**THE SKEPTIC ARENA**

**August 15, 2015**

**Obama’s False Iran Choice**

**There was a better alternative to his deal.**

**He never pursued it.**

***The debate is raging over President Obama’s nuclear deal with Iran, and Mr. Obama held a rare press conference Wednesday***

**Wall Street, your writers must be in a perpetual state of intoxication if they think Obama press conferences are rare. Where the hell have you guys been?**

**Advice: watch other news stations and read other newspapers and maybe they can tip you off when Obama holds a press conference.**

***to say that “99% of the world community” agrees with him.***

**Wall Street, don't worry about that 99%. That's about the same as the percentage of climate scientists who agree that global warming is real and mostly manmade ... and you know how wrong they are.**

***Then why bother with a press conference?***

**Wall Street, first you accused Obama of rarely holding press conferences - now you question it ... when he does. Do you know what the term "Catch-22" means?**

**Let me help you out: it means that Obama is damned if he does, and damned if he doesn't. You have rigged the game so he can't win. That is dishonest and exposes your lack of objectivity - not that this wasn't already common knowledge about The Journal; but thanks for reaffirming that fact.**

***Mr. Obama made other claims we’ll address in coming days,***

**Wall Street, for your sake, I sure hope they're better than this one.**

***but for today it’s worth rebutting his assertion that “none” of his critics “have presented to me or the American people a better alternative.”***

**Good point Wall Street, Obama is completely ignoring the Hiroshima option preferred by certified Republicans everywhere.**

***Specifically, Mr. Obama resorted to his familiar default of the false political choice. “There really are only two alternatives here. Either the issue of Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon is resolved diplomatically through a negotiation or it’s resolved through force, through war. Those are—those are the options.” He added that no better deal was or is possible than the one he has negotiated.***

***Mr. Obama knows there has always been an alternative to his diplomacy of concessions because many critics have suggested it. It’s called coercive diplomacy, and it might have worked to get a better deal if Mr. Obama had tried it.***

**Wall Street, so your "big" solution is ... threats? Seriously?**

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coercive\_diplomacy**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coercive_diplomacy)

**Even sanctions are harsher than threats. If destroying a country's economy hasn't worked, what makes you think a "sticks and stones" approach will?**

**This is even worse than your superior healthcare plan ... which "you people" never came up with.**

**Now Wall Street presents a video:**

***American Enterprise Institute Critical Threats Project Director Frederick Kagan analyzes the nuclear deal.***

**Wall Street, the American Enterprise Institute is an organization rooted in The Great Depression. They work only for the rich and their sole purpose is to restore America to the paradise it was before FDR's New Deal ruined everything for the rich.**

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\_Enterprise\_Institute**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Enterprise_Institute)

***Take the sanctions regime, which finally started to get tough in December 2011. By 2013 Iran had an official inflation rate of some 35%, its currency was falling, and its dollar reserves were estimated to be down to $20 billion. Mr. Obama had resisted those sanctions, only to take credit for them when Congress insisted and they began to show results in Tehran.***

**Wall Street, so now you admit that the sanctions have been successful (this might be a good place to add that, your "coercive diplomacy" wouldn't have had nearly the effect that sanctions had). So now your big complaint is that Obama is taking credit?**

**You whine like a bunch of little babies.**

***Yet Mr. Obama still resisted calls to put maximum pressure on Iran.***

**Wall Street, Obama also resisted Conservative calls to eliminate Iran from the World Atlas.**

***He gave waivers to countries like Japan to import Iranian oil. He was reluctant to impose sanctions on global financial institutions that did business with Iran (especially Chinese banks that offered Tehran access to foreign currency). The U.S. could have gone much further to blacklist parts of Iran’s economy run by the Revolutionary Guard Corps. A bipartisan majority in Congress was prepared to impose more sanctions this year, but Mr. Obama refused as he rushed for a second-term deal.***

**Wall Street, by your own admission the sanctions had brutal effects on Iran. The tactics Obama used (which you disagreed with) got Iran to the table and got a deal made. Now you are screaming like little children, claiming you could have done better. What evidence do you offer for that claim?**

**Nothing.**

**Obama did it. Now you are doing everything in your power to deny him the applause he deserves. That is exactly what you have done with every accomplishment he has achieved.**

**You prove yourselves to be nothing more than spiteful little children; which also describes the millions of useful puppets, called Conservatives, that you find so easy to manipulate.**

***Mr. Obama now argues that the sanctions could not have been maintained, and that they are sure to collapse if Congress scuttles his deal.***

