



# Obama And Biden Struggle With The Facts

## *On The Final Night Of The Convention, Obama And Biden Avoided The Facts In Order To Hide Their Dismal Record*

### OBAMA AND BIDEN'S JOB CLAIMS WERE "UNLIKELY" AND "MISLEADING"

**THE CLAIM:** Obama: "We Can Help Big Factories And Small Businesses Double Their Exports, And If We Choose This Path, We Can Create A Million New Manufacturing Jobs In The Next Four Years."

(President Barack Obama, Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, N.C., 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS:** It's "Unlikely" That Obama Can Reach His Goal Of 1 Million. "Obama has claimed an increase of some 500,000 manufacturing jobs over the past 29 months. But this is cherry picking by the president. From the beginning of Obama's term 3 1/2 years ago, manufacturing jobs have declined by more than 500,000, according to the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Manufacturing jobs have been on a steady decline for nearly two decades. Even though there has been a modest uptick in manufacturing jobs this year, unless there is a major turnaround, it seems unlikely that Obama's goal of 1 million new manufacturing jobs can be reached by his target date of 2016." (Calvin Woodward and Tom Raum, "FACT CHECK: Obama And The Phantom Peace Dividend," [The Associated Press](#), 9/7/12)

**THE CLAIM:** Biden Claimed "We've Created 4.5 Million Private Sector Jobs In The Past 29 Months."

OBAMA: "After the worst job loss since the Great Depression, we've created 4.5 million private sector jobs in the past 29 months." (Vice President Joe Biden, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS:** The Number Is "Misleading" And "A Cherry-Picked Figure." "This seems to be a favorite statistic, because many speakers at the convention cited it. But it's misleading - a cherry-picked figure that counts jobs from when the recession reached its trough and employment began to grow again. It excludes jobs lost earlier in Obama's term, and masks the facts that joblessness overall has risen over his term so far." (Tom Raum and Calvin Woodward, "Fact Check: Biden On Jobs And Medicare," [Associated Press](#), 9/6/12)
- **THE FACTS:** "Never Since World War II Has The Economy Been So Slow To Recover All The Jobs Lost In A Downturn." (Tom Raum and Calvin Woodward, "Fact Check: Biden On Jobs And Medicare," [Associated Press](#), 9/6/12)
- **THE FACTS:** Biden "Masks The Fact That Joblessness Overall Has Risen." "This seems to be a favorite statistic, because many speakers at the convention cited it. But it's misleading — a figure that counts jobs from when the recession reached its trough and employment began to grow

again. It excludes jobs lost earlier in Obama's term, and masks the fact that joblessness overall has risen over Obama's term so far. As well, in the same 29 months that private sector jobs grew by 4.5 million, jobs in the public sector declined by about 500,000, making the net gain in that period about 4 million. Overall, some 7.5 million jobs were lost during the recession that began in December 2007 in President George W. Bush's term and ended officially in June 2009 with Obama as president. Never since World War II has the economy been so slow to recover all the jobs lost in a downturn." (Calvin Woodward and Tom Raum, "FACT CHECK: Obama And The Phantom Peace Dividend," [The Associated Press](#), 9/7/12)

## OBAMA AND BIDEN GOT THE FACTS WRONG ON THE DEFICIT

**THE CLAIM:** Obama Said That His Plan Would Reduce The Deficit And Cut Spending. OBAMA: "Independent analysis shows that my plan would cut our deficits by \$4 trillion. Last summer, I worked with Republicans in Congress to cut \$1 trillion in spending." (President Barack Obama, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS:** Obama's Budget Plan Still Increases The Debt Relative To Gross Domestic Product Over 10 Years. "But, while the numbers seem large, the results are unimpressive. At the end of the 10-year budget window, Obama would have the national debt at a 76.5 percent of gross domestic product. That actually would be an increase over the 74.2 percent of GDP in this year." (Glenn Kessler, "Fact Checking Obama's And Biden's Speeches At The Democratic Convention In Charlotte," [The Washington Post's "The Fact Checker"](#), 9/7/12)
- **THE FACTS:** The Bulk Of Obama's Debt Reduction Plan Would Come From "Tax Increases On The Wealthy, Not Spending Cuts." "Indeed, much of the president's debt reduction would come from tax increases on the wealthy, not spending cuts." (Glenn Kessler, "Fact Checking Obama's And Biden's Speeches At The Democratic Convention In Charlotte," [The Washington Post's "The Fact Checker"](#), 9/7/12)

