathan S. Tobin

Last week, our Seth Mandel [wrote an interesting piece](#) about the way radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt might shape the 2016 Republican presidential contest both by hosting a GOP debate and through his probing no-holds-barred interviews with the contenders. Yesterday, as if acting on cue to prove Seth's point, [Hewitt had Dr. Ben Carson on his show](#) in what should be considered one of the first real tests of the likely candidate's mettle. Rather than lob softballs at the good doctor as most conservative talkers would do, Hewitt not only asked tough questions but paid particular attention to what was likely to be Carson's weak spot: foreign policy. The results were illuminating and should alert those right-wing populists who think Carson is ready for the presidency that he is anything but.

A famed neurosurgeon, Carson is surely as intelligent as anybody who's ever run for president. He's not completely ignorant about foreign policy and seems to be a supporter of a strong America and an opponent of terrorism. But he was soon tripped up by faulty knowledge of some basic facts about the world and history. Though quick to offer opinions about what to do about Russia, Carson didn't know that the Baltic States are already NATO members. When asked to identify the roots of Islamic terrorism he replied by citing the Biblical conflict between Jacob and his brother Esau, failing to realize that Islam is only 1,400 years old and not "thousands" as he claimed. He also cited the possibility that Shia and Sunni Muslims would unite against the United States when in fact the two factions are at each other's throats in a conflict that is fueling Iran's quest for regional hegemony.

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I want to be respectful in posing this. But I mean, you wouldn't expect me to become a neurosurgeon in a couple of years. And I wouldn't expect you to be able to access and understand and collate the information necessary to be a global strategist in a couple of years. Is it fair for people to worry that you just haven't been in the world strategy long enough to be competent to imagine you in the Oval Office deciding these things? I mean, we've tried an amateur for the last six years and look what it got us.

Hewitt is right. Americans elected a man in 2008 with no foreign policy experience. President Obama is an ideologue that thought he could solve problems by virtue of his personality and doesn't listen to advice. Carson rightly answered that Obama "has been able to accomplish a great deal," albeit in a negative way. But even he might have made fewer mistakes if he had firmer grip on the issues when he started.

Carson's defenders will say this is "gotcha" journalism but I'm hoping Hewitt gives the same grilling to every other presidential candidate. The point is, though presidential elections are almost always decided by domestic and economic issues, it's important to remember that the one government activity that any president has almost unlimited power is on foreign policy. And though the economy is always going to be the issue of greatest concern to most voters, most presidents are inevitably being frustrated by their limited ability to influence domestic affairs and wind up spend most of their time on foreign and defense issues.

That would apply to just about any point in history but it is especially true of our current situation in which President Obama's feckless policies have helped lead to the rise of ISIS terrorists and his blind pursuit of détente with Iran has increased the likelihood that Tehran will acquire a nuclear weapon. In other words, this no time for a foreign policy amateur in the White House who will be overly dependent on advisors and lacks the knowledge or experience to respond adequately to crises.

Carson isn't the only one with this problem. Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker may be the new putative GOP frontrunner but as his recent London interview illustrated, he isn't prepared to lead on foreign policy issues the way he is on those concerning governance, budgets and taxes.

The point is it's up to Hewitt and others with access to these candidates to push them hard on the one topic that we truly do hire a president to manage. Nor is it sufficient for those, like Carson, who aren't up to snuff to claim that the press is targeting them for unfair scrutiny.

Carson and anyone else who won't know which countries are in NATO or the basic facts about the Middle East need to do more than study. Learning about war and peace issues on the fly is a hit and miss business. Even a policy wonk like Mitt Romney found himself not entirely prepared to answer President Obama in his 2012 foreign policy debate. Whoever wins the nomination will find themselves matched up against Hillary Clinton, a woman with a record of foreign policy failure but who won't be caught in an obvious mistake, in the fall of 2016. The GOP will have to do a lot better than Ben Carson if they hope to prevail in that contest.

## The Federalist

### The Left's Ugly Israel Freakout

*You know who else came to power by winning an election?*

by David Harsanyi

After years of ginned-up conflict, Barack Obama has finally found a pretext to change the contours of the United States-Israel alliance. Israel's policies might not be changing, but the administration will "[reevaluate](#)" the relationship, anyway.