**Wall Street, Republicans will do everything in their power to sabotage America while the Democrats hold the White House, just like they did 2 years ago when they were willing to take America to the brink of economic ruin.**

**Iran represents only a tiny fraction of the danger to America, that Conservatives represent. Iran doesn't have the power to hurt America ... Conservatives do it on a daily basis. Where's the proof, you ask?**

**We lost over 3,000 people on 9/11. But the refusal by Republicans to accept the Medicaid expansion will cost the lives of many times that number of Americans.**

[**http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/01/31/1270171/-Harvard-Study-States-Medicaid-expansion-refusal-will-kill-nbsp-thousands?detail=email**](http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/01/31/1270171/-Harvard-Study-States-Medicaid-expansion-refusal-will-kill-nbsp-thousands?detail=email)

**And for what?**

**Political power. Conservatives are the very definition of "Evil."**

**They have always been, and will continue to be, the greatest threat America has ever faced ... and we are losing badly.**

***But there was no sign sanctions were collapsing as long as the U.S. continued to keep the pressure on. And to the extent support did weaken, one reason was the momentum of Mr. Obama’s negotiations.***

**Wall Street, you said there were "no signs" that sanctions were collapsing. Then you contradicted yourself in the very next sentence by claiming that support did weaken to some extent.**

**"You people" are making this ... waaay too easy.**

***The more the U.S. gave the impression that it desperately wanted a deal, the more other countries and businesses began to maneuver for post-sanctions opportunities.***

**Wall Street ... so what? What issue do you have with maneuvering for post-sanction opportunities?**

**That sounds like a Capitalist dream-come-true. Where's Halliburton?**

***This is the opposite of coercive diplomacy,***

**Wall Street, that may explain why it worked. I can't imagine why, in your wildest dreams, you would think that threats would work.**

***which shows determination so an adversary under pressure concludes that it must make more concessions.***

**Wall Street, if you'll review that link I provided earlier to "coercive diplomacy," you might notice near the bottom that ... it doesn't always work.**

***This is the diplomacy Ronald Reagan practiced with the Soviets, refusing to budge on missile defenses at the 1986 Reykjavik Summit despite pressure from 99% of the world to do so. The Soviets were soon back at the negotiating table.***

**Wall Street, Reagan? You mean the Iran-Contra guy?**

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran\_Contra\_Affair**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran_Contra_Affair)

**Who would be stupid enough to bring up Reagan in a discussion about Iran?**

**Well, I guess that would be you, wouldn't it?**

***Mr. Obama could also have pressured Iran on other fronts, the way Reagan did the Soviets by arming enemies of its proxies.***

**Wall Street, great idea. During the worst recession since The Great Depression, your idea is that we send arms to everyone. Fantastic.**

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\_great\_recession**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_great_recession)

**And since The Great Recession is a worldwide event, I'm sure all these countries will have all kinds of money lying around to pay us for all those weapons, huh?**

**Boy, you guys are just a fountain of great ideas. I guess that's why you call them "think tanks."**

***The U.S. could have armed the Free Syrian Army to defeat Iran’s allied Assad regime in Damascus,***

**Hey Wall Street, that's another fabulous idea - except for one thing ... had we done that, we would have been helping ISIS.**

**DOH!**

***and it could have helped Israel enforce U.N. Resolution 1701 that imposes an arms embargo on Hezbollah in Lebanon. On Wednesday Mr. Obama conceded that Iran supplies Hezbollah and Assad, while implying he could do nothing about it. The truth is that he chose to do nothing because he didn’t want to offend Iran and jeopardize his nuclear talks.***

**Wall Street, it sounds like he chose to concentrate on the more important issue. The fact that he succeeded has "you people" in a state of panic.**

**That's why you Conservatives wave the flag so furiously: it is to distract everyone from the fact that you are the most unpatriotic, seditious citizens in our country.**

**We should have let you secede when you wanted to. The only problem with that is, that you would still be beating, raping, and killing your slaves ... and then hopping in your Ford F-150's to attend church.**

***Instead he should have increased the pressure across the board to assist the negotiations and get a better deal.***

**Wall Street, I have a better deal: if Iran will agree to stop all uranium enrichment, donate all its military weapons to needy armies in Africa, and convert to Christianity - we will agree to pay all transportation costs to ship every Conservative prick in America over to Iran where they can be legally held as slaves.**