**Politifact: "Obama Promised To Halve The Nation's Deficit, But He Hasn't Managed To Chip Away Much As The End Of His First Term Nears."** (Katie Sanders, "Obama Promised To Cut The Deficit By Half By The End Of His First Term But He 'Hasn't Even Come Close,'" [Politifact](#), 5/16/12)

- **FY2009: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$1.413 Trillion, The Highest In U.S. History.** ("Monthly Budget Review: November 2011," [Congressional Budget Office](#), 11/7/11)
- **FY2010: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$1.294 Trillion, The Third Highest In U.S. History.** ("Monthly Budget Review: November 2011," [Congressional Budget Office](#), 11/7/11)
- **FY2011: The Federal Budget Deficit Was \$1.299 Trillion, The Second Highest In U.S. History.** ("Monthly Budget Review: November 2011," [Congressional Budget Office](#), 11/7/11)
- **FY2012: The OMB Predicts The Deficit Will Be \$1.211 Trillion, The Fourth Highest In U.S. History.** (Office Of Management & Budget, "Mid-Session Review: FY2013," [The White House](#), 7/27/12)

**THE CLAIM:** Obama: "Independent Analysis Shows That My Plan Would Cut Our Deficits By \$4 Trillion." OBAMA: "You can choose a future where we reduce our deficit without wrecking our middle class. Independent analysis shows that my plan would cut our deficits by \$4 trillion. Last summer, I worked with Republicans in Congress to cut \$1 trillion in spending – because those of us who believe government can be a force for good should work harder than anyone to reform it, so that it's leaner, more efficient, and more responsive to the American people." (President Barack Obama, Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS:** "Obama Exaggerated... Actually, One Independent Analysis Criticized A Central Part Of The President's Plan As A 'Gimmick.'" "Obama exaggerated when he claimed

‘independent experts’ say his deficit-reduction plan would reduce the federal deficit by \$4 trillion over 10 years. Actually, one independent analysis criticized a central part of the president’s plan as a ‘gimmick.’” (“FactChecking Obama And Biden,” [FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org), 9/7/12)

- **THE FACTS: “Obama’s New \$4 Trillion Target Over 10 Years Resets The Goalposts With Some Fancy Budget Footwork.”** “Three years ago, Obama pledged to cut in half the deficit ‘we inherited’ by the end of his first term, a mark he’s set to miss by a wide margin. The deficit when he took office was \$1.2 trillion, and the \$800 billion stimulus bill Obama signed soon afterward increased the shortfall to over \$1.4 trillion. The White House predicts this year’s federal budget deficit will end up at \$1.2 trillion, marking the fourth consecutive year of trillion dollar-plus red ink. Obama’s new \$4 trillion target over 10 years resets the goalposts with some fancy budget footwork. For one thing, it includes \$1 trillion in cuts already signed into law. And it assumes that Congress will pass the administration’s plan to raise the capital gains tax, boost taxes on households earning over \$250,000 a year and impose a minimum 30 percent tax on incomes above \$1 million. It also assumes a reduction in the amount of interest the government must pay on its debt.” (Calvin Woodward and Tom Raum, “FACT CHECK: Obama And The Phantom Peace Dividend,” [The Associated Press](http://TheAssociatedPress.com), 9/7/12)

