

AGAINST ALL ODDS: Speech detrimental

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Our nation's youth is being brainwashed. President Barack Obama recently spoke to schools nationwide, indoctrinating them with his personal beliefs. While many see the backlash of this supposedly inspirational speech as unpatriotic, conservatives have good reason to be upset and worried for their children.

Obama's address to schoolchildren was shocking. The speech focused on themes of staying in school and a personal responsibility for one's education. These topics are all well and good, but the medium through which Obama forced response was extremely concerning.

If Obama had simply given a speech, just as previous presidents have done, there would have been no uproar or conservative backlash. Instead, he went too far by disguising his opportunistic, self-promoting appeal to innocent schoolchildren, helpless to know otherwise.

Obama coded his messaging with words and references children could not ignore. He used vernacular that was easy to listen to, he made references to new media Web sites such as Facebook, and even encouraged positive self-esteem when he told the children that "Every single one of you has something that you're good at."

Words such as these would inspire any youth. These were not the concerns people have. The questions Obama posed to these young, impressionable youth were intended to indoctrinate youth to support Obama's political views in subsequent years. Parents are rightfully concerned that our commander in chief may be trying to infiltrate schools and position himself as the "superintendent in chief" where he can manipulate the next generation of voters.

While some extreme conservatives framed his speech as socialist propaganda, these critics were more concerned with his political views, which Obama did not delve into.

The innocence of the speech hid the concerning lesson plan Obama provided for pre-kindergarten to sixth-grade classrooms across the nation.

The questions following his speech were directly meant to get children to digest Obama's words, without open debate, and made his comments seem more like orders to be obeyed. For example, one question went as far as to ask students "What do you think the president wants us to do?" If this isn't shocking enough, another asks, "Are we able to do what President Obama is asking of us?"

Taken alone, these questions are scary and eerily reminiscent to the People's Republic of China leader Mao Zedong's own "Little Red Book" that he made children read and memorize quotes from. The personality cult Zedong ignited through his "Little Red Book" is similar to Joseph Stalin's own cult, both of which were meant to harness the blind loyalty of the uneducated.

While Obama's lesson plan was not as overtly political as Zedong's, it was just as indoctrinating.



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President Barack Obama asked schools to air his message to children across the nation last Tuesday. Many schools did not wish to air the speech and some parents opted their children out of listening to it because they believed it to be controversial. Obama discussed taking responsibility for education, staying in school and working hard to achieve goals. He also asked teachers to encourage discussion about his message in the classroom.

It's telling that Obama only provided a lesson plan for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade and not for older students. Older students would not be as easily susceptible to his propaganda — they are older and able to think for themselves. It's shameful for Obama to take advantage of the innocence of youth.

"The language attempts to glorify President Obama", said Neal McCluskey, associate director of Cato Institute's Center for Educational Freedom, "It could be a blatantly political move."

Obama could have avoided criticism by allowing teachers to foster open debate and analysis in their classrooms following the speech. Schoolchildren should have been prompted to discuss their thoughts on the message, not what Obama wanted them to do.

His supposed attempt to motivate was a bold effort to indoctrinate. Schoolchildren should learn at a young age that it is also acceptable to question the president. A question such as "what did you disagree with?" may have served to quell many of the fears parents and schools felt.

He should have avoided his self-promotion in America's freethinking classrooms. He perverted his integrity, clouded his honesty and disappointed Americans by campaigning to impressionable children.

Shame on you, Obama shame on you.

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