



# Top Obama Moments

*Here's A Reminder Of Obama's Defining Moments As President And Why You Shouldn't Give Him Another Four Years*

## "PRIVATE SECTOR IS DOING FINE"

**Obama Thinks "The Private Sector Is Doing Fine."** OBAMA: "The truth of the matter is that, as I said, we've created 4.3 million jobs over the last 27 months, over 800,000 just this year alone. The private sector is doing fine." (President Barack Obama, [Press Conference](#), Washington, D.C., 6/8/12)

## "YOU DIDN'T BUILD THAT"

**Obama: "If You've Got A Business -- You Didn't Build That. Somebody Else Made That Happen."** (President Barack Obama, [Remarks At A Campaign Event](#), Roanoke, VA, 7/13/12)

## "I DON'T THINK THEY ARE BETTER OFF THAN THEY WERE FOUR YEARS AGO"

**Obama Admitted Americans Are Not Better Off Than They Were Four Years Ago.** ABC NEWS' GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: "There are so many people who simply don't think they are better off than they were four years ago. How do you convince them that they are?" OBAMA: "Well I don't think they are better off than they were four years ago. They're not better off than they were before Lehman's collapse, before the financial crisis, before this extraordinary recession that we're going through." ([ABC News/Yahoo News' Live Interview](#), 10/3/11)

## "I'M THE FIRST ONE TO SAY WE'RE NOT WHERE WE NEED TO BE"

**Obama: "I'm The First One To Say We're Not Where We Need To Be."** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS's BEN FELLER: "Put yourself in the shoes of an undecided voter who says: I don't have a job, I can't pay my bills, my life isn't better — my life isn't better under President Obama. Why should that person vote for you?" OBAMA: "Look, I hear from folks all the time who are still struggling. Even if they have a job, they are still having a tough time paying the bills. Their home may be underwater because of the housing bubble burst. They're still worried about saving for their retirement. And so I'm the first one to say that we're not where we need to be." ("AP Interview Transcript With President Obama," [The Associated Press](#), 8/25/12)

## "ONE-TERM PROPOSITION"

**In 2009, Obama Said "If I Don't Have This Done In Three Years, Then There's Going To Be A One-Term Proposition."** OBAMA: "That's exactly right. And — and, you know, a year from now I think people

— are going to see that — we're starting to make some progress. But there's still going to be some pain out there. If I don't have this done in three years, then there's going to be a one-term proposition.” (NBC’s [“The Today Show,”](#) 2/2/09)

## **“YOU CAN’T CHANGE WASHINGTON FROM THE INSIDE. YOU CAN ONLY CHANGE IT FROM THE OUTSIDE”**

**Obama: “[T]he Most Important Lesson I’ve Learned Is That You Can’t Change Washington From The Inside. You Can Only Change It From The Outside.”** UNIVISION’S JORGE RAMOS: “There is something different, something personal. I don’t know what you are reading before going to sleep right now. I don’t know if you have already read the book ‘No Easy Day’ in which a Navy SEAL tells the story of how Osama Bin Laden was killed. According to many his death was your biggest achievement. What is your biggest failure?” OBAMA: “Well, Jorge as you remind me, my biggest failure so far is we haven’t gotten comprehensive immigration reform done, so we’re going to be continuing to work on that. But it’s not for lack of trying or desire. And I’m confident we’re going to accomplish that. You know what— obviously, the fact that we haven’t been able to change the tone in Washington is disappointing. We know now that as soon as I came into office you already had meetings among some of our Republican colleagues saying, ‘How do we figure out how to beat the president?’ And I think that I’ve learned some lessons over the last four years, and the most important lesson I’ve learned is that you can’t change Washington from the inside. You can only change it from the outside.” (President Barack Obama, [Univision Town Hall](#), Miami, FL, 9/20/12)

## **“NOT AS SHOVEL-READY”**

**Obama “Cracked Wise” About The Jobs His “Shovel-Ready” Stimulus Was Supposed To Create.** “While meeting with his Jobs and Competitiveness Council today in Durham, N.C., President Obama cracked wise about one of his administration’s early catchphrases. Remember ‘shovel-ready projects.’ Those were construction projects in the 2009 stimulus bill that were supposed to get moving right away - - but jobs council members told Obama today that some got held up because of elaborate government regulations and permitting procedures.” (David Jackson, “Obama Jokes About ‘Shovel-Ready Projects,’” [USA Today](#), 6/13/11)

