



Written by [Larry Elder](#) on July 14, 2022

Barack Obama: Still a Racial Incendiary

Former President Barack Obama recently gave a speech in which he attacked the critics of “identity politics.” At the June Copenhagen Democracy Summit Obama said: “I have little sympathy for reactionaries who cynically condemn identity politics or cancel culture when really all they’re doing is trying to preserve existing privilege or excuse entrenched injustice, or bigotry. I mean, the original identity politics is racism and sexism and homophobia. That’s nothing if not identity politics, and it’s done a lot more harm than some tweet from an aggrieved liberal.”



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“Reactionaries”?

Yes, that would be the same Obama who burst on the national scene by giving a rafter-ringing keynote speech at the Boston 2004 DNC convention where he *denounced* identity politics. Then-Illinois state Sen. Obama said: “There are those who are preparing to divide us, the spin masters and negative ad peddlers who embrace the politics of anything goes. Well, I say to them tonight, there’s not a liberal America and a conservative America — there’s the United States of America. There’s not a black America and white America and Latino America and Asian America; there’s the United States of America. The pundits like to slice-and-dice our country into red states and blue states; red states for Republicans, blue states for Democrats. But I’ve got news for them, too.... We are one people, all of us pledging allegiance to the stars and stripes, all of us defending the United States of America.”

Days before he announced his race to become a Democratic nominee for president in 2008, Obama gave his first *60 Minutes* interview:

60 Minutes correspondent Steve Kroft: “You think the country’s ready for a black president?”

Obama: “Yes.”

Kroft: “You don’t think it’s going to hold you back?”

Obama: “No. I think if I don’t win this race, it will be because of other factors. It’s going to be because I have not shown to the American people a vision for where the country needs to go that they can embrace.”

At a 2007 speech at Brown Chapel AME church, presidential candidate Obama talked about the black struggle, how much had been achieved and that which remained: “The previous generation, the Moses generation, pointed the way. They took us 90% of the way there. But we still got that 10% in order to cross over to the other side.”

This is the Obama the American people assumed they had hired in November 2008. Hopeful, positive, a liberal Democrat, to be sure, but a black man who could serve, at the very least, as a racial reconciler, keenly aware of how far America has come. When he entered the Oval Office the third week of January 2009, his approval rating approached 70%. A January 2009 ABC News poll found that 58% thought race



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relations would improve under Obama. But by October 2016, one month before the presidential election, a CNN/ORC poll found 54% thought race relations *worsened* under Obama, including 40% of blacks and 57% of whites.

Obama, as president, peddled — with little evidence — an ever-growing list of race grievances. The list included “the Cambridge police acted stupidly”; racism is “still part of our DNA that’s passed on”; “if I had a son, he’d look like Trayvon [Martin]”; holding up Ferguson as a microcosm of racial strife in America; inviting race-hustling incendiary Rev. Al Sharpton to the White House over 70 times; and embracing the Black Lives Matter movement, an activist organization based on the false narrative of police “systemic racism” against blacks. Obama rarely missed an opportunity to be the conciliator Americans thought him to be. He knows that racism has never been a less significant factor as an obstacle to American success. His very election and reelection stands as a testament to that truth.

Obama won the presidency based on a lie. He entered the presidency as an articulate, even-tempered racial unifier and left as an articulate, even-tempered racial incendiary. Today he plays the race card from his \$12 million bunker in Martha’s Vineyard.

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