[POLITICO reports](#) that Obama may, among other things, stop shielding Israel from international pressure at the United Nations. So Americans can look forward to joining Sudan or Yemen—feel free to pick any autocratic dump, really—in condemning Jews for living in their historic homeland and relying on democratic institutions rather than a consensus at the United Nation to decide their fate.

So our morally chaotic foreign policy is coming to a predictable climax. At least on this issue. Obama, with no more elections to run, will now use these threats to pressure Israel into compliance on an Iran deal [that looks more dangerous every day](#). That's not surprising. What is, though, is how self-proclaimed Zionists have co-opted some of the most absurd justifications for throwing Israel to the wolves.

These rationalizations come in familiar flavors. There's the tough-love crowd. The notion here is that Democrats are the ones who truly have Israel's "long-term" interests at heart. And because of a deep and abiding love for the Jewish State, Democrats are obliged to support policies that will set Israel straight. Without the stern guidance of lefty columnists, how can we expect one of the most technologically advanced market economies in the world to remain a vibrant democracy?

Others argue, and have been arguing for a long time, that the United States has a moral responsibility to distance itself from Israel right now, because the two nations no longer share ideals about freedom and liberalism.

### **Support Terror, Criticize Democracy**

And if by "nation" they mean "this White House," it's probably true. Here's a refresher on the administration's moral calculus these days:

Out: Standing by the only democratic Middle East ally.

In: Entering into deals with theocratic terror-sponsoring regimes that will destabilize the entire region, without the consent of the American people.

Sure, Iran's top ally may be [dropping chlorine gas on civilians](#), but the *real* problem in the Middle East is the Israel electorate. "[The Price Israel Must Pay: We no longer have a Netanyahu problem. We have an Israel problem](#)"—not a Hamas problem, or Fatah problem, not a random-criminals-shooting-folks-in-markets problem, or a lack-of-a-civil-society-in-the-Middle-East problem, but an Israel problem—writes William Saltean over at Slate. If you turn on Obama—which is the only real "problem" here—there is always a steep price.

It is true, for many Democrats this is about Israel, not any one politician. But the irrational hatred of Benjamin Netanyahu sure does propel things. Take this piece that strings together an array of Obama-era mythologies about Israel by [Jonathan Chait](#):

Netanyahu is expected to walk back his denunciation of the two-state solution, which he made in unequivocal terms. Here Netanyahu is reprising tactics employed for years by Yasser Arafat, who would issue maximal demands in Arabic and follow them with conciliatory remarks to the foreign press. Netanyahu may be best understood as Israel's Arafat — a master of nationalist politics, yet also disastrously lacking any strategic vision, and able to survive only at the deep and possibly fatal cost to his own people's long-term aspirations.

The above paragraph begins with an half-truth, transitions to a baseless claim, and then ends with preposterous comparison. Netanyahu's statement about the Palestinian state came with a clear stipulation: there can be no two-state solution [today](#) because conditions in Palestinian society—a society rife with radicalism, bigotry, and corruption—will almost surely produce another radical Islamic state next door. This is an uncomfortable reality, but it is a reality for any prime minister.

Of course, the Arafat analogy is particularly pernicious, not only because it is untrue, but because it compares an elected prime minister of Israel, a man who represents a government that is formed with consent of the people (including many Arabs), with an autocrat and founding father of modern-day terrorism who, on many occasions, killed or targeted Americans. A person who believes this is a clever point of comparison might best be understood as a person who's lost his sense of moral perspective about the situation.

The argument these American journalists are making is that Obama has a better grasp of the long-term needs of a Jewish homeland than the people who live there.

But even if we take Chait's comparison in the narrowest possible terms, it still doesn't work. Arafat was offered a deal to create a Palestinian state. Arab intermediaries and the American delegation begged him to accept this offer because they knew there would likely never be one as conciliatory. [But he refused](#). Netanyahu has never been offered any conceivable path towards a peace deal. Nor has he made any "maximal demands" in Hebrew that he hasn't offered in English. Israel has an open and vigorous press, in both languages.

## **Obama Knows Best (?)**

There is no arguing that Israel's best future would feature a stable Palestinian state next door. But Gaza is already a semiautonomous mini-terror state that has no bearing on Israel's democracy—other than perhaps insuring Likud victories with every missile barrage. Neither will the West Bank. Yet one of the most widely used fearmongery arguments we've heard lately is that Israel's democratic makeup is bound to crumble if it doesn't give the new PLO its own state before Obama's term is up.