**THE CLAIM: Biden Claimed That Republicans Rejected “Every Plan Put Forward,” Like Simpson-Bowles, “To Reduce The National Debt.”** “In Tampa, they talked with great urgency about the nation’s debt. And the need to act, to act now. But not once, not one single time, did they tell you that they rejected every plan put forward by us—by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission they referenced—or by other respected outside group—to reduce the national debt. They were not for any of them. Why? Because they’re not prepared to do anything about the debt if it contained even one dollar, not exaggerating, even one dollar—one cent—in new taxes for millionaires. Folks, that’s not courage. And that’s not fair.” (Vice President Joe Biden, Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, N.C., 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS: “[T]he White House Failed To Embrace” Simpson-Bowles.** “This is an incredible line from the Vice President about the ‘Simpson-Bowles Commission’ considering that the White House failed to embrace it.” (Jake Tapper, “Simpson Bowles Again,” ABC News’s [Political Punch](http://PoliticalPunch.com),” 9/6/12)

## OBAMA’S TAX CLAIMS WERE PROVEN FALSE

**THE CLAIM: Obama Claimed He Would Ask The Wealthiest Families To Return To The Same Tax Rate They Had Under Clinton.** OBAMA: “I want to reform the tax code so that it’s simple, fair, and asks the wealthiest households to pay higher taxes on incomes over \$250,000 – the same rate we had when Bill Clinton was president; the same rate we had when our economy created nearly 23 million new jobs.”

(President Barack Obama, Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS: Under Obama’s Plan, Taxes On Families Making Over \$250,000 Are “Likely To Be Higher Than They Were Under Clinton.”** “But that’s not the whole story. Obama has signed some new taxes to help finance the Affordable Care Act, increasing the burden on those upper-income taxpayers. Starting Jan. 1 next year, they will pay an additional 0.9 percent of wages for Medicare payroll taxes. And they will also be subject to a 3.8 percent tax on investment income from such things as stocks, bonds and sale of real estate. Those are taxes that didn’t exist when Clinton was president. If Obama succeeds in raising the top income tax rates to Clinton-era levels, total taxes on those making over \$250,000 family income are thus likely to be higher than they were under Clinton.” (“FactChecking Obama And Biden,” [FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org), 9/7/12)

- **THE FACTS: Obama's Proposed Changes To Deductions And Other Parts Of The Tax Cuts Would Raise Tax Rates.** "It's true that Obama has proposed to let the Bush tax cuts expire for incomes over \$250,000, bringing them back to Clinton-era rates. However, his plan would also preserve the Bush tax cuts for all income below that threshold — that is, the first \$250,000 that anyone makes, even their total income is above it, as Ezra explains. Obama also proposes changes to deductions and other parts of the tax cuts that would also raise tax rates for the wealthy, above what they were paying under Clinton. So while the individual rate for income over \$250,000 would return to pre-Bush levels, the overall tax rate for these wealthy individuals would be higher than what they were paying before." (Suzy Khimm, Sarah Kliff, And Dylan Matthews, "Fact-Checking Obama's Speech," [The Washington Post](#), 9/7/12)

## OBAMA AND BIDEN'S MEDICARE CLAIMS WERE "WRONG"

### **THE CLAIM: Obama: "We Will Reform And Strengthen Medicare For The Long Haul, But We'll Do It By Reducing The Cost Of Health Care, Not By Asking Seniors To Pay Thousands Of Dollars More."**

