

AFTERTHOUGHTS

AS A HYPOTHETICAL PRESIDENT I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING I PROPOSED WOULD INFLUENCE GEORGE BUSH OR BARACK OBAMA. BUT IT SHOULD. LAST YEARS OF THE BUSH PRESIDENCY HAD GOOD MOMENTS AND BAD. COUNTER-INSURGENCY(INVEST, HOLD, BUILD AND STAY) HAS SEEMINGLY PROVIDED IRAQ WITH QUASI-SECURITY AND TRANSITION TO IRAQI CONTROL WHILE AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN POSE NEW THREATS OF AL-QAEDA/TALIBAN DEPLOYMENTS. ROGUE NUCLEAR NATIONS(NORTH KOREA/IRAN)POSE UNCERTAIN CONCERNS ESPECIALLY TO ASIA, ISRAEL AND THE WORLD. AN UNSTABLE ECONOMY DEEP IN RECESSION, WITH A HINT OF WORSE AS FINANCIAL MARKETS STRUGGLE, AND UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE RISE POSE CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW PRESIDENT.

SIX MONTHS INTO HIS PRESIDENCY, OBAMA HAS APPOINTED ENVOYS TO OVERSEE THE AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN THEATERS TO INCLUDE NEW DEPLOYMENTS OF TROOPS AND REQUEST FOR NATO HELP; ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN PLAN FOR RECONCILIATION AND PEACE, AS WELL AS OPENINGS FOR DIALOGUE WITH IRAN AND OTHERS IN THE MIDEAST, TO DISPELL ANY THREATS TO ISLAM PER SE, AND VISITS BOTH TO EUROPE AND RUSSIA INFERRING PAST TRANSGRESSIONS AND OFFERING APOLOGIES. WITH A ROOSEVELT FLAVOR OF ECONOMIC REVIVAL, STIMULANTS, BAIL-OUTS OF BANKS, INVESTMENT FIRMS AND THE AUTO INDUSTRY AIMED AT RECOVERY AND JOBS HAS LONG-RANGE SUGGESTION OF SUCCESS BUT A HIGH DEGREE OF DEBT, PERHAPS HIGHER INFLATION AND NO CERTAINTY OF JOB INCREASE IN THE NEAR TIME. ON TOP OF THIS AN ENERGY SAVING PLAN CALLED CAP AND TRADE AND NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM OF UNCERTAIN COST AND MAGNITUDE, SOME ARGUE DISGUISED SOCIALISM. TO BE FAIR, HE WILL HAVE HIS DAY IN COURT WITH A POTENTIAL FOR TURNING THE ECONOMY AROUND.