*Time's* Joe Klein [tells us](#): "When I was a little boy, my grandmother would sing me to sleep with the Israeli national anthem. It still brings tears to my eyes." Today, though, he writes deeply silly columns that blame Netanyahu for *introducing* bigotry into Middle Eastern politics. Bibi had the temerity to mention that Arab voters were being bussed to polls, another statement that happened to be true—he's sort of like the mass murder who first dehumanizes his enemies.

Klein also says, that the “alternative to a two-state solution is a one-state solution.” And here’s Tom Friedman in the *New York Times* [writing the same thing](#):

Having won the Israeli elections — in part by declaring that he will never permit a two state-solution between Israelis and Palestinians — it means Netanyahu will be the father of the one-state solution. And the one-state solution means that Israel will become, in time, either a non-Jewish democracy or Jewish non-democracy.

The idea that Israel is on the road to demographic collapse if it doesn’t make a deal right now is not substantiated with data. For decades Israelis have been hearing how they will be outnumbered as the Jewish democracy collapses. Numbers tells a different story. Last year, you might remember Secretary of State [John Kerry also pulled](#) the “apartheid” card. As [others have pointed out before](#), Israel’s population stands at around 8 million people, with 6 million Jews, and nearly 400,000 non-Jews related to Jewish immigrants. There are around 1.7 million Israeli Arabs, which includes Christians and Druze. Israeli Arabs are not an existential threat to Israel.

Gaza is already a semiautonomous mini-terror state that has no bearing on Israel’s democracy—other than perhaps insuring Likud victories with every missile barrage.

You know what is? A bunch of apocalyptic mullahs with access to nuclear weapons. This reality, however, doesn’t seem to draw as much concern from columnists who tear up at sound of [Hatikva](#).

In essence, the argument these American journalists are making is that Obama has a better grasp of the long-term needs of a Jewish homeland than the people who live there. Netanyahu survives only on the fatal cost to his own people’s long-term aspirations, but Obama, whose history is littered with anti-Israel activists, he’s got Israel back.

These pundits also seem to confuse Zionism with their own quixotic progressive idealism. It’s the kind of [faux-Zionism](#) that you’ve heard from Peter Beinart or J-Street—a progressive outfit with no popular support from the Jewish community but important enough [for the White House to entertain](#)—or Hamas-defending types at the Foundation for Middle East Peace, and so on. Zionism is a national movement to return the Jewish people to their historic homeland in Israel. Its most pressing moral obligation, like any other state’s, is to defend its own security and people, not to create more volatile neighbors or to help cement Barack Obama’s legacy.

## **New York Post**

### **[Israel: Beware of Obama](#)**

by Michael Goodwin

First he comes for the banks and health care, uses the IRS to go after critics, politicizes the Justice Department, spies on journalists, tries to curb religious freedom, slashes the military, throws open the borders, doubles the debt and nationalizes the Internet.

He lies to the public, ignores the Constitution, inflames race relations and urges Latinos to punish Republican “enemies.” He abandons our allies, appeases tyrants, coddles adversaries and uses the Crusades as an excuse for inaction as Islamist terrorists slaughter their way across the Mideast.

Now he's coming for Israel.

Barack Obama's promise to transform America was too modest. He is transforming the whole world before our eyes. Do you see it yet?

Against the backdrop of the tsunami of trouble he has unleashed, Obama's pledge to "reassess" America's relationship with Israel cannot be taken lightly. Already paving the way for an Iranian nuke, he is hinting he'll also let the other anti-Semites at Turtle Bay have their way. That could mean American support for punitive Security Council resolutions or for Palestinian statehood initiatives. It could mean both, or something worse.

Whatever form the punishment takes, it will aim to teach Bibi Netanyahu never again to upstage him. And to teach Israeli voters never again to elect somebody Obama doesn't like.

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Those people are slow learners, or, more dangerously, deny-ists.

If Obama's six years in office teach us anything, it is that he is impervious to appeals to good sense. Quite the contrary. Even respectful suggestions from supporters that he behave in the traditions of American presidents fill him with angry determination to do it his way.

