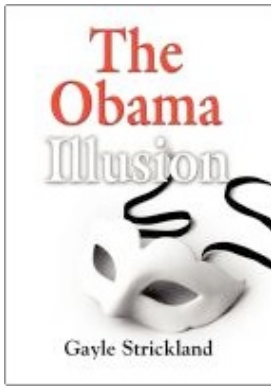


The Obama Illusion



Gayle Strickland



*This book chronicles the dramatic disconnect between what President Obama says he believes and what his actions tell us he believes: what he wants for the United States, and his political agenda. He is not the moderate Democrat he led the American people to believe he was during the campaign of 2008. His actions in all realms of the Obama administration demonstrate a far more radical agenda as shown by **The Obama Illusion**.*

The Obama Illusion

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Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS	7
Bank Regulation / TARP	8
Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission	9
Financial Reform Proposals.....	10
Financial Reform Passes.....	11
Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac excluded.....	13
Barney Frank abandons Fannie and Freddie.....	14
Overregulation costs jobs	14
Moody’s Downgrades Big Banks	14
Student Loans	15
Government Contracts.....	16
Growth of Federal Government.....	17
Government Unions.....	19
Government Pay Boom.....	20
Government Investments.....	20
Housing – FHA Loans.....	21
Housing – Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.....	22
Housing – Government Programs	23
Fast and Furious.....	24
Learning from History	26
Lessons from Greece	27
Public vs. Private Accountability.....	27
GSA Scandals	28
3. TAX AND SPEND	29
Corporate Taxes.....	30

GAYLE STRICKLAND

Tax Policies.....	31
The American Vision.....	33
Earmarks.....	34
Debt and National Deficits.....	35
Debt Lessons from Greece.....	37
CBO Warning.....	38
Deficit Commission.....	39
Tea Party Movement.....	39
Individual Spending.....	42
OMNIBUS Spending Bill.....	42
Bush Tax Cuts Extended.....	42
U. S. Rating downgraded.....	43
Fiscal Responsibility.....	43
Taxes on the Rich and Fairness.....	44
Presidential Budgets.....	45
2010.....	45
2011.....	46
2012.....	47
4. JOB CREATION – EMPLOYMENT.....	49
Entrepreneurship.....	50
Business Environment.....	52
Job Summit – December, 2009.....	52
Business Leaders Speak Out.....	53
Stimulus Package.....	54
Job Creation.....	56
Unemployment Insurance.....	59
Unemployment Statistics.....	60

THE OBAMA ILLUSION

Second Stimulus Package	61
Results of Stimulus Program - ? Job Creation	62
Keynesian economics	64
Summer of Recovery	66
New Infrastructure Spending Proposed by Obama.....	68
2011 Obama Jobs Bill.....	68
“The private sector is doing fine”	69
5. FOREIGN POLICY	71
Individual Countries	72
Iraq.....	72
Afghanistan.....	74
China.....	78
Russia.....	79
North Korea	80
Iran.....	81
Israel	86
Libya.....	88
Syria.....	88
Nuclear Arms.....	89
United Nations.....	89
Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.....	90
Nuclear Policy	90
Missile Defense	91
War on Terror	92
CIA Interrogation.....	92
War on Terror terminology.....	93
Civilian Trials	94

GAYLE STRICKLAND

Miranda Rights for Terrorists	95
Fort Hood Incident.....	96
2009 Christmas Day Bomber.....	97
Middle East Policy positions	98
Department of Justice Lawyers.....	99
New York Times Square Bomb Attempt.....	100
Lockerbie Bomber Release	100
Mosque at Ground Zero, New York City	101
The killing of Osama bin Laden May, 2011	101
Anniversary of the killing of Osama bin Laden May, 2012	101
Bush Administration Foreign Policy	102
Guantanamo Bay Remains Open	102
Military Tribunals	103
Free Trade Agreements.....	103
Intelligence Leaks	104
6. HEALTH CARE	105
Campaign Promises	108
2009 Chronicle.....	109
Special Deals Continued.....	112
Health Care Summit.....	112
2010 Efforts to Pass the Senate Bill.....	114
The Bill Passes.....	115
Health Care Affects Business	116
Aftermath of the 2010 Health Care Reform Bill.....	117
IRS Enforcement.....	119
States React.....	119
Implementation of ObamaCare.....	122

