

Is Obama's problem inexperience, incompetence ... or something much worse?

by Keith Wilkerson, managing editor, *Christian Crusade Newspaper*,
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Is there something seriously wrong with the man in the White House?

From the right as well as the left, alarms are being raised. Is the problem inexperience? Incompetence? Or something much worse?

On the right-wing fringe are those convinced that Barack Obama is on a mission to bankrupt America and force us into a one-world monetary system as well as a global government. More moderate Washington insiders say he is just an impractical ideologue – an academic socialist – in over his head and doesn't have a clue of what damage he is doing.

But no matter the theories, it's hard to find anybody who believes he is going a good job – or is certain of where he is trying to take America.

At one of the most liberal events of the summer, the Aspen Ideas Festival, Democrat Mort Zuckerman, owner of the *New York Daily News* and *US News & World Report*, declared: “The real problem we have are some of the worst economic policies in place today that, in my judgment, go directly against the long-term interests of this country.”

Speaking at the event's kickoff session, liberal Harvard business and history professor Niall Ferguson offered a withering critique of Obama's economic policies. “If you're asking if the United States is about to become a socialist state,” he said. “I'd say it's actually about to become a European state. Obama's policies are encouraging laziness. The curse of long-term unemployment is that if you pay people to do nothing, they'll find themselves doing nothing for very long periods of time. Long-term unemployment is at an all-time high in the United States, and it is a direct consequence of a misconceived public policy.”

Liberal *Politico*'s two top editors, Jim Vandehei and John Harris, have observed that “Obama loses by winning” – that despite the passage of Obamacare and financial reform, Obama is winning “Pyrrhic victories” – an allusion to ancient Greek hero King Pyrrhus who won dramatic victories with such high cost that he lost the war.

Despite his dramatic recent political victories, Obama is increasingly viewed as a failure since he has alienated independent voters who put him in office – but who now view him as a big-government liberal. He constantly shifts positions, add Vandehei and Harris, which infuriates “everyone from the far left to the far right.” Additionally, “his staff is not well-liked around town, especially among reporters who are regularly subjected to either foul-mouthed tirades or no response at all.” Furthermore, his White House staff is seen as ineffective.

And, they add, he “has done nothing to instill confidence in the economy.”

J.R. Dunn, writing in the *American Thinker* magazine, says that Obama is not just inept, but dangerous – and willing to lead America to the equivalent of national suicide. Dunn cites some of the President's more irrational acts – most of which go unreported by the sympathetic media.

“Weeks ago, the White House informed the state of Oklahoma that it could expect no federal aid to help deal with the damage caused by recent flooding,” notes Dunn. “There was no explanation, no expression of sympathy, no offer of alternatives.

“Then,” continues Dunn, “it was revealed that NASA’s new mission will be centered on making Muslims ‘feel good’ about their scientific achievements of roughly a millennium in the past. This comes right on the heels of the cancellation of the Constellation program, which employed tens of thousands and promised to put the U.S. back into space in a big way.

“At roughly the same time, J. Christian Adams, a former Department of Justice attorney, revealed that the voter harassment case against the New Black Panthers had been dropped for purely racist reasons, and that the word had come down to ‘never bring another lawsuit against a black or other national minority, no matter what they do.’

“Consider these actions,” notes Dunn. “If anyone during the 2008 elections had implied, or even speculated, that Obama was capable of anything of the sort, he’d have been dismissed as a demagogue, a hater, even a lunatic. But today, after his abandonment of the state of Tennessee (also wracked by flooding), his pulling the rug out from under the Poles and Czechs, his cold response to the Gulf blowout, and his insults to the U.K., the Supreme Court, Benjamin Netanyahu and the Dalai Lama, it scarcely raises a shrug.

“That’s Obama. That’s how he acts – with arrogance, superciliousness and indifference. We can search the entire roster of American presidents, and we will not find a match,” says Dunn. “This is not the behavior of an elected chief executive; it’s the conduct of a divine right monarch, and a pretty inadequate one as well.”

