

OBAMA

Excerpts from Speeches on barackobama.com

“Because our individual salvation depends on collective salvation.”

*Wesleyan University Commencement
May 25, 2008*

“We need the courage to say that it's wrong that one out of every five children is born into poverty in the richest country on Earth. And it's right to do whatever necessary to provide our children the care and the education they need to live up to their God-given potential.”

*John Lewis's 65th Birthday Gala
February 21, 2005*

“That we're willing to respect that labor and reward it with a few basic guarantees - wages that can raise a family, health care if we get sick, a retirement that's dignified, working conditions that are safe. The struggle to secure these guarantees has always been at the heart of the labor movement.”

*AFSCME National Convention
August 07, 2006*

“We know that we've been called in churches and mosques, synagogues and Sunday schools to love our neighbors as ourselves; to be our brother's keeper; to be our sister's keeper. That we have individual responsibility, but we also have collective responsibility to each other.”

*Take Back America Conference Remarks
June 14, 2006*

“But elections are not enough. In a true democracy, it is what happens between elections that is the true measure of how a government treats its people.”

*An Honest Government, A Hopeful Future
August 28, 2006*

“And although government will play a crucial role in bringing about the changes we need, more money and programs alone will not get us where we need to go.”

*Announcement for President
February 10, 2007*

MARX

The Communist Manifesto, Samuel Moore Translation

“The proletarian movement is the self-conscious, independent movement of the immense majority, in the interest of the immense majority.”

“All that we want to do away with is the miserable character of this appropriation, under which the labourer lives merely to increase capital, and is allowed to live only in so far as the interest of the ruling class requires it.”

“The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honored and looked up to with reverent awe. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science into its paid wage-labourers.

The bourgeoisie has torn away from the family its sentimental veil, and has reduced the family relation to a mere money relation.”

“In the formation of their plans they are conscious of caring chiefly for the interests of the working class, as being the more suffering class. Only from the point of view of being the more suffering class does the proletariat exist for them.”

“We have seen above, that the first step in the revolution by the working class, is to raise the proletariat to the position of ruling class, to win the battle of democracy.

The Proletariat will use its political supremacy to wrest, by degrees, all capital from the bourgeoisie, to centralize all instruments of production in the hands of the State, i.e., of the proletariat organized as the ruling class; and to increase the total productive forces as rapidly as possible”

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“At the very moment that globalization is changing the rules of the game on the American worker - making it harder to compete with cheaper, highly-skilled workers all over the world - the people running Washington are responding with a philosophy that says government has no role in solving these problems; that the services you all provide every day are better left to the whims of the private sector.”

*AFSCME National Convention
August 07, 2006*

“And so from time to time, we have put in place certain rules of the road to make competition fair, and open, and honest. We have done this not to stifle prosperity or liberty, but to foster those things and ensure that they are shared and spread as widely as possible.”

*Our Common Stake in America's Prosperity
September 17, 2007*

“The cost of everything from gas to groceries to health care has gone up, while the dream of a college education for our kids and a secure and dignified retirement for our seniors is slipping away. These are the struggles that Americans are facing. This is the pain that has now trickled up.”

*Remarks of Senator Barack Obama: Confronting an Economic Crisis
September 16, 2008*

MARX

The Communist Manifesto, Samuel Moore Translation

“The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles.”

“In proportion as the bourgeoisie, i.e., capital, is developed, in the same proportion s the proletariat, the modern working class, developed - a class of labourers, who live only so long as they find work, and who find work only so long as their labour increases capital. The labourers, who must sell themselves piecemeal, are a commodity, like every other article of commerce, and are consequently exposed to all the vicissitudes of competition, to all the fluctuations of the market.”

“The proletarians cannot become masters of the productive forces of society, except be abolishing their own previous mode of appropriation, and thereby also every other previous mode of appropriation. They have nothing of their own to secure and to fortify: their mission is to destroy all previous securities for, and insurances of, individual property.”

“No sooner is the exploitation of the labourer by the manufacturer, so far, at an end, that he receives his wages in cash, than he is set upon by the other portions of the bourgeoisie, the landlord, the shopkeeper, the pawnbrokers, etc. The lower strata of the middle class - the small trades people, shopkeepers, and retired tradesmen generally, the handicraftsmen and peasants - all these sink gradually into the proletariat.”