

Certainly Bush failed to live up to many of his promises and did things he felt were justified by threats to the nation, but as time went by, it was increasingly clear that many Republicans were not on board for some of the things he was doing and also that throughout his presidency none of the questionable things he did would have been possible without the support of Democrats and this became more and more true as his administration went on and he lost increasing amounts of support within his own party.

Despite strong Republican support, even the bill to Authorize the Use of Military Force after 9/11 against Afghanistan and Iraq did not have enough Republican votes in the House to pass. It was a vote short of even a simple majority and would not have passed without the 82 Democrats who voted for it. In the Senate the same was true; it was 3 votes short of passing without the 29 Democrats who voted for it, a 58% majority of the Democrats in the Senate. So when talking about responsibility for Iraq and Afghanistan remember that the Democrats could have stopped those wars and took on equal responsibility for them when they did not do so.

Not long after, Bush promoted what is certainly my least favorite legislation of his presidency, the USA PATRIOT Act. Again, it would never have passed without bipartisan support, and it had significantly less Republican support than the AUMF did less than a year before. Without the support of 142 Democrats in the House (a majority of Democrats) and all but one Senate Democrat, it and all of its offenses against our Constitutional rights would never have passed. So again, both parties are equally guilty of passing one of the worst pieces of legislation of the modern era, not just Republicans.

By the end of the Bush presidency the tide really had turned, and Republicans were opposing Bush more than Democrats were. This is demonstrated in the passage of the TARP plan which Bush signed in 2008. When this bill was introduced and began the long process of madcap spending on bailouts and illusory economic stimulus, it actually had very little support among Republicans. When the bill was introduced, a majority of Congressional Republicans actually opposed it and [polls](#) show that a majority of Republican voters also opposed it. Many of them did so vocally and in the media. Conservative groups like the Cato Institute and the Republican Liberty Caucus were strongly opposed to the plan. In order to pass TARP, the administration ended up having to rely primarily on votes from Democrat legislators. In fact, only 65 House Republicans and three Senate Republicans voted to support TARP. The overwhelming support for it came from Democrats, who have been voting for bailouts and spending ever since. So ask yourself, was George W. Bush acting as a Republican president with Republican support in this instance? It doesn't seem that way.

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