THE OBAMA ILLUSION

Medicare Chief	122
Health Care Costs	123
Now it's a TAX!	125
Democrats in Denial	126
Can you keep your coverage? Will Costs Go Down?.....	126
‘Costs Will Be Reduced’: Insurance Carriers were blamed	128
Birth Control Mandates	130
The Courts weigh in.....	130
The Supreme Court Rules.....	132
Consolidation and Higher Costs	135
Rationing and ‘Death Panels’	136
ObamaCare Undone.....	137
ObamaCare ‘Madness’	137
7. CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY	139
Energy Policy	139
Cap and Trade.....	139
Renewable Energy	140
Green Energy ‘Investments’ Fail	141
Oil Drilling	142
Keystone Pipeline	143
‘All of the above’	144
Selective concern	144
Oil Spill Disaster - April 20, 2010	144
Offshore Drilling Commission	151
Political Oil Fund from BP	153
Oil Drilling Moratorium	153
Second moratorium on deep water drilling.....	154

GAYLE STRICKLAND

Lessons from the Oil Spill	155
Deep Water Drilling and other countries	156
Climate Change: Global Warming.....	156
Climate Gate	156
United Nations IPCC and global warming	160
International Skepticism	160
Greenhouse Gas Regulation.....	161
U. S. electric reliability	162
The Activist EPA	162
8. IMMIGRATION.....	165
Securing the border	166
Arizona deals with illegal immigration.....	167
The Federal Government files a lawsuit against Arizona	171
Immigration and the Supreme Court.....	172
Immigration Fakery	174
Other States join the Immigration Battle	174
No Confidence in ICE.....	175
Immigration policy through Executive Order	175
9. SPECIAL INTERESTS: LOBBYISTS.....	177
Health Care	177
Auto Industry	177
State of the Union: January, 2010.....	179
ACORN	179
SEIU.....	180
National Labor Relations Board	181
Union Favors.....	182
Trade Groups	182

THE OBAMA ILLUSION

10. PROMISES OF TRANSPARENCY & BIPARTISANSHIP.....	185
Transparency	185
Spending transparency.....	185
Transparency in Policies.....	185
Health Care – Transparency	186
Fast and Furious.....	187
Bipartisanship	187
New GOP Congress forces deal on Bush tax cuts	194
‘Recess’ Appointments.....	195
Partisanship.....	195
Partisanship in Federal Contracts	196
Race Relations	196
Public Discourse	197
11. EXECUTIVE RESUME	199
Executive Power	200
Executive Decisions.....	202
Leadership	204
12. EDUCATION.....	207
Office of Civil Rights	207
DC Voucher System	207
Education Reform.....	208
Race to the Top.....	209
Interns in Business.....	209
For Profit Colleges.....	210
13. LEGAL PERSPECTIVE	213
Rule of Law	213
Voter Intimidation Case, 2008: Black Panthers in Philadelphia.....	215

GAYLE STRICKLAND

Supreme Court Nominees	215
Supreme Court Decisions	217
Campaign Spending	217
Religious Freedom	218
ObamaCare goes to the Supreme Court.....	218
Arizona Immigration Law.....	221
‘ <i>Citizens United</i> ’ Upheld for states.....	222
Voter ID laws	223
14. ELECTIONS	225
Senator Scott Brown of Massachusetts, January, 2010	225
Campaign Finance Reform	226
Mid-Term Congressional Election: November, 2010.....	226
Presidential Election: November, 2012	227
CONCLUDING COMMENTS.....	231
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	233

1. INTRODUCTION

This book chronicles the dramatic disconnect between what President Obama says he believes and what his actions tell us he believes; what he wants for the United States; what his political agenda is. He is not the moderate Democrat he led the American people to believe he was during the campaign of 2008: in favor of no tax increases for the middle class; economic and fiscal responsibility; winning the war in Afghanistan; transparency for the political process; bipartisanship. His actions in all realms of the Obama administration demonstrate a far more radical agenda. *The Obama Illusion* chronicles the issues and ‘disconnects’ that have arisen, as seen by an American citizen.

I began this chronicle when President Obama first took office just to keep track of the obvious ‘disconnects’ that were unfolding weekly. After a few months, it became obvious that this would be an ongoing process and what began as a random collection of issues soon took form in all areas of the Obama administration.