**And we will even throw in ... a Fox News anchor to be named later.**

***As for Mr. Obama’s false choice of war and diplomacy,***

**Wall Street, that's right - he left out threats. Good thing you thought of that one.**

***the truth is that war becomes less likely when diplomacy is accompanied by the credible threat of war.***

**Wall Street, just out of curiosity, where is all your false bravado for North Korea's nuclear program? How come all I hear is ...**

**Crickets ... Crickets ... Crickets ...**

***The President removed that credible threat from Iran by insisting war was the only (bad) alternative to his diplomacy, as well as by threatening force against Syria only to erase his own “red line.” In May Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei boasted that the U.S. military “can’t do a damn thing” against Iran. He understood his negotiating partner all too well.***

**Wall Street, we didn't need to do "a damn thing" militarily - we did it economically; and as you admitted, the results were devastating to the Iranian economy. Now we have a deal.**

**Oh, that's right - "you people" also had a deal with Iran. I almost forgot; and what an impressive deal it was. Your bright idea was to sell arms to Iran, illegally. Boy, you Conservatives really get your money's worth out of those think tanks, don't you?**

***Mr. Obama is now presenting his deeply flawed deal to Congress***

**Wall Street, I see what you are doing. The purpose of this incoherent rant was to soften up your loser base so they**

**unquestioningly accept yet another seditious act by congressional Republicans.**

***and the public as a fait accompli that must be embraced or war will result.***

**Wall Street, the war you speak of is not an attack on America by Iran - it is an attack on Iran by America. Just wanted to make that clear.**

***Congress shouldn’t be any more impressed by his false ultimatums than the Iranians were by his weak diplomacy.***

**Wall Street, apparently they were impressed, or they wouldn't have agreed to the deal.**

**But the best part of this whole hack job was the video that you posted with this story. In it you admitted that the people in Tehran were cheering in the streets. You couldn't stand that. Conservatives would be filling Emergency Rooms all over America and doctors would be reviving them with heart paddles.**

**So you spun it, and claimed that they were cheering because they outsmarted America; while any rational person would understand that they were cheering because, for the first time in years, the prospect of peace and the return of economic prosperity, was finally in sight.**

**If we swapped out every prisoner in America (including rapists and murderers) and replaced them with the staunchest Conservatives ... America would be a better place.**

[**http://www.wsj.com/articles/obamas-false-iran-choice-1437001404**](http://www.wsj.com/articles/obamas-false-iran-choice-1437001404)

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**THE SCIENCE SEGMENT**

**New antibody treats traumatic brain injury**

**and prevents long-term neurodegeneration**

**New research provides the first direct evidence linking traumatic brain injury to Alzheimer's disease and chronic traumatic encephalopathy, and offers the potential for early intervention to prevent the development of these debilitating neurodegenerative diseases.**

**Traumatic brain injury can result from repetitive contact sport injuries or from exposure to military blasts, and is one of the most significant risk factors for both Alzheimer's disease and chronic traumatic encephalopathy. It affects approximately 20 percent of the more than two million troops who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.**

**Researchers found that a misshapen isoform of the tau protein, called cis P-tau, can develop as soon as 12 hours after a traumatic brain injury, disrupting the brain's microtubule scaffolding systems and the transport of mitochondria (the powerhouse that provides energy for neuronal function) and eventually leads to neuron death by apoptosis.**

**Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia in older individuals. It currently affects more than 5 million Americans, and 30 million worldwide.**

**Mild traumatic brain injury, also known as a concussion, results in moderate and transient cis P-tau induction. However, repetitive concussions, as might occur in contact sports, can result in robust and persistent cis P-tau induction. This is similar to what is produced following a single severe traumatic brain injury caused by a blast or impact.**

**Chronic traumatic encephalopathy is a degenerative brain disease associated with a number of neurological symptoms including risk-taking, aggression, depression, and it can also lead to progressive dementia. Recent studies of chronic traumatic encephalopathy in the brains of boxers, American football players, and blast-exposed veterans have identified extensive neurofibrillary tau tangles.**

**Previous research has shown that abnormal phosphorylation of the tau protein causes it to become tangled and unable to function properly.**

**These experiments proved that cis P-tau has the ability to kill one neuron after another, eventually leading to widespread neurofibrillary tangles and brain atrophy, which are the hallmark lesions of both Alzheimer's disease and chronic traumatic encephalopathy.**

**Treating traumatic brain injury with a cis monoclonal antibody eliminated the toxic cis P-tau, and prevented the onset of widespread neurodegeneration by identifying and neutralizing this toxic protein.**

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**FAMOUS QUOTES**

**Anonymous**

**"Fox News is to journalism**

**what World Wrestling Entertainment is to the Olympics."**