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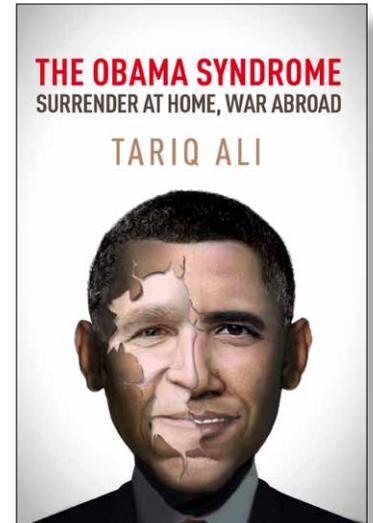
The Obama Syndrome

Surrender at Home, War Abroad

by **TARIQ ALI**

A merciless dissection of Obama's overseas escalation and domestic retreat by renowned author and international commentator Tariq Ali.

Tariq Ali will be in New York and Washington DC for events to launch the book September 15–24. For interviews contact clara@versobooks.com

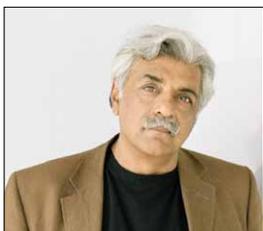


What has really changed since Bush left the White House? Very little, argues Tariq Ali in *The Obama Syndrome*, apart from the mood music ...

The hopes aroused during Obama's election campaign have rapidly receded. Following the financial crisis, the "reform" president bailed out Wall Street without getting anything in return. With Democratic Party leaders and representatives bought by the lobbying system, the healthcare reform bill was quickly eviscerated, public education delivered to the market and the big banks rewarded with light-touch regulation.

Abroad, the "war on terror" continues: torture on a daily basis in Bagram, Iraq indefinitely occupied, Israel permanently appeased, and more troops and drone attacks in Af-Pak than under Bush. Obama's failures are paving the way for a Republican surge, while his own supporters become increasingly despondent.

"In Cairo, at West Point, at Oslo, Obama has treated the world to one uplifting homily after another, each address larded with every euphemism that White House speechwriters can muster to describe America's glowing mission in the world: 'Our country has borne a special burden in global affairs'; 'Our cause is just, our resolve unwavering.' The model for this variant of imperial presidency is Woodrow Wilson—no less pious a Christian, whose every second word was peace, democracy or self-determination, while his armies invaded Mexico, occupied Haiti and attacked Russia. But cant still goes a long way to satisfy those who yearn for it ..."—**Tariq Ali in *The Obama Syndrome***



TARIQ ALI is a writer and filmmaker. He has written over twenty books on world history and politics (including *The Clash of Fundamentalisms*, *Bush in Babylon*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *The Duel*), seven novels (most recently, *Night of the Golden Butterfly*), as well as plays for the stage and screen. He is an editor of *New Left Review* and lives in London.

Browse latest commentary, books, interviews, reviews, articles, events and more at tariqali.org

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