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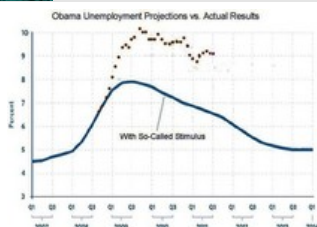
## Is Barack Obama a supporter of dirigisme?



Kay Day, Conservative Examiner

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Economist Daniel J. Mitchell at the Cato Institute noted the actual unemployment rate is about 2 1/2 percentage points higher than Pres. Obama promised when he "adopted the failed Stimulus."

**Credits:**

Chart originally appeared in column by Dr. Daniel Mitchell at the Cato Institute. Used with permission.

Ahead of the GOP presidential debate on Wednesday and President Barack Obama's jobs speech on Thursday, pundits and Main Street are talking about jobs. Progressives stress the concept of the government creating jobs. Have you ever really looked beyond the surface of the term 'create jobs'?

Here's a wakeup call. If any president promises you he will 'create jobs,' he's making a promise that is at odds with the free market. Officials can only create jobs if wealth is transferred to and by the government.

In times past, the concept of government-created jobs inspired debate about [dirigisme](#). That peculiar looking word is simply defined by Oxford dictionaries as "state control of economic and social matters."

Professor Deepak Lal at the University of California made a statement in a 1996 lecture and it may surprise you. Lal said, "This new [metamorphosis of the dirigiste beast](#)--in the form of bureaucratic regulation of the market--has plagued the United States since World War II."

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Economist J. D. Foster, Ph.D., turns to a sentiment that echoes objectivist Ayn Rand's philosophy embodied by the character of John Galt in the perennial bestseller *Atlas Shrugged*—government should "get out of the way." In a Web Memo at The Heritage Foundation, [Foster analyzed paths for Obama's jobs speech](#). Foster wrote,

*“For the economy to create jobs, the President must restore confidence and reduce uncertainty emanating from Washington, pursuing a ‘do less harm’ philosophy of economic recovery. The true pro-growth path President Obama should announce when he gives his big jobs speech requires him to choose job growth over ideology. It requires opting for smaller, less intrusive government over a philosophy that says government should seek to address every problem afflicting the economy and society.”*

Economist [Daniel J. Mitchell](#) at the Cato Institute provides startling reminders of government’s shortcomings on micromanaging the economy. In the column, ‘Obama’s Failure on Jobs: Four Damning Charts,’ Mitchell made the case that the economy “periodically hits a speed bump.” Mitchell added, “And the really bad news is that there is little reason to expect a turnaround given the current Administration’s affinity for bigger and more burdensome government.”

Mitchell’s charts reflect the Obama administration’s folly. Despite hundreds of billions in Stimulus, progressives have achieved nothing but failure. Another example: Under the administration of President George W. Bush, black unemployment averaged 9.7 percent. Under Obama, black unemployment has averaged 15.6 percent.

A spokesperson at Cato told National Conservative Examiner, “Obama scares the crap out of the business community.”

That statement was supported by Karen Kerrigan, CEO of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, who told C-Span on Wednesday, “[Washington knows best just doesn’t cut it in today’s world.](#)”

Few Americans, even the politically savvy, realize that when they ask government to “create jobs,” they are asking for a government that may expand opportunities for the political class. However, personal freedom will most certainly contract because in a truly free market, government does not create private sector jobs. Government can only remove wealth from one sector and transfer it to another.

Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) pointed out the impact of Obama’s progressive policy during an interview with Sean Hannity on Tuesday. DeMint said, “Our economy is different, it is based on individuals taking risk in return for getting rewards. [He’s made the risk higher, the rewards lower.](#) “

Is Obama a believer in dirigisme? Apparently. In the spirit of bipartisanship, conservatives must admit an uncomfortable fact. Republican President George W. Bush was a believer in dirigisme as well. The approach failed both of them and according to Lal, those who preceded both those presidents as well. The biggest loser is the American public who has been forced to fund ideology.

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