For Israel, the consequences will be intended. Those who make excuses for Obama's policy failures — naive, bad advice, bad luck — have not come to grips with his dark impulses and deep-seated rage.

His visceral dislike for Netanyahu is genuine, but also serves as a convenient fig leaf for his visceral dislike of Israel. The fact that it's personal with Netanyahu doesn't explain six years of trying to bully Israelis into signing a suicide pact with Muslims bent on destroying them. Netanyahu's only sin is that he puts his nation's security first and refuses to knuckle under to Obama's endless demands for unilateral concessions.

That refusal is now the excuse to act against Israel. Consider that, for all the upheaval around the world, the president rarely has a cross word for, let alone an open dispute with, any other foreign leader. He calls Great Britain's David Cameron "bro" and praised Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood president, Mohammed Morsi, who had called Zionists, "the descendants of apes and pigs."

Obama asked Vladimir Putin for patience, promising "more flexibility" after the 2012 election, a genuflection that earned him Russian aggression. His Asian pivot was a head fake, and China is exploiting the vacuum. None of those leaders has gotten the Netanyahu treatment, which included his being forced to use the White House back door on one trip, and the cold shoulder on another.

It is a clear and glaring double standard.

Most troubling is Obama's bended-knee deference to Iran's Supreme Leader, which has been repaid with "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" demonstrations in Tehran and expanded Iranian military action in other countries.

The courtship reached the height of absurdity last week, when Obama wished Iranians a happy Persian new year by equating Republican critics of his nuclear deal with the resistance of theocratic hard-liners, saying both "oppose a diplomatic solution." That is a damnable slur given that a top American military official estimates that Iranian weapons, proxies and trainers killed 1,500 US soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Who in their right mind would trust such an evil regime with a nuke?

Yet Netanyahu, the leader of our only reliable ally in the region, is repeatedly singled out for abuse. He alone is the target of an orchestrated attempt to defeat him at the polls, with Obama political operatives, funded in part by American taxpayers, working to elect his opponent.

They failed and Netanyahu prevailed because Israelis see him as their best bet to protect them. Their choice was wise, but they better buckle up because it's Israel's turn to face the wrath of Obama.

