



# Navigator Newsletter

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## Obama – Durban II, The Bailout, and the Delusion of Inclusion

**Buying into the Obama myth** - Unfortunately the majority of Afrikans and many people from other 'racial' groups continue to imbibe Obama juice - a highly intoxicating substance so it seems – on a daily basis and hence steadfastly refuse to engage in any serious analysis of his political policies or allegiances. Hence the lupine Wall Street candidate remains clothed in his sheepskin '*man of the people*' cloak. Supporting Obama has almost become a point of principle, or act of faith; for Obamaholics and woe betide people such as me who dare to move beyond emotionalism to embrace analysis, or who reject symbolism in favour of substance. We are, as the comedian Billy Connolly once remarked, are about as welcome as a fart in an astronaut's suit, when it comes to discussions of the President of the United States by his devotees.

Well, the more the Obamaites froth with indignation at the suggestion that his election is not the supreme culmination of Afrikan people's struggle, in the US and elsewhere, against oppression and subjugation; the more I feel inclined to present information, analysis and opinions to counter this, 'check your brain in at the cloakroom and go into the hall to clap, sing and get happy', nonsense. My website [www.houseofknowledge.org.uk](http://www.houseofknowledge.org.uk) deals with Obama's wider policy positions and others such as Glen Ford of Black Agenda Report have thoroughly analysed Obama's politics, his position vis a vis Afrikans in the US and the incredible contradiction of those Black Nationalists who strongly support Obama whilst vociferously criticising the US government's policies on a myriad of issues such as Zimbabwe – which they decry as crimes against humanity or war crimes - all of which were supported by Obama prior to his election and all of which continue to be implemented by him as President.

Most of the debates on the Obama phenomenon that I have listened to or observed have been quite frankly embarrassing. To see highly intelligent Afrikan scholars and activists who normally come to debates armed with an array of facts and information from an wide range of sources; reduced to building an argument for supporting Obama based around ideas such as:

- He is married to a Black woman so that is good enough for me
- He has a beautiful family
- It is a symbolic moment for the world
- We can't expect too much of him
- He will inspire our children
- He plays basketball which is an Afrikan-American sporting preference
- He has an Afrikan name
- He shakes an Afrikan policeman's hand outside 10 Downing Street when visiting the UK

is enough to make me cringe.

Among the many issues these apologists for Obama almost never discuss in any detail include:

- Why Obama was the No.1 choice of Wall Street, including the huge campaign contributions he received from the financial elites during his campaign
- Obama's foreign policy positions, particularly in relation to Afrika e.g. Zimbabwe, Somalia, Congo
- Obama's absolute servility to Israel and US Zionists which was trailed at his toe-curlingly servile speech to AIPAC, immediately after gaining the democratic nomination - which even outdid Hillary Clinton and John McCain for bootlicking – and his failure to condemn the numerous Israeli war crimes in Gaza. He has of course gone on to threaten Iran and any other nation that Israel's democratic fascist leadership decides represents a threat to their security, irrespective of the fact that Iran has never actually threatened the Zionist state.
- The non-pull out from Iraq. When is a military pull-out not a pull-out? When you pledge to leave 50,000 troops in a foreign country as 'military advisors' even though many of them are combat troops (such as the 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade) who are simply being rebadged as non-combatant troops.
- Obama's commitment to double troop numbers in Afghanistan and to ramp up the US' imperialist war in that country
- The war crimes being committed in Pakistan under Obama's Presidency. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have been created as US drone (unmanned) planes bomb civilians as part of 'the war on terror'. Obama has joined his predecessors as a war criminal.
- Obama's ghoulish team of advisors/cabinet members, made up of large segments of the old Bill Clinton administration, hard-core Zionists, cold-war warriors and Republicans. Not a 'progressive' to be seen anywhere.
- His ardent support for 'Planned Parenthood' (founded by the hard core White Supremacist Margaret Sanger) and their programme of population control/racial elimination aimed at Afrikan women in the US
- His continued use of Presidential Executive Orders to bypass the US Congress, a practice habitualised by George W. Bush
- His support for the Bush bailout of Wall Street which was just another case of welfare for the rich and that his key economic advisors were either amongst the architects of the economic crisis e.g. Larry Summers and Paul Volcker (who was the Chairman of the Federal Reserve under Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan [from August 1979 to August 1987] and is currently chairman of the newly formed Economic Recovery Advisory Board under Barack Obama, member of the Bilderberg Group, Trilateral Commission and Council on Foreign Relations) or protégés of the architects e.g. Timothy Geithner (former President of the New York Federal Reserve, Bilderberg Group and Trilateral Commission) who learned his craft at the side of James Rubin. James Rubin is a devoted Wall Street advocate who was Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs and Chief Spokesman for the State Department from 1997 to May 2000 in the Clinton administration and helped push through the repeal of the Glass Steagall Act in 1999 which was one of the causes of the current financial crisis.