(President Barack Obama, Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, N.C., 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS: Obama Has "Floated" Plans That Would "Ask Medicare Beneficiaries To Pay More" Such as "Increasing Premiums For Certain Beneficiaries."** "Some of the proposals the Obama administration has floated in budget negotiations with Congress would ask Medicare beneficiaries to pay more. Among them: revamping co-payments and deductibles in ways that could raise costs for retirees and increasing premiums for certain beneficiaries." (Calvin Woodward and Tom Raum, "FACT CHECK: Obama And The Phantom Peace Dividend," [The Associated Press](#), 9/7/12)
- **THE FACTS: "Obama Even Indicated A Willingness To Consider Raising The Eligibility Age, Currently 65, To 67."** (Calvin Woodward and Tom Raum, "FACT CHECK: Obama And The Phantom Peace Dividend," [The Associated Press](#), 9/7/12)
- **THE FACTS: The Middle-Class And Upper-Income Americans Will Likely See Higher Medicare Costs.** "Still, some level of increased costs for middle-class and upper-income Medicare recipients is likely to be part of any future deficit reduction deal." (Calvin Woodward and Tom Raum, "FACT CHECK: Obama And The Phantom Peace Dividend," [The Associated Press](#), 9/7/12)

**THE CLAIM: Biden Said Romney-Ryan's Plan For Medicare Would Cause It To Go "Bankrupt By 2016"** BIDEN: "What they didn't tell you is that the plan they've put down on paper would immediately cut benefits to more than 30 million seniors already on Medicare. What they didn't tell you is the plan they're proposing would cause Medicare to go bankrupt by 2016." (Vice President Joe Biden, Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS: The Washington Post's Fact Checker: "This Is Wrong."** "This is wrong. There are different parts of Medicare, much of which is paid from general revenues and premiums. Part A, which pays hospitals, has a 'trust fund,' made up of special-issue Treasury bonds, that always seems to be on the edge of running dry." (Glen Kessler, "Biden wrong on Ryan's Medicare plan," [The Washington Post's "The Fact Checker"](#), 9/6/12)

**THE CLAIM: Biden Said Romney And Ryan Were "Not For Preserving Medicare At All. They're For A New Plan. It's Called 'Vouchercare.'"** BIDEN: "And what they really didn't tell you is they — if you want to know — if you want to know — they're not for preserving Medicare at all. They're for a new plan. It's called 'Vouchercare.'" (Vice President Joe Biden, Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS: Under The Romney-Ryan Plan, "Those 55 And Over Would Still Get Medicare,**



**And Those Under 55 Could Opt For Traditional Medicare.** “Biden’s claim that ‘they’re not for preserving Medicare at all,’ is also misleading. Under the Romney/Ryan plan, those 55 and older would remain in traditional Medicare. For those currently under 55, the Romney-Ryan plan would institute a new premium-support plan beginning with new beneficiaries in 2023. Seniors would pick from private plans, or could choose traditional Medicare, all of which would be offered on a new Medicare exchange. So, those 55 and over would still get Medicare, and those under 55 could opt for traditional Medicare.” (“FactChecking Obama And Biden,” [FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org), 9/7/12)

## OBAMA’S CLAIMS ABOUT THE AUTO INDUSTRY: “NOT QUITE”

**THE CLAIM:** Obama Said The U.S. Auto Industry Was “Back On Top Of The World.” OBAMA: “I’ve met workers in Detroit and Toledo who feared they’d never build another American car. Today, they can’t build them fast enough, because we reinvented a dying auto industry that’s back on top of the world.” (President Barack Obama, Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS:** “Not Quite. General Motors Has Currently Slipped Back To No. 2” And “Is Expected To Drop To Third For All Of 2012.” “Not quite. General Motors has currently slipped back to No. 2 in world auto sales, based on sales for the first six months of the year, and Volkswagen is expected to push GM into third place for the full year. GM has indeed made a comeback: It took back the top spot in global sales in 2011 after being surpassed by Toyota in 2008. Prior to that, GM had been No. 1 for more than 70 years. But for the first six months of 2012, Toyota, with 4.97 million vehicle sales, regained the lead from GM, with 4.67 million sales, for first place in worldwide auto sales. GM is expected to drop to third for all of 2012.” (“FactChecking Obama And Biden,” [FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org), 9/7/12)

## OBAMA’S CLAIMS ABOUT TRADE AVOIDED KEY DETAILS

**THE CLAIM:** Obama: “I’ve Signed Trade Agreements That Are Helping Our Companies Sell More Goods To Millions Of New Customers.” (President Barack Obama, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/6/12)