“We wait in morbid fascination to see what’s around the next bend,” writes author Vin Suprynowicz, assistant editorial page editor of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* newspaper. “How can you make up stuff to trump today’s headlines?”

“Barack Obama warns against returning to the ‘failed ideas of the past.’ The president of the United States dismisses free markets, tax cuts, any attempt to downsize government, as ‘failed ideas of the past?’”

The Obama presidency has turned into a national nightmare, writes Suprynowicz, author of the best-selling *Send in the Waco Killers*. “We have awakened inside Philippe de Broca’s 1966 film *King of Hearts* in which the cheerful lunatics of a local asylum take over an abandoned French town near the end of World War I, or perhaps in Woody Allen’s 1971 slapstick film *Bananas*, in which a Castro-like dictator seizes power in the fictional country of San Marcos and promptly decrees, ‘From now on everyone will wear their underwear on the outside, so we can check.’”

In other words, Suprynowicz is not so sure that Obama isn’t nuts. “President Obama vows that cleaning up the Gulf oil spill is his ‘number one priority,’” he notes, “but spends more than two months turning down foreign nations that offer to loan us oil skimmers to help clean up the mess.

“Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal does manage to get some skimmer barges operating off the environmentally sensitive Mississippi delta – whereupon the Obama Coast Guard sends them back to port for a life-preserver inspection. They couldn’t just have air-dropped them some life preservers? Can anyone spell ‘Emergency,’ here?”

“Waive the 1920s Jones Act and other federal laws that prevent foreign-based skimmers with non-union crews from helping out in the Gulf? President Obama, who has time for golf games and Paul McCartney concerts, hasn’t gotten around to that yet.

“Or is it that subservience to union interests is this White House’s real ‘number one priority’?”

“Meantime, in a classic example of the perfect serving as enemy of the good, the EPA refuses to allow whatever Gulf skimmers are operating to release 97 percent clean water back into the Gulf, allowing them to stay on station much longer.

“Instead, if they can’t purify the water beyond 99.9 percent, they must haul all their captured water to shore, fatally shortening the time they can spend on station.

“In fact, the Taiwanese-owned *A Whale* skimmer ship – 3½ football fields long and 10 stories tall – is still negotiating with the Coast Guard to join the cleanup efforts because the owners still lack a waiver of the aforementioned 80-year-old law aimed at protecting unionized U.S. shipping interests, and also because – according to The Associated Press – ‘Environmental Protection Agency approval is required because some of the seawater returned to the Gulf would have traces of oil.’

“You cannot make this stuff up,” writes Suprynowicz, “unless you’re Woody Allen.”

Pulitzer Prize-winning *Wall Street Journal* editorial board member Dorothy Rabinowitz worries about what she calls “the deepening notes of disenchantment with Barack Obama now issuing from commentators across the political spectrum.”

Indeed, is he so intent on turning America into a socialist state that he is annoyed with distractions such as national emergencies that delay his dismantling of our capitalist democracy?

His inattentive mishandling of the Gulf oil spill didn’t surprise her in the least, Rabinowitz says. “For it was clear from the first that this president – single-minded, ever-visible, confident in his program for a reformed America saved by his arrival – was lacking in qualities we have until now taken for granted in our presidents.”

Obama considers himself a citizen of the world – and isn’t bound by obsolete virtues such as patriotism. “A great part of America now understands that this president’s sense of identification lies elsewhere, and is in profound ways unlike theirs. He is hard put to sound convincingly like the leader of the nation, because he is, at heart and by instinct, the voice mainly of his ideological class. He is the alien in the White House.”

Indeed, writes attorney Jonathan Emord, Obama is intent on turning everything upside down. In sharp contrast, President Ronald Reagan, writes Emord, “made government less important, thereby reducing corruption. Obama makes government all important, making corruption more pervasive in these latter days.”

Under Obama, “the power brokers have become the heads of the regulatory agencies as never before. They sit like absolute monarchs.”