A politician, Cynthia McKinney, who is a committed defender of Afrikan people, got to the heart of the Obama deception in an email article 'Ruminations on President Obama's Tenure Thus Far and "Acceptable Punditry" ' distributed in early March 2009. She noted;

*"....it is clear that the Obama Administration is continuing the Bush policies for missile strikes inside Pakistan; torture; rendition for torture; public release of Bush Administration e-mails; illegal wiretaps; status of prisoners at the U.S. base in Bagram, Afghanistan; and workplace immigration raids?"*

*For the record, President Obama is also pursuing Bush policies on Iran and Israel. As recently as yesterday, President Obama's Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, responded when asked whether Iran was capable of building an atom bomb. Admiral Mullen replied, "We think they do, quite frankly.".....*

*So, it's clear. I'm about to step into marshy soil here, by noting that I found 19 questionable Obama policies or statements in his Joint Congressional speech delivered three days before his announcement that upon the end of the U.S. combat mission in Iraq, up to 50,000 U.S. troops could remain through 2011, after the "pullout."*

*And while various "mint" operations are peddling Obama "Change" coins for purchase, complete with a certificate of authenticity, I wade further into the muck by noting that the President continues the giveaway of our hard-earned coins to an economic team intent on keeping mismanagement structures in place, serving economic ends that do not constitute the common good. I would refer readers to the many statements that I issued during the final days of our Power to the People Green Party Presidential campaign about re-creating an economic system truly and finally owned by the people, operating in our interest. It is possible to do that. All it requires is enough political will.*

*But what forces me out into the open marshland of "non-mainstream" political punditry has to do with the latest Obama "pullout:" the decision to withdraw from the April 2009 Geneva United Nations World Conference Against Racism, dubbed Durban II.*

*We heard the same palaver in 2001 from the same forces inside our country, basically that a discussion of Zionism, in the context of such a Conference, would be anti-Semitic; therefore all the world's dispossessed and marginalized people must continue to suffer and sacrifice while muting their grievances so that no discussion of Israel would take place on the world stage in this context....." (McKinney March 02 2009)*

On the topic of Durban II the international conference on racism, in Geneva, Switzerland 24-25 April 2009, Glen Ford of Black Agenda Report excoriates Black Obama supporters in an article entitled **'Avoiding World Conference on Racism Shows Obama's Disrespect For Blacks' April 15, 2009**

*Ford tells us that "President Obama's fawning, damn near servile behavior when accommodating Zionist demands" to boycott and sabotage the Durban II conference on racism "should have been a deal breaker" in his relations with African Americans. But what passes for Black leadership accepts any and all insults from Obama, who naturally treats them like the spineless creatures they are. Meanwhile, the White House keeps "Jewish leaders" up to date with conference calls on how Obama is protecting Israel from charges that it is an apartheid state, and also ensuring that the United States is not compelled to make amends for its racist past and present.*

*On Tuesday, April 14, according to the [Huffington Post](#), the White House placed a conference call to American "Jewish leaders," all but assuring them the U.S. would not show up for Durban II, the international conference on racism, in Geneva, Switzerland. President Obama's close adviser Samantha Power, of the National Security Council, said the event's revised draft document "met two of our four red lines frontally, in the sense that it went no further than reparations and it did drop all references to Israel and all anti-Semitic language. But it continued to reaffirm, in toto, Durban I."*

*Translation: although the document, under relentless U.S. pressure, has been watered down to the point of irrelevance, it remains unacceptable because it reaffirms declarations of the*

*first World Conference Against Racism, in Durban, South Africa, in 2001. There is virtually no chance President Obama will reverse his decision to boycott Durban II, April 24-25.*

*We must first ask: Why is the White House reporting to “Jewish leaders” on an issue that is of interest to all Americans, most especially people of color? Has Obama arranged such briefings on Durban II for “Black leaders,” “Latino leaders,” or “Native American leaders” – representatives of constituencies that have suffered genocide, slavery, discrimination, forced displacement and all manner of racist assaults right here on American soil? No, he has not. Barack Obama knows full well that he risks nothing by disrespecting African Americans at will. Across the Black political spectrum, so-called leadership seems incapable of shame or of taking manly or womanly offense at even the most blatant insults to Black people when the source of the affront is Barack Hussein Obama.*

