War on Terror

* Obama gets credit for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq, **but** two agreements signed by the Bush administration set the date for the final withdrawal for 2011. (Two agreements: U.S. –Iraq Status of Forces Agreement, and Strategic Framework Agreement)
* Obama continued the now 19 year war in Afghanistan by ordering more troops to Afghanistan even though the military admitted there were very few Al Qaeda there. And he admitted more troops will be left in Afghanistan than he promised as he leaves office.
* Obama began U.S intervention in Syria in 2012 by funding and training Islamic radicals, his administration called "moderates," and our now the same groups beheading people.
* . Under Obama the U.S. provided weapons, logistical support and intelligence to Saudi Arabia in their war against Yemen, which includes war crimes. The U.S. committed its own war crimes: fired cruise missile at Yemeni village.

* Obama expanded the size of JSOC (Joint Special Operations Command) and the scope of its operations. JSOC is a unique command which only reports to the president and reached a size of 70,000 (includes CIA, Special Forces, SEALs, mercenaries, drones.)
* Obama expanded the war on terror with drone attacks. During his time as Commander in Chief the U.S. attacked countries in the Middle East, Africa and Asia..
* Obama expanded the war on terror to Libya which led to the overthrow of Khadafi and the rise of ISIS and Al Qaeda in Libya, which is now a failed state.
* Obama created a "kill list" and claimed the right to kill anyone, anywhere in the world without trial. Obama ordered a drone attack on a U.S. citizen and his 16 year old son in Yemen.
* Obama fought the right of prisoners in Guantanamo to habeas corpus, even those incarcerated for years with no charges.
* Obama asserts the right of sovereign immunity, neither he nor any president, can be tried for crimes they committed after they are out of office, war crimes, torture etc.
* Obama vetoed legislation that would have allowed American citizens to sue Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia was the country of origin, not Iraq, Afghanistan, or Libya, or Syria of 9-11 attackers, and it is the ideological home of “radical Islam.”

Why is the above important?

Further developed the military infrastructure and ideological justification for a never ending war on “something” (terror, radical Islam) and for Donald Trump

War on Terror at Home

* Obama appointed Eric Holder, a corporate lawyer, as attorney general (Holder was defense attorney for Chiquita in a case where Chiquita was accused of hiring paramilitary to kill union organizers. Chiquita subsequently pled guilty)
* Obama's justice department defended telecom industry from lawsuits involving their illegal wiretapping of America citizens.
* Obama "anti-terrorist" police forces (FBI, local police) raided homes of American citizens who had protested the U.S. war on terror, claiming they gave “material support” to terrorists.
* Obama's justice department invoked “states secret” doctrine to halt court proceedings challenging Obama’s right to issue extra-legal death warrants (see kill list above).
* Obama’s justice department has argued in court that the courts have no right to interfere with executive branch during war time.
* Obama's justice department invoked “state secrets” to block lawsuits that would reveal complicity of private corporations in rendition.
* Obama’s justice department prosecuted whistleblowers, those American citizens who reveal the lies, corruption and illegality of the government, as criminals.
* Obama’s justice department charged more Americans under the 1917 Espionage Act than all other presidents combined.
* Obama furthered the development of the intelligence/surveillance infrastructure and its legal justification.

Economy

* Obama appointed the people who created the economic crisis as his top economic advisers and Wall Street insiders to positions of power in his administration.
* Obama administration bailed out Wall Street with $700 billion and absorbed all of toxic assets ($5 to $7 trillion)
* Obama appointed a billionaire corporate criminal to negotiate the bailout of General Motors, one of the conditions for the bailout was unions had to take less
* Obama did not force CEOs of financial industry to take less to get bailed out.
* Obama’s financial Reform legislation (Dodd-Frank) has no real reform or regulatory power to keep this from happening again.
* Obama justice department did not prosecute those responsible for creating the global financial crisis.

Immigration

Obama deported more immigrants that any other President, approximately 3 million.

Obama escalated militarization of the border and increased funding of the border patrol (double size), ICE etc..

Obama doubled the size of the Border Patrol, limited background checks of potential new Border Patrol agents.

Obama created the gulag of immigration prisons, which a Texas judge, yes, that is right, even a Texas judge, said violated the rights of the prisoners.

In 2006 Obama and Hilary Clinton both voted to build a border wall, long before Donald Trump.

Why is this Important?

Reinforces the view of many Americans that the problems that they are having, economic are the result of undocumented workers..

Environment

1. Obama appointed Ken Salazaar to Secretary of the Interior (strong ties to oil companies).

2. Obama failed to make Salazaar reform MMS

3. Obama expanded deep off-shore drilling by issuing more permits.

4. Obama issued permits for mountain top removal and failed to enforce Clean Water Act in relation to mountain removal.

5. Obama subsidized nuclear power, claiming it is clean energy (the process by which uranium is enriched into nuclear fuel rods is one of the most environmentally damaging processes known.

6. Obama subsidized “clean coal,” an oxymoron to anyone who has spent fifteen minutes reading about how coal is mined and processed.

7. Obama signed the Paris Accord which had no mandatory conditions for dealing with global warming and under Obama the US made no effort to meet even minimum voluntary obligations.

Education (Race to the Top)

1. Obama appointed a “school reformer” to be education secretary.

2. Obama emphasized standardized testing, and students, teachers and administrators evaluated by the results of standardized testing.

3. Race to the top was a program that rewarded schools based on their reform of curriculum and standards to fit number 2.

4. Obama emphasized publicly funded, privately run charter schools.

War on Drugs

1. Obama increased the funding for the war on drugs.

2. Obama increased resources for the drug war, weapons, and vehicles.

3. Under Obama, SWAT raids increased to an estimated 80,000 a year.

4. While claiming to emphasize drugs as a health problem, and allocating minimal funds for rehab, Obama rejected application to lower federal restrictions on marijuana.

5. Obama kept the Byrne Grant and COPs program (now JAG funds) as a jobs creation, allows cities to keep more police employed, and economic stimulus program (despite the fact that Bush was phasing them out).

Why is this important? Same war on drugs, incarcerating minorities and poor, and now we have continued to create the infrastructure to increase the “war on drugs” under Trump.