## **The Corner**

### **[Mideast Politics in One Sentence](#)**

by Kevin D. Williamson

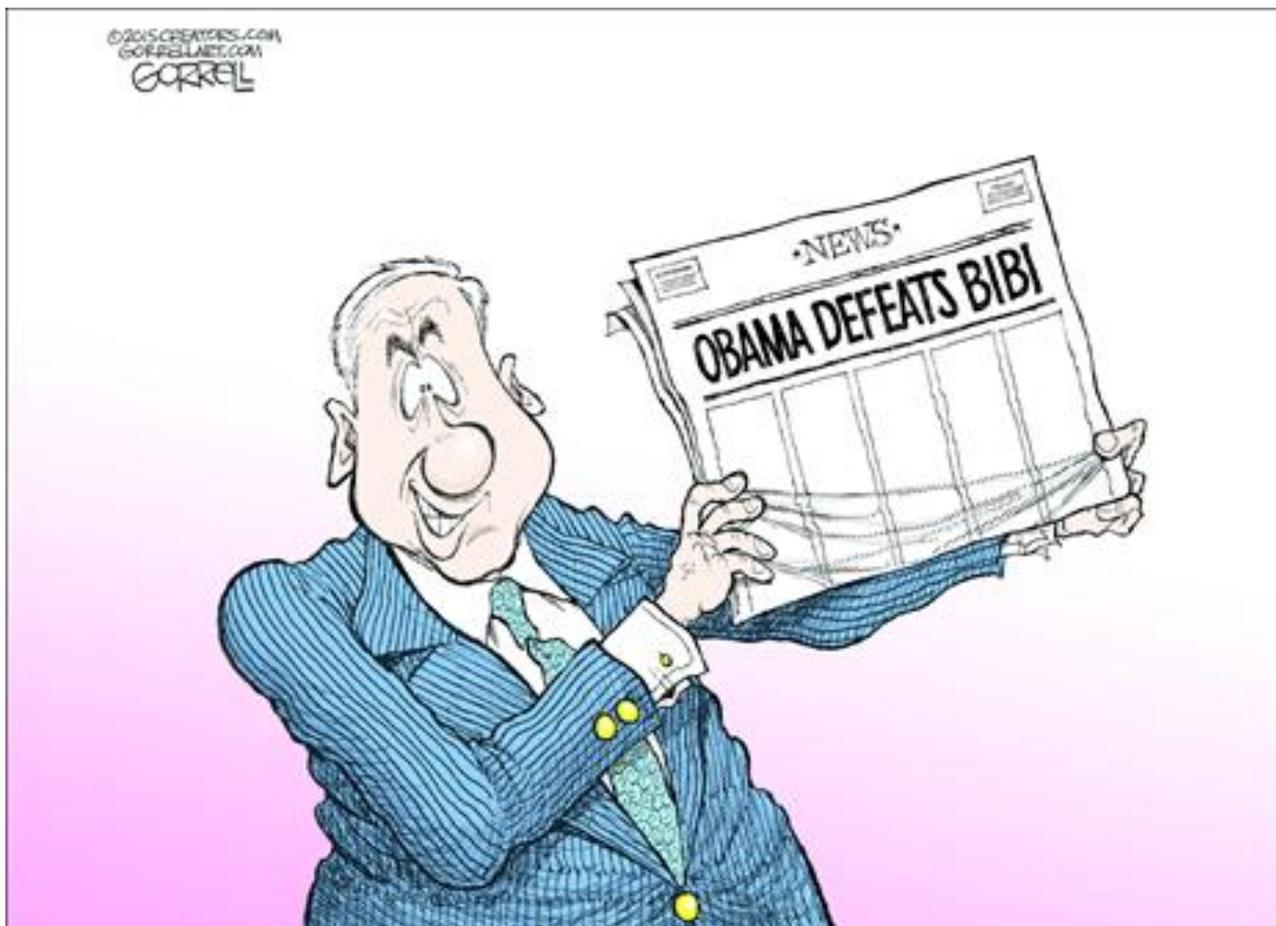
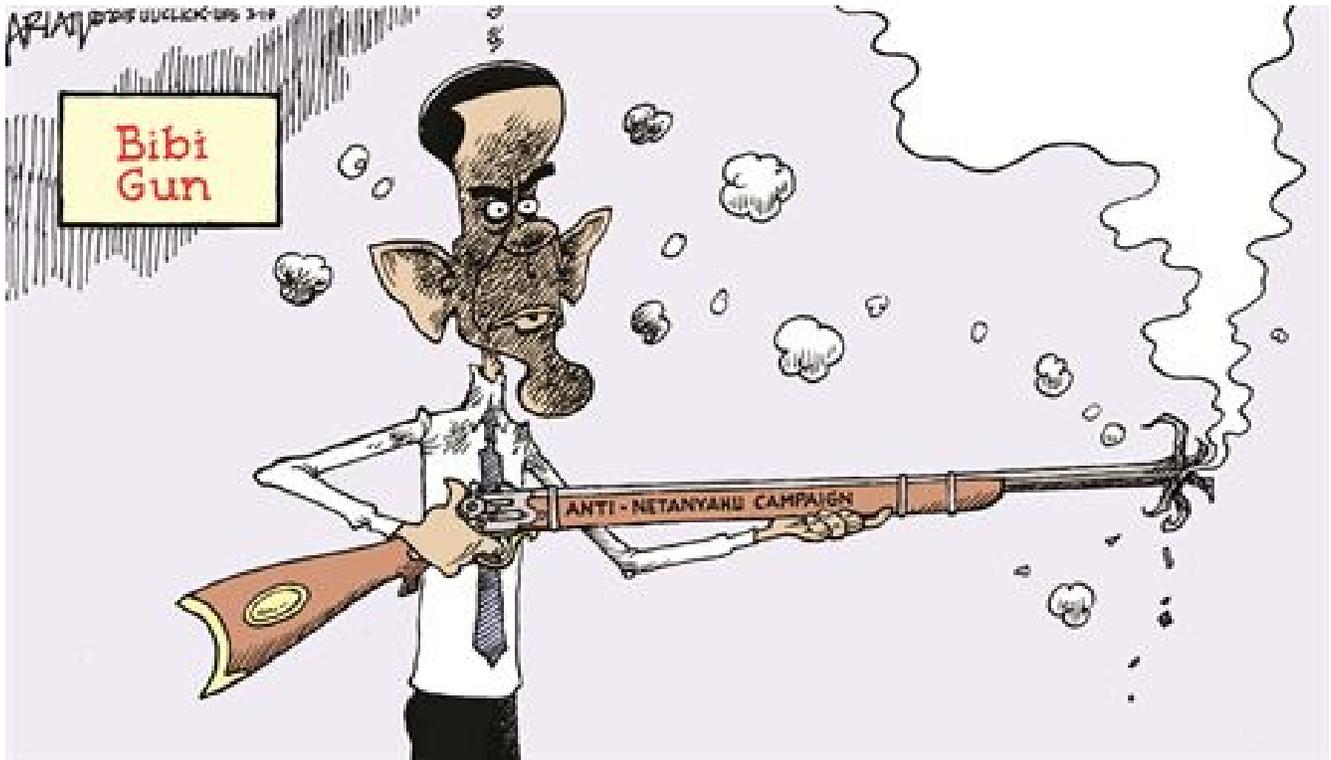
#### **Response To...**