*Several weeks ago, popular Sirius Radio Black talk show host Mark Thompson (“Make It Plain”) wondered aloud if Obama’s threat to boycott Durban II should be a “deal breaker” – a “last straw” offense against Black interests and sensibilities. It should have been. The Obama administration’s fawning, damn near servile behavior when accommodating Zionist demands – and I use the word “demands” quite purposely – was a lesson in how Power responds to constituencies it favors, fears, or at least, respects. Blacks get nothing from Obama’s White House except permission to worship him as the ultimate role model. Less than nothing, as the unfolding Durban outrage demonstrates.*

*Obama has done more damage to the Durban process than George Bush, who pulled out of Durban I after the conference had begun. Important [language survived](#) the 2001 disruption, such as:*

*“We acknowledge that slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, were appalling tragedies in the history of humanity not only because of their abhorrent barbarism but also in terms of their magnitude, organized nature and especially their negation of the essence of the victims, and further acknowledge that slavery and the slave trade are a crime against humanity and should always have been so, especially the transatlantic slave trade and are among the major sources and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and that Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent”*

*[and](#),*

*“[Urges](#) States to adopt the necessary measures, as provided by national law, to ensure the right of victims to seek just and adequate reparation and satisfaction to redress acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and to design effective measures to prevent the repetition of such acts”*

*As University of Dayton, Ohio law professor [Vernellia R. Randall](#) has pointed out, pressures from the Obama White House caused revisions in the Durban II draft that*

- withdrew language related to reparations;*
- removed the proposed paragraph related to the transatlantic slave trade being a crime against humanity;*

- removed proposed paragraphs designed to strengthen the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; and,
- overall weakened the efforts related to people of African Descent.

..... Israel and the White House speak of “red lines” that they will not tolerate being crossed in politics and diplomacy. But where are the “red lines” that so-called Black leaders will not allow to be breached? Where Barack Obama is concerned, such lines do not exist – which is why he is permitted to walk all over Black folks, with impunity.

Yes, Durban II should have been a deal breaker. Instead, it was mostly cause for sniveling lamentation and words of “concern” or wishful predictions by Black notables that Obama would change his mind (after the damage had already been done!) and attend the conference.

.....But Samantha Power and her boss won't even bother, understanding perfectly well that the meek inherit nothing but contempt. In her thorough and collegial report on Durban to Jewish leaders – who are anything but meek – Power said: "We will make our decision [to attend] up closer to the date of the conference, we want to show good faith to our allies and the people who are working hard to improve the text... But we are also not interested in being involved or associated with fool's errands."

Obama's White House has not seen fit to show the slightest glimmer of good faith to Black people (at least, those not in his immediate family or employ), and seems to consider salvaging Durbin II a “fools errand.” You know what color the “fools” are.....

And as long as Black notables (let's drop the “leadership” charade) turn into invertebrates at the mere thought of Barack Obama, so long will he treat the entire group as inconsequential, harmless ciphers.”

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And we could go on. However I hope you get the gist. Anyway we will now go on to look at the Obama bailouts and stimulus plans as he continues the process of turning private debt into public debt whilst the man and woman in the street slowly asphyxiate under a pillow of debt.

**The 2009 Obama Bailouts – Continue to bend over and grit your teeth. This is going to really hurt..most people** - In getting to grips with understanding what Stephen Lendman, a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization, describes in his article, ‘Obama's Latest No Banker Left Behind Scheme’, as “..the greatest ever wealth transfer in the shortest span of time..”(Lendman 27 March 2009), one has to get some idea of the enormous amounts of public money being transferred to private corporations and super rich individuals. In the aforementioned article Lendman sets out the scale of the public subsidies.

“Timothy Geithner unveiled his Public-Private Investment Program (PPIP) on March 23, the latest in a growing alphabet soup of handouts topping \$12.5 trillion and counting - so much in so many forms, ..... it's hard for experts to keep up let alone the public, except to sense something is very wrong. They're being fleeced by a finance Ponzi scheme, sheer flimflam, and here's how from what we know:

- \$400 billion in taking over Fannie and Freddie;
- \$42 billion for the auto giants; billions more coming for their suppliers;
- approaching \$200 billion for AIG with more coming on request;
- \$350 billion to Citigroup in handouts and loan guarantees;
- tens of billions to other banks, including \$87 billion to JP Morgan Chase for bad Lehman Brothers trades;
- \$700 billion for TARP I; half the money released under TARP II;
- over \$200 billion and counting for the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF) to extend government-guaranteed loans for investors to buy "certain AAA-rated asset-backed securities (as a component)" of the Consumer and Business Lending Initiative (CBLI), established under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (EESA) of 2008;
- the \$787 billion stimulus under the American Recovery and Relief Act of 2009 (ARRA);
- around \$300 billion under the Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan (HASP) - the so-called mortgage bailout plan;
- \$50 billion backing for short-term corporate IOUs held by money market funds - from the Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF), a vehicle established by a provision in the 1934 Gold Reserve Act for foreign exchange intervention to stabilize the value of the dollar;
- \$500 billion for various credit market rescues;
- \$620 billion for industrial nations' currency swaps;
- \$120 billion for emerging economies' currency swaps;
- \$1.25 trillion for Fannie and Freddie mortgage backed securities;
- \$200 billion for Fannie, Freddie, and Federal Home Loan Bank bonds;
- way more than the announced \$300 billion for longer-term Treasuries (mostly with 7 - 10 year maturities); the Fed's been buying billions of them since last year;
- Fed-expanded overnight lending to \$2.4 trillion - free money at 0% interest;
- a reported \$750 billion for banks in the FY 2010 budget - yet to be voted on and appropriated;
- a proposed \$470 billion increase for the FDIC to borrow from the Treasury;
- perhaps hundreds of billions more in unannounced or hidden handouts in amounts and to whom the Fed and Treasury won't say; on March 14, AIG named its big counterparties for the first time with firms like Goldman Sachs, Societe Generale, Deutsche Bank, and Barclays showing up prominently; and now

-- PPIP - the latest gift to Wall Street courtesy of taxpayers getting none of the gain and all the pain." (Lendman 27 March 2009)

In his article entitled '**Finance Capitalism Hits a Wall, The Oligarchs' Escape Plan – at the Treasury's Expense** [www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) Professor Michael Hudson starts out by reminding us that the money as debt scam has had a good run for our money.

*"So the government tries to recover the happy Bubble Economy years by getting debt growing again, hoping to re-inflate real estate and stock market prices. That was, after all, the Golden Age of finance capital's world of using debt leverage to bid up the book-price of fictitious capital assets. Everyone loved it as long as it lasted. Voters thought they had a chance to become millionaires, and approved happily. And at least it made Wall Street richer than ever before – while almost doubling the share of wealth held by the wealthiest 1% of America's families. For Washington policy makers, they are synonymous with "the economy" – at least the economy for which national economic policy is being formulated these days.*

*The Obama-Geithner plan to restart the Bubble Economy's debt growth so as to inflate asset prices by enough to pay off the debt overhang out of new "capital gains" cannot possibly work. But that is the only trick these ponies know. We have entered an era of asset-price deflation, not inflation. Economic data charts throughout the world have hit a wall and every trend has been plunging vertically downward since last autumn. U.S. consumer prices experienced their fastest plunge since the Great Depression of the 1930s, along with consumer "confidence," international shipping, real estate and stock market prices, oil and the exchange rate for British sterling. The global economy is falling into depression, and cannot recover until debts are written down."*

*So whilst Hudson suggests that writing down debts, amongst other things, is critical to kickstarting a US and global economic recovery he notes how this does not even appear to be on the radar of the Obama administration.*

*"Instead of doing this, the government is doing just the opposite. It is proposing to take bad debts onto the public-sector balance sheet, printing new Treasury bonds, give the banks bonds whose interest charges will have to be paid by taxing labor and industry.*

.....  
*As in Third World austerity programs, the effect of keeping the debts in place at the "real" economy's expense will be to shrink the domestic U.S. market – while providing opportunities for hedge funds to pick up depreciated assets cheaply as the federal government, states and cities sell them off. This is called letting the banks "earn their way out of debt." It's strangling the "real" economy, because not a dollar of the government's response has been devoted to reducing the overall debt volume."*

*He goes on to highlight the relatively tiny amount of money the 'Pope of Hope' is devoting to assisting ordinary working people in the US who are struggling in the face of falling property prices, job losses and overwhelming debt.*

*"Take the much-vaunted \$50 billion program designed to renegotiate mortgages downward for "troubled homeowners." Upon closer examination it turns out that the real beneficiaries are the giant leading banks such as Citibank and Bank of America that have made the bad loans. The Treasury will take on the bad debt that banks are stuck with, and will permit*

*mortgagees to renegotiate their monthly payment down to 38% of their income. But rather than the banks taking the loss as they should do for over-lending, the Treasury itself will make up the difference – and pay it to the banks so that they will be able to get what they hoped to get. The hapless mortgage-burdened family stuck in their negative-equity home turns out to be merely a passive vehicle for the Treasury to pass debt relief on to the commercial banks.*

