

And so another war begins...

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A day after France began sorties, the United States - authorized by Nobel Peace Prize winner, President Barack Obama - [has launched 112 Tomahawk Cruise missiles at Libya](#) to enforce a [United Nations sanctioned "no-fly zone"](#):

More than 112 Tomahawk cruise missiles struck over 20 targets inside Libya today in the opening phase of an international military operation the Pentagon said was aimed at stopping attacks led by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and enforcing a U.N.-backed no-fly zone.

President Obama, speaking from Brazil shortly after he authorized the missile attacks, said they were part of a "limited military action" to protect the Libyan people.

"I want the American people to know that the use of force is not our first choice and it's not a choice I make lightly," Obama said. "But we cannot stand idly by when a tyrant tells his people that there will be no mercy."

The first air strikes, in what is being called "Operation Odyssey Dawn," were launched from a mix of U.S. surface ships and one British submarine in the Mediterranean Sea at 2 pm ET, Vice Adm. William E. Gortney told reporters at a Pentagon briefing.

They targeted Libyan air defense missile sites, early warning radar and key communications facilities around Tripoli, Misratah, and Surt, but no areas east of that or near Benghazi. Because of darkness over Libya, Gortney said it was too early to determine the strikes' effectiveness.

As Benjamin Friedman [notes over at Cato @ Liberty](#), the end goal of this foreign intervention is unclear since a "no-fly zone" will not end the rule of Moammar Gadhafi and poses a list of great questions - [similar to those asked by George Will](#) - that should be answered by the Obama Administration.

Also, Doug Mataconis [points out](#) that the action taken by Obama - without the approval of Congress - is contrary to his stance as a candidate:

The President does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorize a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the nation.

As Commander-in-Chief, the President does have a duty to protect and defend the United States. In instances of self-defense, the President would be within his constitutional authority to act before advising Congress or seeking its consent. History has shown us time and again, however, that military action is most successful when it is authorized and

supported by the Legislative branch. It is always preferable to have the informed consent of Congress prior to any military action.

That's a statement consistent with the Constitution, as [noted by Rep. Ron Paul](#) (R-TX). Libya has not attacked us. We have no interest there. So why is President Obama authorizing force? And, why is the antiwar left so silent?

Looks like neoconservative foreign policy isn't just for Republicans anymore.