This book is a chronicle that includes commentary and articles that have appeared over the past three and a half years, outlining the positions and deception inherent throughout the Obama administration. I have extracted the most thoughtful and telling positions of many people from many different realms and have attempted to organize this information in a way that is easily referenced. Each chapter is introduced with my thoughts and an outline of the content of that chapter – the conclusions and assertions are my opinion, supported by the detail in the chapter.

Early in 2009, it became clear that we had elected a President who would:

- Speak out against legislation (Arizona Immigration Law) without reading the actual bill, or speak out in favor of legislation (Health Care Reform) without reading the actual bill;
- Condemn someone in a racially charged case without knowing the facts (Crowley police incident);

GAYLE STRICKLAND

- Call for a new era of bipartisanship and then exclude Republicans from discussions (Health Care Reform);
- Ask for civility and then tell opponents to ‘shut up and get out of the way’;
- Blatantly give unions favors after receiving close to \$100 million in campaign dollars from the same unions (SEIU – health care, auto industry, other);
- Claim to support the downtrodden and then, after union pressure, close charter schools in Washington, D.C. that have proven to give those children a chance;
- Support a freeze on nuclear arms for defense of the U.S. and allow rogue countries to continue to develop nuclear weapons (Iran);
- Refuse to acknowledge that the war on terror is against radical extremist Islamists;
- Offend our allies abroad (Israel, Poland) and try to appease our enemies (Iran);

By 2011, a number of other issues had also emerged as we saw President Obama:

- Speak of fiscal responsibility and then quadruple the deficit, choosing to spend the repaid TARP funds and increase the deficit rather than using them to reduce the deficit;
- Declare in December, 2010 that tax increases during a downturn would hurt the economy after being forced by Republicans to continue the Bush tax cuts, then call for tax increases in 2011 when faced with raising the debt limit;
- Attack the debt of George W. Bush as “unpatriotic” and then raise the national debt by significantly more in one third of the time;
- Call for closing of Guantanamo Bay and then allow it to remain open when faced with the alternative;
- Speak out against military tribunals for terrorist trials (and in favor of civilian trials) and then utilize military tribunals when it became clear that civilian trials were not politically advantageous;

THE OBAMA ILLUSION

- Call government run health care ‘extreme’ during the 2008 campaign and then propose and pass ObamaCare.

Probably most importantly, President Obama has shown us that he believes government is wiser and can make better decisions than individuals, and government planning and control are better than the free market in selecting winners and losers. It has become clear in the years since Senator Obama took office that there are still winners – it is just that he would prefer to choose those winners through government waivers, favors, loans and handouts rather than allow the free market system to award individual effort and responsibility. He thinks government is more capable of wisely spending your money than you are. This can be seen in the policies he has supported: increased taxes, ObamaCare, expansion of federal programs, vastly increased federal deficits, and increased regulation. History has shown that centralized government planning by ‘omniscient’ politicians and federal employees does not work as they try to allocate resources (Solyndra, other solar companies and green energy investments) and make decisions that have future unanticipated consequences (AMT). Free markets have proven that they are the most effective way to improve the overall prosperity of the most people.

Obama does not seem to understand that his powers are limited to the Executive Branch. He finds ways to accomplish his liberal agenda without regard for the separation of powers that is at the heart of the American system. When Congress did not pass key items on his radical agenda, President Obama made an ‘end run’ around the legislative process: he did it with Cap and Trade through EPA regulations, with appointments of Czars who did not have to be confirmed by the Senate but who have tremendous power (Pay Czar and others), with ‘recess appointments’ when Congress is in session, and with ‘Card Check’ implementation through appointments to the National Mediation Board.

The results have been clear: unemployment fluctuated from 8.1% to over 10 % (with the real unemployment and underemployment closer to almost twice that rate), deficits soared, the credit rating of the United States was downgraded

and federal programs for the poor (such as food stamps) have been at an all-time high. Other significant accomplishments of the Obama Administration are: federal spending is the highest since WW II; the budget deficit is the highest since WW II; long term unemployment is the highest since the 1930's; home ownership is the lowest since 1965; the percentage of taxpayers paying federal income tax is the lowest in the modern era; government dependency of people receiving federal benefits is the highest in American history.¹

President Obama appears unable to understand basics about human nature and about business, finance, world opinion, and most importantly leadership and executive power. He cannot demonize and belittle his opponents and then expect bi-partisan cooperation. He cannot apologize for his country and expect increased respect around the world. He cannot ignore the Super Committee and then condemn their lack of cooperation and results. He cannot reduce the deficit by spending more money. He cannot *tell* banks to lend and then impose increased regulation and expect them to be able to lend. He cannot tell business to hire more people and then pass increased business regulation and increased health care mandates for business and expect them to be able to hire. He cannot openly speak against the opposition and then call for increased civility. Not only do President Obama's actions speak much more loudly than his words, but he appears not to understand even the basics about the results of his actions.