Emord says Obama has an obvious agenda – to make Americans dependent on government. That’s how socialists stay in power – they promise to redistribute the wealth. What is puzzling is why Obama chooses to ignore history. Socialism doomed the Soviet Union. Mainland China is thriving today because it has turned its back on Marx and Lenin’s economics. Socialist Iceland and Greece are in downward spirals. Yet, Obama believes he is destined to lead America into socialism, a flawed system doomed to disaster because, as Margaret Thatcher noted, it only works “until you run out of other people’s money.”

Can it be that Obama is unworried about national bankruptcy because, as some of his more extreme critics fear, he believes that if the entire world can be united under one world currency and a central government, money will no longer be a problem? The New World Order will just print what it needs?

“Because Obama places faith in government, the free market is no longer all important,” writes Emord. “The consumer is less important because the government can prop up industries,

like failing financial institutions and automobile dealerships, at taxpayer expense, and allow others to collapse.”

How can Obama ignore history? The prosperity of the 1980s was not delivered by Bill Clinton, but by a conservative Congress inspired by Ronald Reagan, who had “placed faith in free people and free markets,” writes Emord. “The market was understood to be all important. That elevated individual sovereignty because each person’s choice of what to buy solidly determined winners and losers in the market.

“Reagan’s faith in the individual reinforced our sovereignty and freedom. It made us stronger and more independent.

“Obama’s distrust in the individual has reinforced governmental sovereignty.

“It is making us weaker and more dependent,” continues Emord. “It makes us believe that we are here to serve an agenda set by the government. We increasingly take on the mindset of a servile people. We do not presume to be in control of our own destiny but, rather, we understand that we are beholden to government for what will become of us.

“For those who love freedom, there is but one choice and that is to vote out those who trust in government in favor of those who trust in us.”

But if conservatives wrestle control of Congress in November, can Obama’s damage actually be undone? Financial writer Zubi Diamond fears that Obama means to bring America down – and is in a head-long rush to do so.

“The administration has purposely hamstrung U.S. economic growth as a way to burst the bubble of America’s supremacy,” writes Diamond. “The financial reform bill carries this process forward by suppressing the capitalist spirit, business freedom, and economic growth.

“President Obama had hoped to carry his trophy legislation to the Chinese and Russians at the G20 and G8 meetings,” writes Diamond. “It would have been like bringing America’s head on a platter.

“Ask yourself: with the administration passing the financial reform bill, will it translate to solving the economic crisis? Will it translate to robust economic growth for America? Will it heal the private sector and create more jobs and reduce the unemployment rate or stop the stock market from crashing again? The answer is ‘No.’”

“Then you should ask yourself: Does the Obama administration know this? The answer is ‘Yes.’

“The Obama Administration,” writes Diamond, “knows very well that passing the financial reform bill is not going to improve the unemployment picture or solve the economic crisis or even prevent the stock market from crashing again.”

So, are we being too harsh in our criticism of the mystery man in the White House? Describing the White House in recent days, Congressional Democrats have used words like “ineptness,” “neglected” and “disconcerting,” and phrases like “isn’t aggressive enough.”

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid recently snapped, “I do not work for Barack Obama, I work with him.”

“Obama’s arrogance, coolness and diffidence also make it difficult for him to nurture close friendships, personal trust and mutual respect with the poobahs on the Hill,” observes Washington insider Karl Rove. There’s a belief around Capitol Hill that the White House is already pointing the finger at Congress for the coming fall’s losses.

“After all,” notes Rove, “Team Obama publicly trashed its gubernatorial candidate in Virginia last fall and its Massachusetts senatorial hopeful last winter, weeks before their

elections. Congressional Democrats also worry the president is insufficiently concerned about the November election.”

There is growing concern that Obama believes he can win re-election in 2012 more easily if after November he has a Republican Congress to blame. So, he’s ready to offer his Democratic colleagues up as sacrificial lambs – so that he can cling to power in 2012.

Meanwhile, liberal Congressmen and Senators are supposed to remain loyal and unquestioning. He, after all, as he tartly reminded Senator John McCain a few months ago, he won the election. He is president – and nobody else is.

But does anybody really know where he is going?