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**The Hotline**  
NATIONAL JOURNAL'S DAILY BRIEFING ON POLITICS

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## THE BLOGOMETER

*The Blogometer is a daily report from The Hotline taking the temperature of the political blogosphere. The Blogometer appears in The Hotline's subscription-only tip sheet and in this space every weekday at noon.*

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**June 04, 2009**

## 6/4: Obama Goes To Cairo

The political blogosphere's reaction to Pres. **Obama's** [Cairo speech](#) is following a familiar pattern: conservative bloggers are mostly blasting the speech while liberal bloggers are mostly praising it. On the right side of the blogosphere, [Michelle Malkin](#) decries Obama's "explicit anti-American apologism" while [Hugh Hewitt](#) complains that the speech "communicate[ed] extraordinary weakness on the part of the United States." [Erick Erickson](#) goes even further, warning that "Barack Obama's ivory tower naiveté will get us all killed." On the left side of the blogosphere, [Steve Benen](#) calls the speech "a dramatic success" while [M.J. Rosenberg](#) gushes: "For the first time in memory, an American President spoke to Muslims and Arabs not as antagonists who need to take certain actions before achieving US acceptance but as equals."

Still, there were a few exceptions. Some righty bloggers wrote that they found the speech less offensive than they anticipated. [Ed Morrissey](#) thought the speech was "surprisingly good" and was impressed by "the depth of the defense of Israel's right to exist in peace, as well as the strong denunciation of 9/11 Trutherism that has been wildly popular among Arabs." On the other hand, liberal blogger [Peter Daou](#) complained that the speech was "disappointingly weak on human rights and specifically women's rights."

What else is happening in the blogosphere?

- Liberal bloggers ([Dayen](#), [hilzoy](#), [Greenwald](#), [Ackerman](#), [Yglesias](#)) are praising Obama for [pressuring Israel](#) to "freeze" settlement growth, even though Obama's policy is generating [pushback](#) from Israeli leaders.
- Liberal bloggers ([Bowers](#), [McCarter](#), [Sudbay](#), [Dayen](#), [Benen](#)) continue to demand that the health care reform bill include a public insurance option.

## OBAMA SPEECH: All Apologies

Most conservative bloggers are blasting Obama's speech:

- [RedState's](#) Erickson: "Did he learn nothing from the **[Jimmy] Carter** administration? Does he really believe we are going to get China, Russia, and North Korea to give up nukes? If he does, Barack Obama is not just ignorant, he is a fool. And an ignorant fool is too dangerous to have running this country. Barack Obama's ivory tower naiveté will get us all killed."
- [Commentary's](#) **Jennifer Rubin**: "Will this speech accomplish anything? The American elites will swoon. But it won't do much of anything -- other than encourage Iran."
- [Gateway Pundit](#): "[T]his was his second apology speech to the Muslim World. He also [apologized for America](#) two months ago in Turkey. Obama doesn't seem to think that [liberating 50,000,000 Muslims](#) from two of the world's most brutal regimes counted for much."
- [Malkin](#): "[Obama] attempted to obfuscate his explicit anti-American apologism with a mixture of disingenuousness and naivete totally untethered to reality (including the '[7 million Muslims](#)' figure he hyped). Despite all his supposedly frank talk, Obama insists on hiding behind the euphemism '[violent extremism](#).' It's not only the 't-word' -- terrorism -- that failed to pass from his lips. It's the 'j-word' -- jihad, violent jihad -- that Obama will not acknowledge. He clings to the myth that only a '[tiny minority](#)' of 'extremists' subscribe to the [deadly Koran-inspired mission](#) to force infidels to submit. He

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