- **The Facts:** Obama Signed The Trade Agreements That Were Negotiated By President Bush And “Has Not Negotiated Any Other Free-Trade Agreements.” “Obama did sign into law new trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama — which were negotiated by the George W. Bush administration. The trade deals were held up for months by a bitter dispute between the administration and Congress over restoring aid for workers hurt by free trade. Obama has not negotiated any other free-trade agreements.” (Glenn Kessler, “Fact Checking Obama’s And Biden’s Speeches At The Democratic Convention In Charlotte,” *The Washington Post’s “The Fact Checker,”* 9/7/12)
- **THE FACTS:** Obama “Has Not Negotiated New Ones, And Those Three Deals Were Held Up For The First Years Of His Term” Due To Obama’s Own Demands. “Obama did sign three free trade agreements last year, with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama. But he has not negotiated new ones, and those three deals were held up for the first years of his term, in part due to Obama’s demands that they be accompanied by adjustment assistance for workers displaced by trade. The Doha round of WTO negotiations has also stagnated under Obama, to the dismay of international development specialists who wanted him to push harder to eliminate restrictions on poor countries.” (Suzy Khimm, Sarah Kliff, And Dylan Matthews, “Fact-Checking Obama’s Speech,” *The Washington Post*, 9/7/12)

## OBAMA’S SOCIAL SECURITY PROMISES WERE A “STRAW MAN”

**THE CLAIM:** Obama Promised To “Keep The Promise Of Social Security” And To Take “Responsible Steps To Strengthen It.” OBAMA: “We will keep the promise of Social Security by taking the responsible steps to strengthen it — not by turning it over to Wall Street.” (President Barack Obama, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS:** *The Washington Post’s* Glenn Kessler: “This Is A Bit Of Straw Man . . . Meanwhile, Obama’s Recent Budgets Have Had Limited Social Security Reforms.” (Glenn Kessler, “Fact Checking Obama’s And Biden’s Speeches At The Democratic Convention In Charlotte,” *The Washington Post’s* “[The Fact Checker](#),” 9/7/12)

**Obama Doesn’t Have A Plan To Control The Nation’s Entitlement Programs In The Long-Term.**

“However, he isn’t proposing the structural changes that experts say are needed to control spending in these programs over the long term. For instance, Mr. Obama won’t suggest raising the Medicare eligibility age, as he was willing to do over the summer during bipartisan budget negotiations that failed to produce a deal. He also doesn’t plan to propose changes to Social Security.” (Laura Meckler, “Budget Plan Has Familiar Ring,” *The Wall Street Journal*, 2/7/12)

- **“Obama Has Long Resisted The ‘Entitlement Reform’ Movement.”** Obama has long resisted the ‘entitlement reform’ movement, which is currently focused on establishing a blue-ribbon commission that would present Congress with a finished proposal -- presumably calling for steep cuts in the nation’s bedrock social safety programs -- for an up-or-down vote. (Dan Froomkin, “Obama’s Sense Of Entitlements,” *The Washington Post*, 2/20/09)

## OBAMA’S FOREIGN AFFAIRS CLAIMS WERE PROVED WRONG

**THE CLAIM:** Obama: “In 2014, Our Longest War Will Be Over.” (President Barack Obama, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS:** **Thousands Of American Troops Will Remain In Afghanistan After 2014.** “Although most U.S. troops will leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014, thousands are likely to stay and continue a U.S. presence for years. There is no telling what fighting they might be drawn into, despite the decision to end the U.S. combat role.” (Calvin Woodward and Tom Raum, “FACT CHECK: Obama And The Phantom Peace Dividend,” *The Associated Press*, 9/7/12)
- **THE FACTS:** **Analysts Expect “As Many As 20,000 American Troops To Continue Training The Afghan Forces, Hunt Terrorists And Keep Watch On Iran And Other Nations In The Region.”** “Military leaders and administration officials have not yet said how many will stay, asserting that such decisions are far from being made. But analysts say the U.S. envisions a post-2014 force of as many as 20,000 American troops to continue training the Afghan forces, hunt terrorists and keep watch on Iran and other nations in the region.” (Calvin Woodward and Tom Raum, “FACT CHECK: Obama And The Phantom Peace Dividend,” *The Associated Press*, 9/7/12)

