



Written by [Selwyn Duke](#) on October 9, 2015

What Really Drives Obama's Destructive Mideast Policy?

It's not a stretch to say that what ex-president Jimmy Carter did for Iran, Barack Obama is doing for the whole Middle East and beyond. Islamic State is on the move; jihadism in general is raging and all the rage; and with the Iran deal, the man who helped enable the "Arab Spring" may give us a nuclear winter.



A Mideast policy with such results has befuddled many. Why did Obama help overthrow Moammar Gadhafi and hurl Libya into turmoil? Why did he throw Egypt's Hosni Mubarak under the bus? And why, as radio host Michael Savage asked late last week, does he have such a "vendetta" against Syria's Bashar al-Assad?

It's not enough to say that the Gadhafis and Assads of the world are bad men; the devil you know is often better than the devil you don't know, and this certainly appears the case when turmoil and jihadists are the apparent alternatives to these strongmen's rule. And Iran is governed by bad men, but Obama showed no interest in supporting dissidents there.

When analyzing the above, credulous liberals might say the president is merely interested in supporting "democracy," some conservatives might explain it by way of incompetence, while yet others may aver that Muslim sympathies impel him to support jihadist causes. But the truth is perhaps a bit more nuanced, so let me suggest a different theory.

When discerning a person's motivations, you must first consider what he is. Obama is a hardcore leftist, marinated in Marxism from his youth, raised by a leftist mother and grandparents and mentored by card-carrying Communist Party USA member Frank Marshall Davis. He also belonged to the socialist New Party in 1990s Chicago and, according to a 2007 [study](#), owned the Senate's most left-wing voting record; this means he was ahead of even that body's only avowed socialist, Bernie Sanders (who was number two).

Now, one thing we know about hardcore leftists is that they generally consider religion the "opiate of the masses." This brings us to the idea, [embraced](#) by 29 percent of Americans and 43 percent of Republicans, that Obama is a Muslim. Question: Is it realistic to think that Obama truly believes in God and that God's name is Allah? Does his support for the homosexual agenda (including faux marriage), women in combat and "transgenders" in the military reflect Sharia?

The reality? Obama is a de facto atheist. He deifies himself more than anyone else. But there's an important distinction here almost universally missed by liberals and conservatives: Obama isn't religiously Muslim.

But there's every indication he's *culturally Muslim*.

Having lived in the Islamic country of Indonesia between the ages of 6 and 10 with a Muslim stepfather,



Written by [Selwyn Duke](#) on October 9, 2015

it's likely that Obama's earliest memories are of life in a Muslim culture. He also has characterized the Muslim call to prayer as "one of the prettiest sounds on Earth at sunset" (and recites it with an authentic accent) and has avoided Christian events while trumpeting his Muslim heritage. Yet however much this influences his thinking, it pales in comparison to something else that characterizes him and virtually all leftists.

Hatred for the West.

In Obama's narrow universe, the West is the cause of most evil in the world. The West is oppressive, destructive and poisons everything it touches. And for justice to prevail, Western institutions and influence must be quashed.

Now consider the Middle East's modern history. Syria's current borders were created by the West after the fall of the Ottomans, and the CIA covertly backed the Arab world's first military coup in that nation in 1949. Italy seized Libya from the Ottoman Empire in the Italo-Turkish War in 1911-12; in fact, the name "Libya" itself was adopted by Italy in 1934 during its colonization of the region and originated with the ancient Greeks (the birthplace of Western civilization), who used it to describe all of North Africa apart from Egypt. As for Egypt, it was part of the Cold War geopolitical tussle, first allied with the Soviet Union and then switching allegiance to the United States under President Anwar Sadat. Also note that the Assad dynasty has long been supported by — and Gadhafi was a longtime ally of — the Soviet Union/Russia.

But wouldn't a leftist such as Obama welcome Soviet influence? First, the leftist line was that the Soviets' Cold War activities were designed mainly to counterbalance Western imperialism — the Soviets wouldn't have been in the Middle East if we weren't. More significantly with Obama, however, I believe that in one sense he doesn't distinguish between the West and Russia, in that he views them both as the oppressive "white world" (especially since the U.S.S.R. is no more).

You no doubt see the point. The modern Middle East is largely a Western construct, with Western-drawn borders and Western-facilitated strongmen. Obama sees Western influence and creations as the bane of humanity.

Ergo, not only is the enemy of my ideological enemy my friend, but, whatever the "Arab Street" may be, *it can't be worse than the world's most evil force: the West.*

This also helps shed light on Obama's apparent antipathy for Israel, which he would also view as a Western invention, and his refusal to support dissidents in Iran. Remember that the Iranian theocracy, born in the Islamic Revolution of 1979, already represents *the overthrow of the Western Mideast order.*

This theory certainly explains Obama's actions. No, it would not be a rational motivation, but much of what animates man is irrational. This is especially true of leftists, who, disbelieving in and disconnected from Truth, are driven by emotional attachment to misbegotten ideas.

Nor would Obama likely heed cooler-heads' counsel. He lives in the echo chamber of his own mind, considering others' opinions superfluous; he's the very antithesis of the saying "Every man is my superior in that I may learn from him." Note that he arrogantly [stated](#) in 2007 not only that he'd be a better political director than his political director, but also "I think that I'm a better speechwriter than my speechwriters. [And] I know more about policies on any particular issue than my policy directors." Even more telling is a story related by economist and gun-rights advocate Dr. John Lott on Mark Levin's radio show last Friday about the time when he and Obama were both in the University of Chicago's employ. Obama didn't attend the gatherings at which the staff exchanged ideas, except once, when he



Written by [Selwyn Duke](#) on October 9, 2015

asked a fairly unintelligible question. Lott then saw Obama after the event and, trying to make friends and conversation, said (I'm paraphrasing), "You know, your question was interesting, but I think more people would have understood it if...." Lott never got to finish.

Because Obama, cold as ice, just turned his back.

And Obama long ago turned his back on reality and on the civilization that has given him everything. He hates the world's Western-imposed order so much that he's propelling the world toward disorder. And that's the tragic result when you don't realize that hatred is not a strategy.

[Contact Selwyn Duke](#), [follow him on Twitter](#) or log on to [SelwynDuke.com](#)



Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative,
non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



Subscribe

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.