

A QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP

The man who would be King was 'crowned' in November, 2008 and in magnificence took his place as our leader in March of 2009. This was a moment for him and us –a representative of the white and black races, inherently, as well as collectively. History appeared to have come full circle, appropriately for redemption of past sins towards the black man and a promise for what was to become. Hope and change he said, drawing from Lincoln and Kennedy and a request that the Arab world unclench their fist and we would help.

His trek has been inspired by his eloquence but troubled by his actions: Visits to Europe and the mideast revealed a mix of salutation and apologies; America's transgression in peace and war, a deferentialism to Arab leaders, a full bowing with aspects of the kowtow. Nowhere was there a hint of the 'shining city on the hill' or America's place as the quest of many in the world. His ideology and religion, obscure to many, provided a beacon that had roots in 'dreams of his father', (a colonial hatred of the oppressor) and a Pastor of many years whose rants spoke of 'liberation philosophy' and white supremacy. And his predecessor received the blame for the economic and financial mess, unemployment, and a fear of depression. An ode to Roosevelt was needed to right the wrongs. Keynes, the arbiter, of massive influx of money to stabilize a rocky government resurfaced. And the wars he argued against were now his to manage.

While Iraq provided an aura of success- the more complete employment of counter-insurgency: (invest, hold, stay and build) -turnover to them and draw down of American and coalition forces, Afghanistan posed a need for new leadership and increase of troops. General McChrystal took over, but time, circumstance, troop amounts, and strategy dithered and ultimately led to his relief via a negative impression of his President when interviewed. Both of these operations appeared a response to 9/11 and were connected, yet argued by some as separate wars. And so it went. Like Iraq, Afghanistan was scheduled for draw-down this year despite argument to the contrary as an effrontery to build-up and new strategy.

Now like dominoes, Africa and other mideast nations, are in turmoil, possibly to fall. First Tunisia, then Egypt and now Libya. Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain rumble with discontent. And our leader spoke, reacted too late for some, and Libya became the objective for change and reprieve.

President Obama plays an 'uncertain trumpet' in all aspects of leadership: domestic, foreign and at war.

He is adversarial, seemingly befuddled by the economic and financial challenges, energy, health, job creation, and the enormous debt growing daily, and now Libya.

A failure to provide a budget last year, compounded by a budget impasse this year and threat of government shutdown looms. Often when the Nation suffers domestically and internationally, politics is set aside to join together as one, but conflict seems continuous now.

End games for Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya cry out for attention and resolve. Fear of Arab discontent with the Libya venture- another Muslim country under attack-plays to the Obama psyche unable to define our enemy as militant Islam. Those inclined to wait for the dust to settle, are the Muslim Brotherhood and others who seek 'pure Islam' dominance in all. Shari'a -body of laws and moral precepts-alleged to be part of the integration in our society of stealth Islam is a threat.

Mr. President -unlike Roosevelt and Truman, you have been unable to unite our peoples as revealed daily in legislative bodies-almost as though you march to a different drummer. We are headed towards not only potential national bankruptcy, but an impasse in war strategy that knows no recompense.