## OBAMA HID THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS EDUCATION RECORD

**THE CLAIM:** Obama: “Millions Of Students Are Paying Less For College Today Because We Finally Took On A System That Wasted Billions Of Taxpayer Dollars On Banks And Lenders.” (President Barack Obama, Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, N.C., 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS:** **How Much Pell Grant Recipients Are Saving Under Obama Is “Not Clear.”** “‘Technically it is true,’ said Bryan Cook, director of the Center for Policy Analysis at the American Council on Education. ‘How much of a savings is not clear.’ Large increases in federal Pell Grants, GI Bill benefits and the 2009 American Opportunity Tax Credit led to a significant increase in the amount of aid provided to students who qualify for these benefits. The current per year maximum

Pell Grant is \$5,550 — \$900 higher than it was in 2008 for a program that serves more than 9 million students. Under the Obama administration, Congress passed legislation requiring all federal loans be issued through the Education Department; previously, they were also issued by private lenders. This will also probably mean students pay less in the long term.” ((Calvin Woodward and Tom Raum, “FACT CHECK: Obama And The Phantom Peace Dividend,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/7/12)

## OBAMA’S WAR SAVINGS CLAIMS WERE A “SLEIGHT OF HAND”

**THE CLAIM:** Obama Says He Would “Use The Money We’re No Longer Spending On War To Pay Down Our Debt.” OBAMA: “I’ll use the money we’re no longer spending on war to pay down our debt and put more people back to work — rebuilding roads and bridges, schools and runways. After two wars that have cost us thousands of lives and over a trillion dollars, it’s time to do some nation-building right here at home.” (President Barack Obama , Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, N.C., 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS:** “The Idea Of Taking War Savings To Pay For Other Programs Is A Budgetary Sleight Of Hand” And Is Just As “Misleading” Now As It Was In His State Of The Union Speech Last January. “The idea of taking war savings to pay for other programs is budgetary sleight of hand, given that the wars were paid for with increased debt. Obama can essentially ‘pay down our debt,’ as he said, by borrowing less now that war is ending. But he still must borrow to do the extra ‘nation-building’ he envisions.” (Calvin Woodward and Tom Raum, “FACT CHECK: Obama And The Phantom Peace Dividend,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/7/12)
- **THE FACTS:** “Obama Laid Claim To A Peace Dividend That Doesn’t Exist.” “President Barack Obama laid claim to a peace dividend that doesn’t exist when he told the nation he wants to use money saved by ending wars to build highways, schools and bridges.” (Calvin Woodward and Tom Raum, “FACT CHECK: Obama And The Phantom Peace Dividend,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/7/12)