- **Obama: “Shovel-Ready Was Not As Shovel-Ready As We Expected.”** (President Barack Obama, [Remarks In Durham, N.C.](#), 6/13/11)

## **“BUMPS IN THE ROAD”**

**Obama Described Terrorist Attack In Libya And Unrest Throughout The Middle East As “Bumps In The Road.”** CBS’s STEVE KROFT: “Have recent events in the Middle East given you any pause about your support for the governments that have come to power following the Arab Spring?” OBAMA: “Well, I’d said even at the time that this is going to be a rocky path. The question presumes that somehow we could have stopped this wave of change. I think it was absolutely the right thing for us to do to align ourselves with democracy, universal rights-- a notion that-- people have- to be able to-- participate-- in-- their own governance. But I was pretty certain and continue to be pretty certain that there are going to be bumps in the road because-- you know, in a lot of these places-- the one organizing principle-- has been Islam. The one part of society that hasn’t been controlled completely by the government. There are strains of extremism, and anti-Americanism, and anti-Western sentiment. And you know can be tapped into by demagogues. There will probably be some times where we bump up against some of these countries and have strong disagreements, but I do think that over the long term, we are more likely to get a Middle East and North Africa that is more peaceful, more prosperous and more aligned with our interests.” (CBS’s [“60 Minutes,”](#) 9/23/12)

**Obama Dismissed A Rise In The Unemployment Rate By Saying “There Are Always Going To Be Bumps On The Road To Recovery.”** OBAMA: “There are always going to be bumps on the road to recovery. We’re going to pass through some rough terrain that even a Wrangler would have a hard time with. We know that.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks By The President To Chrysler Workers](#), Toledo, Ohio, 6/3/11)

### “FLEXIBILITY”

**“In A Private Conversation About The Planned U.S.-Led NATO Missile Defense System In Europe, President Obama Asked Outgoing Russian President Dmitri Medvedev For Space On The Issue.”**

(Brianna Keilar, “Open Mic Catches Obama Asking Russian President For Space On Missile Defense,” [CNN Politics](#), 3/26/12)

- **Obama To Russian President Medvedev: “After My Election I Have More Flexibility.”**  
OBAMA: “On all these issues, but particularly missile defense, this, this can be solved but it’s important for him to give me space.” MEDVEDEV: “Yeah, I understand. I understand your message about space. Space for you...” OBAMA: “This is my last election. After my election I have more flexibility.” MEDVEDEV: “I understand. I will transmit this information to Vladimir.” (Jake Tapper, “President Obama Asks Medvedev For ‘Space’ On Missile Defense — ‘After My Election I Have More Flexibility,’” [ABC News](#), 3/26/12)

### “CUT THE DEFICIT IN HALF BY THE END OF MY FIRST TERM IN OFFICE”

**In An Address To A Joint Session Of Congress, Obama Promised To Cut The Deficit In Half By The End Of His First Term.** OBAMA: “Yesterday, I held a fiscal summit where I pledged to cut the deficit in half by the end of my first term in office.” (President Obama, [Address to Joint Session of Congress](#), 2/24/09)

- **Obama Already Promised To Cut The Deficit In Half By The End Of His First Term The Day Before He Addressed Congress.** OBAMA: “And that’s why today I’m pledging to cut the deficit we inherited in half by the end of my first term in office. This will not be easy. It will require us to make difficult decisions and face challenges we’ve long neglected. But I refuse to leave our children with a debt that they cannot repay -- and that means taking responsibility right now, in this administration, for getting our spending under control.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks At White House Fiscal Responsibility Summit](#), Washington, D.C., 2/23/09)

