
Subject: Re: In memory of President George W Bush
Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Tue, 20 Jan 2009 15:22:53 GMT
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I do have to thank the man. He and his neo-con buddies are what pushed me from the far Right to my libertarian stance today. Without the social oppression of the past 8 years, I may not have seen the hypocrisy and irrationality of forcing one group's morals onto the rest of the nation.

Do I think Bush was a HORRIBLE president? Eh, kinda. Given the situation, though, anybody could have fallen into the trap that he did. He wasn't even in the office for 8 months before 9/11 happened. While understandable, he put way too much focus on making America "safer". Unfortunately, I don't believe that we are any safer as Americans. Sure, we *may* be safer from terrorism, but now we're under the threat of our own government invading our privacy. Was it a fair trade off? I certainly don't think so.

I wish that Bush would have stuck to his foreign policy that he had during the '00 election debates. He spoke out against interventionist policies that policed the world. Sure, 9/11 changed a lot, but that was one thing that shouldn't have changed. Going into Afghanistan was justified, but Iraq clearly wasn't. I do respect that Bush admits it was a mistake. I admire his desire to see the job through, though, even if I don't agree with the decision. He was willing to put his approval rating on the line to stay the course and not tuck his tail and run. Fortunately for him, that's all he lost. He's not the one who is fighting in Iraq. He's not the one killing and dying for his country. I just wish he would put his country and his countrymen ahead of whatever agenda he had in Iraq. They're not important. America is.

The greatest thing Bush has done in office, over the past few months, is show that the Democrats' and Obama's plan for economic recovery is not going to work. These stimulus plans and bailouts are supposed to show immediate results. They have yet to show any slowing of the downfall, let alone any improvement in the economy.

Bush's intentions were in the right place, though. I think that just like Obama, the man wants to improve America and has been elected by the people to use his brand of politics to do it. Unfortunately, we can't judge presidencies on intent. If we can, did we ever truly have a BAD president? The fact is, the results of the neo-conservative administration that we had for the past 8 years shows that it doesn't work.

I praise the man for trying to do the right thing. I abhor the man for the costly mistakes that he had continued to make. Good man, terrible president.