## OBAMA FALSELY CLAIMED AMERICA IS LESS DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN OIL UNDER HIM

**THE CLAIM:** Obama States The United States Is “Less Dependent On Foreign Oil Than At Any Time In Nearly Two Decades.” OBAMA: “And today, the United States of America is less dependent on foreign oil than at any time in nearly two decades.” (President Barack Obama , Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, N.C., 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS:** “20 Years Ago The Gap Between Domestic Oil Production And Imports Was Less Than It Is Today.” “That’s true if you include all energy sources. As Brad has noted, natural gas production and domestic oil production are booming so the US is getting very close to energy independence in coming decades. But if you look at just oil, the case is trickier. The US has definitely made strides under Obama, but 20 years ago the gap between domestic oil production and imports was less than it is today.” (Suzy Khimm, Sarah Kliff, And Dylan Matthews, “Fact-Checking Obama’s Speech,” [The Washington Post](#), 9/7/12)
- **THE FACTS:** A Decrease In Dependence On Foreign Oil Is “Not Tethered To Anything Obama Has Done” And Is Due To Factors “Before Obama Took Office.” “The Obama ad that quickly slips in claims that slickly appear to be the result of Obama’s policies, though the ad does not directly make that claim—a reference to 2.7 million clean-energy jobs, a note that for the first time in 13 years foreign oil imports are below 50 percent. Those figures are correct, but they are also not tethered to anything Obama has done. The report that mentioned the 2.7 million jobs simply said that is how many potentially exist. Meanwhile, the Energy Department cited a host of reasons

why foreign oil imports have declined, noting the main reason was ‘a significant contraction in consumption’ because of the poor economy and changes in efficiency that began ‘two years before the 2008 crisis’—ie, before Obama took office.” (Glenn Kessler, “Obama Ad Cherry-Picks Fact Checking Organization,” *The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker*, 1/19/12)

## OBAMA AND BIDEN’S CLAIMS ABOUT ROMNEY’S RECORD WERE “MISLEADING”

**THE CLAIM:** Biden Says Romney’s Plan “Will Create 800,000 Jobs, All Of Them Overseas.” BIDEN: “Governor Romney believes that in the global economy, it doesn’t much matter where American companies put their money or where they create jobs. As a matter of fact, he has a new tax proposal -- the territorial tax -- that experts say will create 800,000 jobs, all of them overseas.” (Vice President Joe Biden, Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, N.C., 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS:** A “Number” Of Obama Advisers, “Including Members Of The President’s Export Council,” Support The Plan. “VP Biden railed against Romney backing a territorial tax system. But a number of advisers to the president support the idea as well – including members of the President’s Export Council, the commission the president set up to recommend ways to reduce the deficit, and members of his Council on Jobs and Competitiveness.” (Jake Tapper, “That Horrible Territorial Tax System Biden Railed Against,” ABC News’ “[Political Punch](#),” 9/6/12)
- **THE FACTS:** “Romney’s Proposal Is Actually Aimed At Encouraging Investment In The U.S., Not Overseas.” “Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney’s proposal is actually aimed at encouraging investment in the U.S., not overseas.” (Calvin Woodward and Tom Raum, “FACT CHECK: Obama And The Phantom Peace Dividend,” *The Associated Press*, 9/7/12)
- **THE FACTS:** “Study Doesn’t Say That No Jobs Would Be Created In The U.S.” “U.S. companies maintain that a territorial tax system would make them more competitive in foreign markets, creating more jobs in research and administration that are often located in the U.S. Clausings’ study doesn’t say that no jobs would be created in the U.S. Instead, it says that a pure territorial tax plan would increase employment by U.S. companies in low-tax countries.” (“Biden Overstates Impact Of Romney’s Tax Plan: Reality Check,” *Bloomberg News*, 9/6/12)
- **THE FACTS:** Biden Cited A Study That “Did Not Actually Study Romney’s Plan.” “The study cited by Biden, which appeared in Tax Notes, did not actually study Romney’s plan. Moreover, it said that such a system would create 800,000 jobs overseas, but not necessarily at the expense of U.S. jobs if unemployment rates are low.” (Glenn Kessler, “Fact Checking Obama’s And Biden’s Speeches At The Democratic Convention In Charlotte,” *The Washington Post’s The Fact Checker*, 9/7/12)

