



## Obama Has Tried All the Wrong Policies

By [DANIEL MITCHELL](#)

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### **About [Daniel Mitchell](#):**

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The Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank has a very useful interactive website that allows anybody to compare recessions and recoveries during the post-World War II era. It takes only a couple of clicks to complete the exercise, and does not reflect well on the current occupant of the White House—[as you can see at this link](#).

[\[Check out our editorial cartoons on President Obama.\]](#)

This does not mean that Obama caused the economic downturn. That was the result of policies that were implemented during the Bush years (though the current president was a big supporter of the [Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac subsidies that played such a big role in the financial crisis](#)). Indeed, the recession officially began in December 2007, more than one year before Obama's inauguration.

But we can hold the president at least partially responsible for an extraordinarily weak and slow recovery. It's been nearly three years since the recession officially ended in June 2009, yet jobs are still well below their pre-recession levels. And overall economic output, or gross domestic product, has just now finally gotten back to where it was when the downturn began.

This is an anemic record. Especially since an economy normally enjoys a strong bounce when coming out of a deep recession.

[\[Ignore the 2012 Polls, Obama-Romney Will Be Close.\]](#)

The problem is that Obama has tried all the wrong policies. He tried a big-spending Keynesian package that was supposed to be a "stimulus," but [that's the same failed approach](#) that Bush tried in 2008, the same failed approach that Japan tried in the 1990s, and the same failed approach that Hoover and Roosevelt tried in the 1930s. Taking money out of the economy's productive sector and letting politicians engage in a spending spree is the opposite of prudent policy.

The president also has continuously expanded subsidies for unemployment, even though [academic scholars \(and even left-wing economists\) all agree](#) that such policies cause more joblessness.

And now he's demanding higher tax rates, holding a Sword of Damocles over entrepreneurs, investors, and small business owners.

The nation recently endured eight years of a [big-spending interventionist in the White House](#). The problem with Obama is that he promised hope and change, but he's continuing the failed statist policies of his predecessor.