*Few news stories have made this clear, but the Financial Times spelled the details buried in small print. It added that the Treasury has not yet decided whether to write down the debt principal for the estimated 15 million families with negative equity (and perhaps 30 million by this time next year as property prices continue to plunge). No doubt a similar deal will be made: For every \$100,000 of write-down in debt owed by over-mortgaged homeowners, the bank will receive \$100,000 from the Treasury. Government debt will rise by \$100,000, and the process will continue until the Treasury has transferred \$50,000,000,000 to the banks that made the reckless loans.*

*There is enough for just 500,000 of these renegotiations of \$100,000 each. Hardly enough to make much of a dent, but the principle has been put in place for many further bailouts.”*  
(Hudson 17 February 2009)

## Conclusion

I guess it is clear by now that the majority of Afrikans who are emotionally addicted to the idea of a Black President in the White House and who did not take the time or actively refused to investigate the policies, political affiliations, loyalties and backers of Barack Obama prior to his election cannot be persuaded to confront the reality of his political actions and policies. We were told not to judge him before he came to office, which is about as daft a piece of advice as one could give to people expected to vote for political candidates. The logic of this was that we should support him on the basis of his skin pigment. This is a similar scenario to when Clarence Thomas was a nominee for the US Supreme Court and some Afrikans who claimed to be pro-Black were rallying support for him despite the fact that everything we knew about him (which has been confirmed during his tenure on the Supreme Court) told us he was a reactionary, torture supporting Uncle Tom. Whilst Barack Obama is not as self-hating and anti-Afrikan as Clarence Thomas it is clear that he is a political servant of the ruling oligarchy in the US and demonstrates absolutely no practical support or allegiance to Afrikan people.

Given the foregoing reality, Obama supporters preoccupy themselves with distributing photos or film of him with his wife and daughters, playing basketball, being prayed over by Black preachers or shaking hands with an Afrikan policeman, with solemn messages about these photos not being aired on Caucasian owned media. Symbolism becomes a replacement for substance since they can find precious little in terms of political action that is designed to, or even likely to, significantly benefit Afrikan people in the US or elsewhere. Each attack on the interests of Afrikan people is overlooked or excused in order to keep the dream alive. The, mainly unspoken, dream of course is that of inclusion and acceptance by Caucasians. We must be honest and admit that most Afrikans in the US and elsewhere do not want to build the Black House, do not believe we are capable of building our Black House, but simply want acceptance in the White House. They want to be washed, fed,

clothed and of course have their bottoms powdered; by Caucasians (or any other group if Caucasians aren't around in sufficient numbers) as long as this is done with '*respect*'; that great psychological totem for Blacks' complex relationship with Whites. This is why it is far easier to get tens of thousands of Black people to contribute to a political campaign offering them nothing, whilst most of those same people would scoff at the idea of contributing to an Afrikan economic empowerment fund or other similar collective endeavour. The exception to this of course is our people's willingness to fill the coffers of these new brand of Black mega-churches which in many cases are led by charismatic religious pimps. Meanwhile many sincere church leaders find the going a lot tougher.

Of course as President Obama's honeymoon period ends and his Republican political enemies increase their attacks on him; this will only strengthen his support amongst his Black constituency who continue to believe in the often mistaken notion that '*my enemy's enemy is my friend*'. Afrikans have been beguiled by this simplistic idea into believing that Arabs (with a history of enslavement, racism and contempt to bear comparison with Europeans) are our friends and have applied the same faulty logic to embrace the developing Chinese (who don't have the same history of oppressing Afrikans) economic colonisation of Afrika.

When the Obama presidency turns out to be White business as usual - fronted by a Brown face - we will be told it was because we (Afrikans) did not support him enough to allow him to do all the radical things he really wanted to do. This will be the ultimate act of collective self-delusion which will prevent many of us from learning the harsh lessons of political power and group organisation in a democratic fascist state such as the US and the wider world for that matter. I am sure every reader of this article has seen at close hand Afrikan people put in positions of power or prominence who either through fear of losing their material gains; fear of losing status and prestige or through the absence of any deepseated loyalty to the group, do nothing to advance the position of our people. We have seen this often enough to know that Caucasians will never ever put any Afrikan person in a position to undermine their privilege and power and yet, rather sadly and poignantly, we keep hoping that one day they will.

Barack Obama promised Afrikans in the US nothing and so far has delivered on his promise. Any of the benefits delivered to Afrikans by his administration to date; are small, incremental and incidental. Despite this, Black people continue to read deep meaning into his every word, nuance and small personal act whilst ignoring the vast majority of his political acts which entrench and reinforce the economic emiseration of the majority of the US population, and particularly Afrikans, and which will cost the lives of millions of people (through both acts and omissions) around the globe during the course of his Presidency.

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