Twitter Thread by Donald W. Obama



Donald W. Obama
@donaldwobama

THREAD: There has been a lot of criticism levied against @BernieSanders recently following his comment about "working within the context of what Biden wants" as Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. This thread will explore why this really isn't all that surprising.

Well, look, I am a very strong advocate of "Medicare for All." I introduced legislation in the Senate. I think at the end of the day, the American people understand that our current health care system is so dysfunctional, so cruel, so wasteful, so expensive, that we need to do what every other major country on Earth does and get health care to all people. What we will be doing is working within the context of what Biden wants.

I will tell you this — that during this terrible pandemic when we're seeing record-breaking numbers of people being diagnosed with the

Over the last 20+ years, Bernie has endorsed every establishment Democrat running for President: Bill Clinton, Gore, Kerry, Obama, Hillary, and most recently, Biden. These candidates and what they represent largely contradict much of what Bernie says he stands for.

In terms of who to support for president, the choice is really not difficult. I am certainly not a big fan of Bill Clinton's politics. As a strong advocate of a single-payer health care system, I opposed his convoluted health care reform package. I have helped lead the opposition to his trade policies, which represent the interests of corporate America and which are virtually indistinguishable from the views of George Bush and Newt Gingrich. I opposed his bloated military budget, the welfare reform bill that he signed, and the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, which he supported. He has been weak on campaign finance reform and has caved in far too often on the environment. Bill Clinton is a moderate Democrat. I'm a democratic socialist.

Yet, without enthusiasm, I've decided to support Bill Clinton for president. Perhaps "support" is too strong a word. I'm planning no press conferences to push his candidacy, and will do no campaigning for him. I will vote for him, and make that public. Why? I think that many people do not perceive how truly dangerous the political situation in this country is today. If Bob Dole were to be elected president and Gingrich and the Republicans were to maintain control of Congress, we would see a legislative agenda unlike any in the modern history of this country. There would be an unparalleled war against working people and the poor, and political decisions would be made that could very well be irreversible.

Medicare and Medicaid would certainly be destroyed, and tens of millions more Americans would lose their health insurance. Steps would be taken to privatize Social Security, and the very existence of public education in America would be

Chris Hedges theorized in 2015: "...All that energy and all of that money goes back into the Democratic party. [Bernie] functions as a sheepdog to corral progressives, left-leaning progressives, back into the embrace of the Democratic establishment."

https://t.co/5wXGxTuVrf

Bernie's foreign policy positions are also telling. While he *did* vote against the US invasion of Iraq, he still voted to fund it once underway, & also backed the US bombing of Kosovo, US sanctions against Iran & Libya, & the Iraqi Liberation Act of '98.

https://t.co/O0AoqiY7TS

Bernie called closing the torturous gulag at Guantanamo a "complicated issue" and supported a proposal in 2009 to "prohibit funding to transfer, release, or incarcerate detainees detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to or within the United States."

https://t.co/4p64SgeD1x

Just to put an endcap on this, Senator Sanders posted an explanation of his vote against closing Guantanamo:

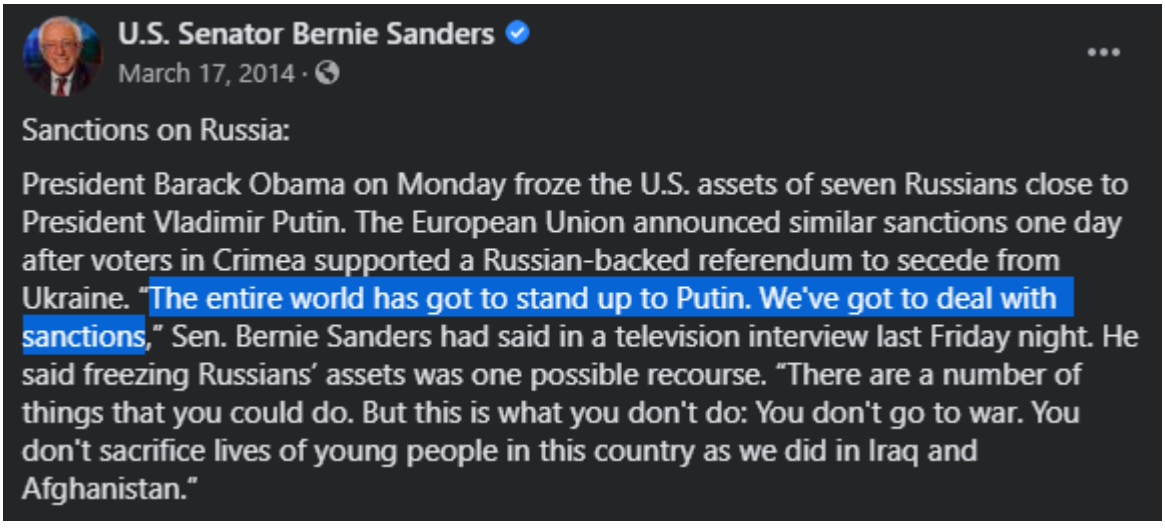
> "A number of important questions remain unanswered regarding the rather complicated issue of not just how you close down the facility, but what you do with the prisoners," he added. "Are there some who should be released, are there others who should be returned to their home countries, are we confident that under Bush the correct determinations were made with respect to these prisoners' status as 'enemy combatants'? In order to answer these questions, President Obama has appointed a high-level committee of top administration officials who will be issuing a report in the coming months. I think that it is prudent to review that plan they develop before we spend $80 million in taxpayer money."

Disappointing.

In 2011, Bernie co-sponsored S. Res. 85, which urged the UN Security Council to take action to "protect civilians" in Libya, including the possible imposition of a no-fly zone over Libyan territory.

https://t.co/ecM2pcNu3g

In 2014, he supported US sanctions against Russia.



That same year, Bernie didn't object to having his name included - by unanimous consent - in S.498, which backed Israel's brutal military assault against Gaza.

As a result, he was berated by supporters at a town hall meeting in Vermont.

https://t.co/zOQmi35kZM

In 2015, he supported US airstrikes in Iraq & Syria.

https://t.co/7KyZkeBWk0

February 11, 2015

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11 – *Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) issued the following statement today after President Barack Obama formally asked Congress to authorize a military campaign against the Islamic State terrorist group:*

"The Islamic State is a brutal and dangerous terrorist organization which has murdered thousands of innocent men, women and children, including Americans. It must be defeated.

"I voted against the war in Iraq because I feared very much the destabilizing impact it would have on the region. Today, after 13 years in Afghanistan and 12 years in Iraq, after the loss of almost 7,000 troops and the expenditure of trillions of dollars, I very much fear U.S. involvement in an expanding and never-ending quagmire in that region of the world.

"I have supported U.S. airstrikes against ISIS and believe they are authorized under current law, and I support targeted U.S. military efforts to protect U.S. citizens.

Following the death of neocon John McCain in 2018, Bernie referred to him as an "American hero, a man of decency and honor and a friend of mine."



Bernie Sanders
@SenSanders

John McCain was an American hero, a man of decency and honor and a friend of mine. He will be missed not just in the U.S. Senate but by all Americans who respect integrity and independence. Jane and I send our deepest condolences to his family.

8:49 PM · Aug 25, 2018 · Twitter for iPhone

Bernie's recent endorsement of Joe Biden is the most telling. Biden is a corporate-owned warmonger who voted for the US invasion of Iraq, opposes M4A, & opposes a Green New Deal. Yet Bernie endorsed him - as he has endorsed every establishment Dem over the last two decades.



Bernie's various support for US acts of aggression, combined with 20+ years of endorsements for pro-war establishment Dems, is ultimately why his pledge to work "within the context of what Biden wants" as Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee really isn't all that surprising.