

# Opinion

## Consequences of an Obama presidency and how McCain can thwart it

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With precisely a month left until the general elections, the likelihood of McCain salvaging the Republican name is rapidly dwindling.

September's "surprise" (the cataclysmic turmoil and uncertainty in financial markets that allocated a \$700 billion taxpayer backed bailout) has undoubtedly hurt the McCain/Palin ticket as of late.

As September passed and October began, McCain's presidential polling numbers have dropped eight

percentage points on average, and the probability of him seizing the Electoral College is bleak at best. It seems that unrest on Wall Street not only has the potential to damage the economy, but its ugly head has reared its way into McCain's momentum, proving to be quite detrimental to his quest for the White House.

With so much at stake -- the fate of capitalism and free markets, the war against Islamic fascism in both Afghanistan and Iraq, and a secure future of energy proliferation -- it seems ludicrous that the American people are about to entrust a critical inflection

point in American history to the fledgling senator that is Obama.

Yet here we are, Presidential Election 2008, ready to hand over the country to the most liberal member of the United States Senate and the most inexperienced presidential candidate to run for the office in the last century.

The perceived incompetence of the last eight years of Republican administration has soured the American public, (well undecided voters and those that seldom follow politics at least) driving them to elect anybody that doesn't have an "R" next to his or her name.

It's apparent that they will even vote for a Fabian socialist (Obama) whose naivety on dealing with rogue dictators is flat-out dangerous.

Never mind the facts. Forget that Democrats in the House and Senate, particularly Barney Frank

and Chris Dodd, presided over the biggest financial meltdown since the Great Depression. Forget that the dastardly culprits of this disaster Franklin Raines and Jim Johnson, former CEOs who cooked the books to meet salary quotas while managing Fannie and Freddy, are now advisers to Obama. Forget that liberal policies of relevancy (the political hijacking of bureaucracy in order to meet societal equality) eroded the dichotomy between bureaucracy and politics, essentially generating this calamity.

Despite these inconvenient truths, the American left and the media will continue to ignore them, and Bush, Republicans like McCain, and capitalism will take the fall.

So where does McCain go from

here? How can a candidate with so much mainstream opposition turn the tables on Obama and put former community agitator on defense?

In a topsy-turvy race (like this one has been so far) anything can happen, including a McCain/Palin victory.

Well for starters, McCain can expose Obama's economic policy and middle-class tax cuts for what they truly are: welfare.

On the campaign trail, Obama has been touting that 95 percent of working families will receive a tax cut under his economic plan. However, 40 percent of these families don't even pay income taxes.

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## Sarah Palin a poor judgment call for John McCain

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Since Senator Barack Obama clinched the 2008 Democratic Presidential nomination, Senator McCain has painted him as inexperienced and not ready to lead. His seven years as an Illinois state senator and minimal time in the Senate have made him an easy target. Republicans joke about his time as a community organizer. Surely, he could not match the political experience that the McCain ticket promised. Senator Obama's decision to pick Delaware Senator Joe Biden as a running mate was no doubt in response to these attacks.

Joe Biden was elected to the United States Senate in 1972, at the age of 29, becoming the fifth youngest United States Senator ever elected. Currently, Joe Biden is chairman of both the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs. He also co-chairs the Caucus on international Narcotics Control, and is a former chairman and long

running member on the Judiciary Committee. He would surely make an excellent President of the Senate, the main job of the Vice President. Should anything happen to Barack Obama while in office; Joe Biden would make an excellent replacement, which is the second job of the Vice President. His long-term experience on the national stage makes him an excellent person to have the ear of a President Obama. If Democrats nominated Senator Obama for his sound judgment, his vice presidential decision should have reinforced their choice.

Since July, we have heard talks of Senator McCain's possible vice presidential choices. Rumors of Secretary Tom Ridge (former Governor of Pennsylvania) and Independent Senator Joe Lieberman (former Democrat) would have given the Republicans a centrist and experienced ticket. Either one of these choices would have been attractive to many undecided voters. Instead of one of these great choices, McCain's response to Obama's choice was to pick Sarah Palin, a second year

Governor from Alaska. To most, this came as a big surprise.

Governor Palin began serving on the Wasilla City Council in 1992. In 1996 she became Mayor of Wasilla and held that position until 2002, when she ran for Lieutenant Governor unsuccessfully. In November of 2006 she was elected Governor of Alaska and in December of that year, she took office. This is the person we were told was supposed to be ready to take office should anything happen to the 72-year-old McCain. For a man who attacks his opponent for lack of experience, this is surely a bold move.

Immediately after the announcement, sure enough, the McCain campaign was put on the defensive about Palin's experience. Surely, it took a lot out of McCain's experience argument to choose this person to be a heartbeat away from the presidency.

The decision to pick Governor Palin, in my opinion, was a poor one. There have been many obvious backlashes to McCain's decision to add her to the ticket.

Almost immediately after he announced his decision, the media began running stories about the "Troopergate affair." Palin is currently under investigation as to whether or not the Public Safety Commissioner in Alaska was dismissed improperly for not firing Palin's ex-brother-in-law, according to CNN. Whether or not she is guilty of any wrong doing, the mere fact that she is under investigation does not say volumes about Senator McCain's judgment.

Assuming that she is not guilty, and this is all just one big misunderstanding, there are still serious doubts as to whether Palin is qualified to be vice president. Her interviews with Charlie Gibson and Katie Couric reinforced these concerns.

When asked why we were attacked on 9/11, she gave the same response we have heard over the past 7 years. In a nutshell, the old 'they hate us for our freedoms' answer. She spoke of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as though he holds any significant power in his country. She used

Alaska's proximity to Russia as a foreign policy credential. Most alarming to me, was the fact that she was completely unaware of what the Bush Doctrine is. For an average Joe to not know the Bush Doctrine of foreign policy is understandable. Most people never study foreign policy, or pay much attention to it. Yet, for the potential vice president to not know the Bush Doctrine - the United States has the right to preemptively strike another sovereign state in the international community if we see them as a threat - should be more than embarrassing to the McCain campaign.

It was clear that McCain was on the defensive going into the debate, in no small part due to Sarah Palin, but the tumbling economy threw everyone off. It did not help John McCain that Barack Obama does not come off as inexperienced in a debate as he might have hoped. As a matter of fact, he went toe-to-toe with McCain in a debate on foreign policy, the self-proclaimed 'Maverick's' supposed strong point.