

Black Republicans offer hope after Barack Obama's failures on race

The Obama presidency has not led to a post-racial America, says Toby Harnden, but black Republicans in Congress could help break down barriers

By **Toby Harnden** (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/journalists/toby-harnden/>)

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Campaigning a few miles from Fort Sumter, where the first shots of the Civil War were fired in 1861, Tim Scott described last week how he was born into poverty and a broken home, much like Barack Obama.

"My dad was gone by the time I was seven," the black candidate for the House of Representatives told a mixed group of students at Fort Dorchester High School in North Charleston. "I was flunking out of high school. I failed geography, civics, Spanish and English. When you fail Spanish and English, you are not bilingual, you are bi-ignorant."



Tim Scott at his office in Charleston. Scott will be the first black Republican congressman from the Deep South in more than a century Photo: AP

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But the conclusions that Scott, 45, drew were very different from those of Obama. When he was 15, a man who ran a Chick-fil-A fast-food restaurant taught him "that there was a way to think my way out of the worst conditions". Scott went on to become a small businessman and a proud "conservative Republican".

Barring a cataclysmic upset, Scott will be elected to Congress on November 2nd. There, he will be a ferocious opponent of Obama, to whom he gives a withering "failing grade" for his presidency.

"Obamacare's an atrocity around the necks of average Americans," he told me. "His intentions might be good but he's leading us towards the brink of bankruptcy. Right now, the American people are simply saying they've had enough."

Scott will be the first black Republican congressman from the Deep South in more than a century. Republicans hope to elect at least two other black candidates to Congress next month. Allen West, in Florida, and Ryan Frazier in Colorado, both with distinguished military records, are in very close races against Democrats.

There are currently 42 black members of Congress, all of them Democrats. Republicans haven't had a black congressman since J.C. Watts stood down in 2003. Ironically, opposition to the policies of the first black President on a whole range of economic and social issues are a key motivating factor for this new wave of black conservatives.

Rather than ushering in a post-racial era, Obama's election to the White House appears to have intensified racial divisions in America. This is not, as the Left asserts, because Right-wing opponents are full of white-hooded bigots who refuse to accept a black man as President. Obama's own strange myopia on race has played a big part.

Timothy Johnson, co-founder of the Frederick Douglass Foundation, a group that helps promote black Republican candidates, told me that that Obama was not scrutinised properly in the 2008 election because of his race.

"The election wasn't so much about what Obama brought to the table," said. "People voted for him because they wanted to feel good about themselves, that they weren't racist."

Johnson even argued, Mr Obama had set back the cause of race relations by playing down the white side of his heritage. "His mother was white, his father was a person of colour but every time there's a racial issue he plays the race card just the same as everyone else."

That's a tough charge to make, but Johnson has a point. When a white policeman arrested a black Harvard professor last year, Obama didn't wait to hear the facts before accusing the cop of acting "stupidly".

In a recent *Rolling Stone* interview, Obama gave a coded version of the standard liberal smear of the anti-tax Tea Party movement as being racist, referring its "darker" elements that "are troubled by what I represent as the president".

It's little wonder that a recent Rasmussen survey found that just 36 percent of voters now believe relations between blacks and whites are getting better, compared to 62 percent in July last year.

Scott, an avowed Tea Party supporter, dismisses the accusation that the movement is racist, saying: "this whole race issue is a diversion away from the real basic platform of the Tea Party".

For far too long, Republicans have ceded black votes to the Democrats and failed to recruit candidates like Scott to winnable congressional seats.

If Scott is the only black Republican on Capitol Hill in 2011, he will be all too easily marginalised and treated as a curiosity. That would be a shame because he has some interesting views on cutting the deficit and shrinking

government.

"I've been black for a long time," Scott says wearily whenever he is asked about race. He wants to be judged on his character and policies rather than the colour of his skin. At Fort Dorchester, encouragingly enough, not one pupil asked Scott about race or why a black man would be a Republican.

Obama made history by winning the White House. But it will take the likes of Scott to break down the racial barriers in America that the first black president has been content to leave in place.

