

Déjà vu from 1932: economic collapse and tyranny

President Obama should learn the lessons of history and adapt accordingly

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German philosopher Georg Hegel once said, "we learn from history that we never learn anything from history."

That observation seems truer than ever today. Whereas in 1932, Fascism, Socialism and Statism were on the rise, today Islamism joins the party that still includes Socialism and Statism, which are the same things with different names.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was inaugurated in January 1933 in the midst of the Depression. Roosevelt vowed to take America in a new direction with his revolutionary (and largely untested) policies. He stated during his inauguration, "look to us here for guidance and for more equitable opportunity to share in the distribution of national wealth... rulers of the exchange of mankind's goods have failed through their own stubbornness and their own incompetence, have admitted their failure and have abdicated."

That sounds eerily familiar to President Obama's promise to "share the wealth" he imagines the upper class has been hoarding.

Roosevelt followed through on his promise and instituted the New Deal, the most massive government expansion in American history up to that point. The New Deal is often credited as bringing us out of the Great Depression.

Yet Europe, which followed a largely different path, came out of the Depression much earlier than the United States. This was because European governments did not financially drain their private sectors the way FDR did. FDR turned a depression into the Great Depression by barring the private sector from operating freely.

Today, once again, history repeats itself. The "stimulus" bill will get passed, in part, because most congressmen believe that the New Deal got us out of the Depression.

The irony is that this "stimulus" is far emptier than the New Deal was. The New Deal did not contain nearly as much pointless spending as the current bill.

Most of the current "stimulus" is just a wish list of all the projects that many Democrats have tried to pass over the last few years. \$2.4 billion spent on "carbon-capture demonstration projects" won't stimulate anything.

Though the New Deal was very harmful, much of it was infrastructure spending that ended at a specific time. But this current bill is full of programs that will not end until long after the "stimulus" ends, because the nature of government-run social programs is to expand at least until they become a larger problem than the problem they were supposedly meant to solve.

So regarding economics, President Obama is taking a very similar path to FDR. Obama thinks that he is saving us from a Great Depression, much like FDR did, but in reality, our president could very well be bringing us into a Depression. It couldn't come at a worse time, as these times mirror 1932 not simply in economics.

In 1933, Hitler's Nazi Party took control of Germany. Hitler preached an ideology of racism and violence and helped spread Fascism to further his goal of world domination. And, as is human nature, people did not take Hitler seriously until he posed a threat to them.

Today's parallel to Hitler is undoubtedly the Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Ahmadinejad and Hitler share a common enemy: the Jews. Ahmadinejad's anti-Semitism is cloaked in anti-Zionism, but it is easy to see that just as Hitler wished to wipe Jews off the face of the Earth, Ahmadinejad wants to wipe the only Jewish state off the face of the Earth.

Like Hitler, Ahmadinejad wishes to establish an empire. Hitler's larger goal above annihilating the Jews was a global Nazi empire. Similarly, Ahmadinejad's larger goal above destroying Israel is establishing a regional Persian Sh'ia empire. He has said that "the wave of the Islamic revolution will soon reach the entire world." We should take him at his word.

Ahmadinejad's message of hate is spreading throughout the Middle East, just as Hitler's Fascist message spread throughout Europe. Iran basically controls Syria and Hezbollah, much like Hitler's relationship with Italy. Ahmadinejad has his token Socialist/Fascist in Venezuela's Hugó Chavez. France remains France and, just as prior to World War II, it is difficult to tell whose side Russia is on.

The big question is: Will the West show up? FDR eventually recognized the evil that faced the world. It's very hard to tell if President Obama recognizes the dangers posed by Islamism. He is authorizing a troop surge in Afghanistan, but possibly at the expense of the security of Iraq.

Obama seems eager to reach out to Ahmadinejad, even though history shows that when good men attempt to deal with tyrants, the tyrants just continue their past behavior. Obama has threatened to bomb Al Qaeda out of hiding in Pakistan, yet his closing of Guantanamo Bay will place more terrorists back into the ranks of Al Qaeda.

Hopefully, the next seven years will not play out the way 1932-1939 did, but if they do, we can only pray that President Obama reads the right history books.

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