**NOTE: The Congressional Budget Office Estimated The FY 2012 Budget Deficit At \$1.1 Trillion, “The Fourth Straight Year Of Trillion Dollar Deficits On President Barack Obama’s Watch.”** “A new estimate puts the deficit for the just-completed 2012 budget year at \$1.1 trillion, the fourth straight year of trillion dollar deficits on President Barack Obama's watch. The result was a slight \$207 billion improvement from the 2011 deficit of \$1.3 trillion. The bleak figures from the Congressional Budget Office, while expected, add fodder for the heated presidential campaign, in which Obama's handling of the economy and the budget is a main topic.” (Andrew Taylor, “CBO Tallies 2012 Deficit At \$1.1T,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/5/12)

### “THE TRUE ENGINE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH WILL ALWAYS BE COMPANIES LIKE SOLYNDRA”

**On May 26, 2010, Obama Toured Fremont, CA-Based Solyndra, Declaring “The True Engine Of Economic Growth Will Always Be Companies Like Solyndra...”** OBAMA: “The true engine of economic growth will always be companies like Solyndra, will always be America’s businesses.” (President Obama, [Remarks By The President On The Economy](#), Fremont, California, 5/26/10)

### “THINGAMAJIG”

**Obama Thinks Buying A “Thingamajig” Will Fix The Economy.** OBAMA: “There are some folks here that can use \$3,000 a year. Let’s get that done right now. If you’ve got \$3,000 a year extra, that helps you pay down your credit cards, that helps you go out and buy some things that your family needs, which is good for business. Maybe somebody will be replacing some thingamajig for their furnace. They’ve been putting that off. But if they’ve got that extra money, they might just go out there and buy that thing. Right?” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks](#), Golden Valley, MN, 6/1/12)

## RAISING TAXES

**Obama Admits He Wants To Raise Taxes In 2013 If He Is Reelected.** OBAMA: “That is a reasonable proposition. So, when you hear folks saying ‘Well, the president shouldn’t want massive job killing tax increases when the economy is this weak.’ Nobody’s looking to raise taxes right now. We’re talking about potentially 2013 and the out-years.” (President Barack Obama, [Press Conference](#), Washington, DC, 7/11/11)

## NOT TELLING STORY BETTER

**Obama Said The Biggest Mistake Of His First Term Was Not Telling A Story To The American People.** “Mr. Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama sat down Thursday with ‘CBS This Morning’ anchor Charlie Rose in the White House Blue Room, where they discussed the failures and successes of his administration as he heads into another election, among other things. “The mistake of my first term – couple of years – was thinking that this job was just about getting the policy right. And that’s important, but, you know, the nature of this office is also to tell a story to the American people that gives them a sense of unity and purpose and optimism, especially during tough times.” (Lindsey Boerma, “Obama Reflects On His Biggest Mistake As President,” [CBS](#), 7/12/12)

## GRADE: “INCOMPLETE”

**Obama Gives Himself An “Incomplete” On The Economy.** REPORTER: “Your party says you inherited a bad situation, you’ve had three and a half years to fix it, what grade would you give yourself so far for doing that?” OBAMA: “You know, I would say incomplete.” ([KKTV \[Colorado Springs, CO\]](#), 9/3/12)

## BLAME ARAB SPRING, JAPANESE EARTHQUAKE, EUROPE, ATMS, AIRPORT KIOSKS

**Obama Has Blamed Poor Economic Numbers On The Arab Spring, The Japanese Earthquake, And Events In Europe.** OBAMA: “Let me start by saying a few words about our economy. There is no doubt this has been a tumultuous year. We’ve weathered the Arab Spring’s effect on oil and gas prices, the Japanese earthquake and tsunami’s effect on supply chains, the extraordinary economic uncertainty in Europe. And recently, markets around the globe have taken a bumpy ride.” (President Barack Obama, [Remarks By The President On The Administration’s Work To Prepare Our Nation’s Veterans For The Workforce](#), Washington, D.C., 8/5/11)

**Obama Has Blamed ATMs And Airport Kiosks For His Failure To Create Jobs.** OBAMA: “[T]here are some structural issues with our economy, where a lot of businesses have learned to become much more efficient, with a lot fewer workers. You see it when you go to the bank and use an ATM -- you don’t go to a bank teller. Or you go to the airport, and you’re using a kiosk, instead of checking in at the gate.” (NBC’s [“Today,”](#) 6/14/11)