#### **Reihan Salam**

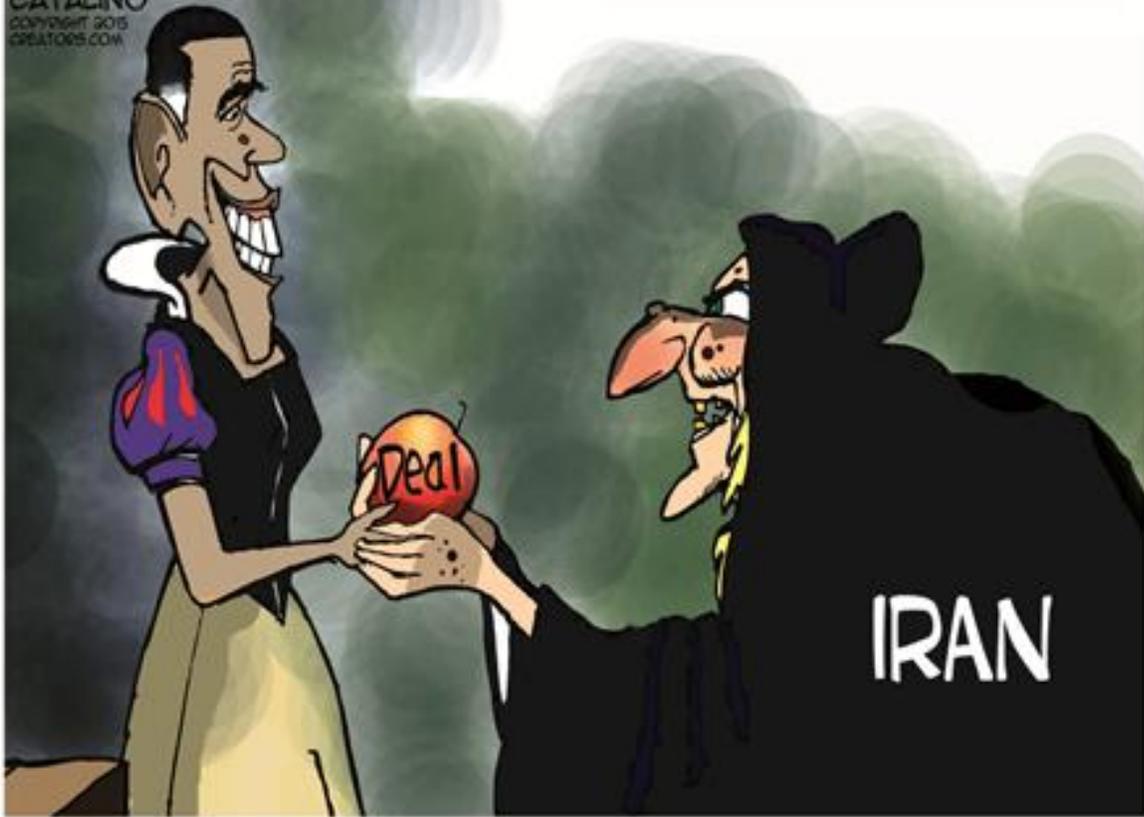
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