



TORN BETWEEN TWO LOVERS?

June 17, 2013

Could Barack Obama's ambivalence in Syria be because of torn affections between the Russians and the Islamists? Radical, I know, but consider this:

According to "Dreams from my Father," President Obama's mom and dad met in Russian class at the University of Hawaii. Barack Hussein Obama Sr. was a Communist, his mother exposed early to the teachings of Marx and Margaret Mead. His mentor, Frank Marshall Davis, was a member of the Communist Party, editor of a Communist newspaper in Chicago and later a Communist Activist in Hawaii during Obama's formative years. He was identified on the FBI's Watch List as a "Stalinist agent."

It's hard for younger Americans to imagine, but Soviet Russia held great romance for the American Left from the 30's through their glory days of the 60's and 70's. There existed a fascination with the Communist system and a convenient denial of its brutality. Bill Ayres and Bernadine Dorn, of the Weather Underground who held Obama's first political fundraiser in their home remain proud of their Communist Revolutionary status. Students like Bill & Hillary Clinton were admirers of the Soviet system. Hillary was a disciple of the aging communist, Saul Alinsky, writing a thesis on his methods of community organizing. And interestingly enough grew up to be the Secretary of State who handed Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, a huge, tacky, "reset button" upon their first official encounter. Reset what?

The tension and ideological chasm that separated Russia and the United States through the 1980's under Ronald Reagan was palpable. It drove history, and was the centerpiece of world security concerns. America believed in freedom of thought, not gulags and re-education for non- group-think conformists. America believed in free enterprise, not state-controlled, poorly run farms and businesses. And America believed in God while the Soviets worshipped the "State." The Soviets murdered millions including their own while America saved millions and sacrificed their sons even for those who were not their own.

Barack Obama must have grown up hearing about the glories of the Russian Soviets. It's what the Left believed and taught. But he grew up with competing affections.

Reciting the Muslim Call to Prayer with "a first-rate accent," according to Nicholas Kristof of the New York Times in March of 2007, Barack Obama described it as "one of the prettiest sounds on Earth at sunset." Yet in the campaign of 2008, anyone daring to suggest that Barack Hussein Obama was Muslim was ridiculed and silenced. But one thing critics now could say for certain is that his sympathies are with Islam...and ...one could argue, Islamists.

His self-described best friend among world leaders is Prime Minister Recep Erdogan of Turkey, an Islamist. His best friend at the University of Chicago was Rashid Kalidi, a fellow professor formerly with the PLO. Obama has authorized millions of dollars of aid to the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt while helping topple its secular leader, Hosni Mubarak. He did the same in Libya with Khadafy who for all his violence, was not an Islamist. Yet in Iran, arguably the only true manifestation of an "Arab Spring," where demonstrators actually wanted democracy and freedom, not radical Islam, he remained silent and neutral.

But Syria has presented a dilemma. His admiration, demonstrated repeatedly in deferential actions toward Russia on missile defense, the “reset” button, off- mike promises of “more flexibility” after his second election, must certainly be at odds with his devotion to the Muslim world, which he demonstrated clearly by giving his first international address to in 2008. Putin and Russia are backing mostly secular Bashir Assad in Syria, while Islamists in various forms are opposing him.

Could this explain his ambivalence? Body language experts might point to his interactions with Putin at the G-8 Summit this week in Ireland; Putin, sitting straight, facing forward, jaw set...while Obama leaned toward him glancing occasionally...nervously even to see the reaction of his comrade.

Obama placed himself in a corner by proclaiming that Assad must go. He should have asked Vladimir first. But now he must put some skin into a game he seems only to be half-heartedly playing.

It’s tough to choose between two murderous forces, especially if you favor them both.