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ClemP (http://pulse.yahoo.com/_JREV2HKXPFC5QTIXENM6B65IEU)

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Offer hope of what? Are they going to fight to end the Black Caucus? Affirmative Action, the NAACP and all the other black racial BS?

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I'm very hopeful that this new small group of black Republicans elected to Congress is just the beginning. I'm extremely proud of these men.

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I am reading an Obama biography right now; and, it is factually incorrect to state that Obama lived a life of poverty in Hawaii. His grandmother, a ranking executive for a local bank, was the primary breadwinner when he lived with them; although they were not rich, they lacked for nothing and were quite comfortable. Members of my family have lived for extended periods in Hawaii, and I have been told the Punahoe school is where many of the elites send their children. Here is a link to Wikipedia, which describes the Punahoe school

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punahou_School (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punahou_School) ,

and here is a link to the tuition page of the school's own website: <http://www.punahou.edu/page.cfm?p=1793> (<http://www.punahou.edu/page.cfm?p=1793>)

If the tuition for students in Obama's time was even half of the current tuition, it would still be considered rather hefty. I have been told by people who have been on the campus grounds that it is like a paradise. Not exactly like going to school in the Bronx, I would say.

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Obama was not simply "content to leave [the racial barriers] in place". He reinforced them for his own and his party's political gain. He needed the racial victim status. That is the only argument that Democrats have against the new politics of small government. If you can't address people's arguments, just call them racist.

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1Rachel1

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Not mentioned in the article are two other great black Conservatives; the bright & beautiful Star Parker (R-California), and the terrific Charles Lollar (R- Maryland), Black Americans have a great future in the Republican party, because contrary to how the Democrats like to paint Conservatives for their own political expediency, we are not racists. We just don't pander to blacks offering false promises while keeping them enslaved to the government. We embrace Americans of all colors....as long as that color isn't RED (as in Communist). We are Americans first, Conservatives second, and our skincolor is irrelevant when it comes to policy.

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I liked this guy from the moment I read he started his own business to help himself out of a hole. unlike Obama who hasn't worked a single day in the private sector. Good luck Tm Scott, your country and its people need people like you. Come to think of it, so do we!

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If you want to stop the differences, stop pointing them out.

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Go here to find out just what Democrats have done for blacks over the years:

<http://www.nbra.info/FrequentlyAskedQuestions> (<http://www.nbra.info/FrequentlyAskedQuestions>)

brought to you by the National Black Republican Association

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Go to national black republican assocation for the full truth. The Democrats have hijacked the history of civil rights in America too long. nbra dot info

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miker5

Today 03:36 AM

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I is unfortunate that America's first black president was chosen by the left based on the color of his skin rather than the content of his character. Leftists, being inherently racist, believed that since the man was black he would have extraordinary powers and would be sort of the Michael

Jordan of politics. As a consequence, the country is headed for ruination, race relations have had a major setback and it will be a long time before America elects another black president.

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When Slick was elected I predicted that -- after a look at the Democrat idea of who should represent Black Americans -- there would be a resurgence of Black Republicans. Well, my friends, what is that expression? "I TOLD YOU SO!"

Democrats feel that the hard working, Bible believing, Black Americans who as much as any other ethnic group built America, fought its wars and gave us the the rich vibrant culture that has spread around the world should be represented by a carbon copy of John Kerry. The son of a trust fund baby hippie mom and a third generation Harvard legacy on his AFRICAN father's side. Someone, in THEIR view, not "tainted" by being the descendant of slaves, but instead the descendant of the West African Muslim tribes that SOLD others into slavery. The Republican Party was not just the Party of Lincoln who fought to abolish slavery, but the party that pushed for DECADES for the civil rights laws against Democratic opposition.

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[Brandon Norfleet \(http://twitter.com/Brandon_HD\)](http://twitter.com/Brandon_HD)

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"the black community" needs to realize that they're not just a Branch of the Democratic Party. Think for Yourself, not how Al & Jesse tell you to think...