**THE CLAIM:** Biden Says Romney Would Raise Taxes On The Middle Class “To Pay For Over A Trillion Dollars In Tax Cuts For The Very Wealthy.” “Governor Romney believes that it’s okay to raise taxes on the middle class by \$2,000 in order to pay for over a trillion dollars in tax cuts for the very wealthy.” (Vice President Joe Biden, Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, N.C., 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS:** “[B]iden’s Suggestion That Romney Would Get Rid Of Breaks Just To Be Able To Give Extra Privilege To The Wealthy Makes The Charge Even More Misleading.” “This is misleading. The \$2,000 figure comes from a Tax Policy Center paper analyzing Romney’s promise to both deliver tax cuts and offset any lost revenue through a streamlining of the tax code. Romney has not specified which tax breaks he would eliminate. Some breaks do benefit the wealthy more than the middle class, but the amount of revenue lost through lowering rates would mean, according to the study, cutting some popular middle-class breaks. Ridding the tax code of those breaks would result in average tax increase of \$2,000 per year for middle-class families, according



to the study. Romney has insisted he would not raise taxes on the middle class, but he has left himself vulnerable to criticisms by not releasing details on how he would overhaul the tax code. Still, Biden's suggestion that Romney would get rid of breaks just to be able to give extra privilege to the wealthy makes the charge even more misleading." (Katy O'Donnell, Margot Sanger-Katz, And Sara Sorcher, "Final Night: Fact Checking The Democratic Speakers," [National Journal](#), 9/7/12)

**THE CLAIM: Biden On Mitt Romney: "He Was Willing To Let Detroit Go Bankrupt."** (Vice President Joe Biden, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/7/12)

- **THE FACTS: Romney Advocated For A Plan That Would Use The Bankruptcy Code To Allow Companies To Discharge Debts And Come Out As "Leaner, Less Leveraged" Companies.** "Although 'bankrupt' often conjures up images of liquidation, Romney called for a "managed bankruptcy." This is a process in which the company uses the bankruptcy code to discharge its debts, but emerges from the process a leaner, less leveraged company." (Glenn Kessler, "Fact Checking Obama's And Biden's Speeches At The Democratic Convention In Charlotte," *The Washington Post's "The Fact Checker,"* 9/7/12)

**THE CLAIM: Biden Claimed That Mitt Romney's Health Care Plan Would "Cause Medicare To Go Bankrupt By 2016."** BIDEN: "What they didn't tell you is what they're proposing would cause Medicare to go bankrupt by 2016." (Vice President Joe Biden, Remarks At The Democrat National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/7/12)

- **The Facts: Biden's Use Of "Bankrupt" Is "Highly Misleading," As Payroll Taxes To The Medicare Trust Fund "Could Pay Most Estimated Expenditures For Decades."** "It is highly misleading to use the phrase 'bankrupt.' There are different parts of Medicare, much of which is paid from general revenues and premiums. Part A, which pays hospitals, has a 'trust fund,' made up of special-issue Treasury bonds, that always seems to be on the edge of running dry, even though it is funded by a payroll tax paid by employees and employers. But even so, the payroll tax could pay most estimated expenditures for decades." (Glenn Kessler, "Fact Checking Obama's And Biden's Speeches At The Democratic Convention In Charlotte," *The Washington Post's "The Fact Checker,"* 9/7/12)

**THE CLAIM: Obama Claimed Romney Said "It Was 'Tragic' To End The War In Iraq."** OBAMA: "My opponent said it was 'tragic' to end the war in Iraq, and he won't tell us how he'll end the war in Afghanistan." (President Barack Obama, Remarks At The Democratic National Convention, Charlotte, NC, 9/6/12)

- **THE FACTS: Romney Said The "Precipitous" Pace Of Withdrawal In Iraq Was "Tragic."** "But that's not quite what Romney said. He was speaking of the speed with which Obama was withdrawing troops, not to ending the war in general. During a veterans roundtable in South Carolina on Nov. 11, 2011, Romney criticized Obama's plan to remove troops from Iraq by the end of that year. ... Criticizing the 'precipitous' pace of withdrawal and the president's failure to leave a residual force in Iraq is a far cry from calling the end of the war in Iraq 'tragic.'" ("FactChecking Obama And Biden," [FactCheck.org](#), 9/7/12)