In 2012 we can look at the results of his first term:

- Fewer people are working than when he took office;
- A majority of people are calling for the repeal of ObamaCare;
- There has been a dramatic rise in health care costs in spite of promises to the contrary;
- Stimulus and government spending have failed to provide a robust recovery;
- Unemployment remains over 8%;

¹ "The Obama Presidency by the Numbers", Michael J. Boskin, September 9, 2011

THE OBAMA ILLUSION

- There are skyrocketing deficits (over \$5 trillion more debt than when he took office);
- There have been billions of taxpayer dollars wasted on green energy companies that didn't stay in business;
- We have poor relations with Israel;
- There is a deteriorating environment in Afghanistan;
- We have failed to keep Iran from producing a nuclear weapon;
- The Guantanamo Bay facility is still in operation in spite of his promise to close it within his first year;
- Terrorists are still being tried in military courts, as during the Bush era (in spite of his promises to convert to civilian trials);
- We have anemic job growth, especially in the private sector, and a sluggish recovery;
- The Supreme Court makes a string of decisions against Obama administration policies (review of *Citizens United*, the main portion of the Arizona immigration law, Medicaid expansion for states, hiring or firing decisions for religious institutions, others) ;
- Intelligence leaks to the New York Times have jeopardized national intelligence and potentially the lives of our agents and supporters.

This is a record of failure but not a record President Obama can use to be re-elected in 2012.

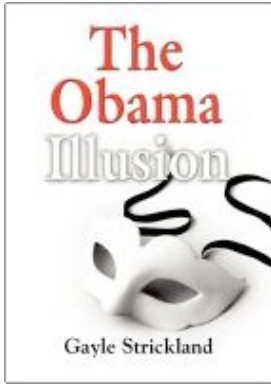
And where is the progress on entitlement reform that is so obviously needed; where is the progress on immigration reform that would provide guest worker programs and secure the border? Both of these difficult problems take finesse and political leadership that President Obama has not shown – with his background as a community organizer (agitator), he is ill prepared and has shown no understanding of how to provide this critical leadership.

As we watch the deterioration of the Euro zone with the almost daily crisis in Europe growing, it is unclear why President Obama wants to follow the same path to destruction, even with such a real example of where that path leads. If he is looking for a model to follow, he may want to examine the German

GAYLE STRICKLAND

economy (or perhaps Canada) instead of following Greece. It is a testament to Barack Obama's belief in: the power and goodness of centralized government control; the coalition with powerful public unions to enhance his political power; the need for ever increasing regulation to avoid all failures; the deference to the United Nations for foreign policy decisions; and the unending promises of the welfare state to provide everything from health care to education, birth control, food stamps, and cash for everything from clunkers to mortgages. How different this vision is from the America that has enticed immigrants for hundreds of years, providing a place of opportunity and liberty as well as the ability to maximize human potential, and a strong reliance on personal responsibility. Capitalism recognizes human nature and fosters creativity, achievement of dreams and unlimited opportunity. Never in history has a country achieved the level of overall prosperity for its people as has the United States; and yes, people and companies do fail, but people learn from their failures and have the chance to start again.

The value of this chronicle is to remember the extent to which President Obama has deceived the American public. This deception covers every aspect of his administration. Speeches, no matter how well delivered or read, are only words and must be translated into action to be meaningful. Barack Obama has proven that his words are a meaningless barometer of his actions – we must not be fooled again.



*This book chronicles the dramatic disconnect between what President Obama says he believes and what his actions tell us he believes: what he wants for the United States, and his political agenda. He is not the moderate Democrat he led the American people to believe he was during the campaign of 2008. His actions in all realms of the Obama administration demonstrate a far more radical agenda as shown by **The Obama Illusion**.*

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