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Mr. Harden makes many great points. I will just comment on one: the fact that Obama clearly went along with the racist claims. As the President of the USA he should have stayed above the fray on matters like this. But he didn't do that, on the contrary, he had a difficult time understanding that people are against his policies, particularly, the Tea Partiers, and he played along with the likes of Matthews, Eugene Robinson, Maher, and others. I don't understand why it is so difficult for them to see that "it is the policies, stupid!"

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marrabella

Today 03:28 AM

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God Bless you, Mr. Johnson.

You are right on !

Unfortunately, only you can speak with the honor and nobility that, right now, ONLY another black politician verbalize.

There are others and as the ranks grow, race relations will improve.

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You can also add Milton Gordon, who is running for U.S. Senate in Louisiana. He is running as an Independent Conservative against incumbent Republican David Vitter. He's been a Republican for more than 30 years, but, in his words, "The Republican Party left me, I did not leave them. I did not leave my values and convictions, The Republican Party left their values and convictions."

<http://www.miltongordonussenate.com> (<http://www.miltongordonussenate.com>)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiX0qRxMPI8> (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiX0qRxMPI8>)

Milton Gordon has a real PLAN to get us out of this mess we are in:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AW0c6l8Al_Y (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AW0c6l8Al_Y)

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galocke

Today 02:59 AM

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You would think that the plight of so many black people in this country would convince more of them that liberalism is not the solution to their problems. Take a close look at any city that has been run by liberals for decades, and you'll find minorities living in conditions that are notably worse than elsewhere. Fact is, liberals need to keep blacks and other minorities "down on the farm" of victim-hood. As long as they remain hapless victims, liberals figure they'll remain their loyal voters.

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marrabella

Today 03:30 AM

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So true, so true.

More and more people are awakening to the truth of what you just wrote.

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wesleyalexander (<http://my.telegraph.co.uk/members/wesleyalexander>)

Today 02:27 AM

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19 people

Why do we hear this stuff from sources outside the US? It is interesting that Europeans and others see the truth, but our media refuses to cover it and what media does cover it is branded as racist.

All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.

Thomas Jefferson

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marrabella

Today 03:31 AM

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Yes Wesley. The Mainstream media should be tried for treason.

Think Tokyo Rose.

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Today 02:55 AM

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Not all media is so biased, just the alphabet networks! (that's ABC, CBS, NBC, etc) and many of the old-time print media. SO, stop relying on them for your information. All the information you need can be found on the internet, you just have to look for it. (And when you Google/Bing, etc, keep in mind that they skew the search engines to bring up liberal sites FIRST.)

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independentvoter (<http://my.telegraph.co.uk/members/independentvoter>)

Today 02:26 AM

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Here in my district in IL we have a black women running for our state senate seat I will be voting for her she has common sense and a lot of backbone to run besides the senator we have really stinks.. American's enlarge have no problem voting for anyone of any race as long as they use common sense and don't lie..

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Absolutely. But liberals dont see it like that. As a former (campaigning leftists) let me assure anyone reading that the majority of liberals wholeheartedly believe every white person is a racist, including themselves (secretly of course). I came to the stark realisation that some people on the left I knew were deeply racist and their way through it, or to hide it was to fully embrace multiculturalism to the point it became a fanatical obsession (he/she who shouts loudest). They naturally thought if deep down they felt like that then everyone must. There came a point when I couldn't tolerate it any more as i also realised there was a fair amount of mentally unstable people around me. I still have liberal views, but their from a different era of liberalism to what we have now.

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JerryinTampa

Today 02:23 AM

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I am hopeful that in the future more successful African Americans will realize how the Democrat/Socialists have used and exploited them in the past and how they really align with more conservative ideas and then be more willing to sign on with the Republicans and Independents. Welcome aboard.

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quasiquirky (<http://my.telegraph.co.uk/members/quasiquirky>)

Today 02:19 AM

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Check out Tea Party regularly featured speaker Apostle Claver, RagingElephants.com (<http://RagingElephants.com>) . This guy is getting support for billboards in traditional black neighborhoods that rightly read "Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Republican". This is a no nonsense, no PC crap guy!

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