

# THE US REPORT

## Cato notes tie between Obama, costliest fashion designer

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Much of Libertarian philosophy is dear to my heart, and I like to read at the Cato Institute website. A light-hearted blog post on Saturday was particularly entertaining.

That post has to do with the late fashion designer Bijan Pakzad and President Barack Obama, with a few other celebs thrown in for good measure.

What does Obama have to do with Pakzad whose product slogan was “the costliest menswear in the world”?

Obama, it turns out, was a Pakzad client. [Cato cited \*The Washington Post\* for that nugget.](#)

Other [clients included “presidents and kings”](#) according to CNN.

On Pakzad’s boutique website, a header declared the establishment was the “most expensive in the world.”

Nothing wrong with that, of course, if you have the money to buy the duds. I’d be the first to commend Mr. Pakzad for his excellent understanding of capitalism as well as his skills in branding.

However, Cato points out a problem for Obama who has routinely asked questions along the lines of “*How much money do you need?*” when criticizing the wealthy. It’s useful to point out that among Obama’s wealthy are those making \$200k a year (up from the \$150k he harped on during his 2008 campaign).

Obama’s problem according to Cato was a statement our president made during a speech to college graduates—don’t “*take your diploma, walk off this stage, and chase only after the big house and the nice suits and all the other things that our money culture says you should buy.*”

As a sidenote, I’d point out the man the left often describes rather shockingly as America’s first black president, Bill Clinton, was also a client. So were presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, but neither of those Republicans promoted class warfare.

Of course if Obama takes another term and Democrats continue to control the US Senate, we won’t have to worry about young people being materialistic. They’ll do good to put bread and butter substitutes on the table. Unless we vote for real change in 2012, I also

suspect Pakzad's clientele in the U.S. will most definitely contract, although it may increase in countries like China, Russia and India.