

# It is a ‘catastrophe’

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**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—The purpose of this article is to spend a little time discussing a few ideas in the book by Dick Morris and Eileen McGann titled *Catastrophe*. It was written in 2009.

Mr. Morris and Ms. McGann have collaborated on five books. You may have heard about two of their other books titled *Fleeced* and *Outrage*. I mention this because it is important to realize that the authors are very critical of Barack Obama and his administration.

For those of you who don't recognize Dick Morris's name, he served for 20 years as a political consultant for Bill Clinton. That means that he understands two important perspectives. First, he understands the nature of politics in general. Second, he had an insider's view of the Democratic party.

Understand that when the authors give their perspective of the problems occurring within the United States they also give their perspective of actions to help stop the damage.

For the record, although I personally do not plan to become as involved in the various solutions of the authors to stop the perceived damage that the present administration is inflicting upon the nation, I personally place high value in much of their assessment of what is occurring within the United States.

## **A little uncomfortable**

If reading this book causes you to be a little uncomfortable, I believe that to be a good thing.

Many people were swayed by the platitudes of hope and change, which are proving to be hollow promises. Many people did not pay attention to much available information during the past couple of years.

If reading the book causes you too much anxiety, you can always put it down and stop reading it. You don't need the whole wheelbarrow load to get the drift of what is happening.

But remember this: We grow best when we are uncomfortable enough to trust more in God. We make progress when the reality of life influences us to get closer to God.

### Setting the stage

Notice the following paragraphs from the introduction.

"Make no mistake about it: We now have a socialist in the White House. Barack Obama firmly believes in government control of our major industries, a hallmark of European socialism. Watch him. First it was the banks, then the auto industry. What's next? He'll keep going until the federal government owns or dominates every major American business and sets the salaries for all employees.

"Using the global economic crisis as an excuse to revolutionize our economy and institutionalize pervasive and perverse changes masquerading as 'reforms,' Obama wants to change our way of living, working, and even thinking . . .

"Obama plans to expand the role, size, and cost of government vastly and to regulate each and every aspect of corporate and commercial conduct. It's only a matter of time before political correctness, too, will be legislated, and the policing of acceptable personal conduct will become yet another role of the government."

Are the authors overstating their perspective? Possibly. But the good news is that we will be able to watch events unfold and see how accurate they really are.

Some of the predictions of the authors may be wrong. But what if they are right?

### Stimulus package

In chapter one ("Obama's War on Poverty"), the authors make the following comments.

■ On page 4: "Obama not only knew what he wanted to do; he told everyone who would listen. If he hid his program, he did it in plain sight."

■ On pages 6 and 7: "This agenda was not new. It was a greatest-hits collection that revived proposals made by the Democratic-union left for the past thirty years. But since Lyndon Johnson, and especially in the wake of Ronald Reagan, no Democratic president had dared to embrace it. Even with a Democratic Congress, Bill Clinton pursued only a small part of the liberal program. Politics, after all, is the art of the possible—and, in political terms, the labor/left agenda was clearly impossible."

■ On pages 8 and 9: ". . . He [Mr. Obama] would have no problem getting most of the new spending programs he wanted passed during his term (or two) in office. He would likely succeed where Clinton had failed and pass health care reform.

"But Obama had more—a lot more—in mind. He had no interest in a typical Democratic presidency, with the focus on incremental change that characterized the Carter and Clinton years. He wanted to be a president in the mold of Lyndon Johnson or even Franklin D. Roosevelt. He wanted to pass everything, and he wanted to do so right away.

"Just as the economic crisis showed him the way to win the election, now it pointed the way to pass his program. He merely had to rebrand his radical/socialist agenda as an economic recovery package . . .

"Suddenly everything was possible! No need to wait year after year to pass the programs on the environment, energy, welfare, education, health care, higher education, veterans, infrastructure, and urban problems that Democrats had been pushing for years. Do it all at once! Jam eight years of new spending proposals in one year! For that matter, do it in one week!

"By cramming every Democratic spending fantasy into one bill—into that Trojan horse called 'the stimulus package'—Obama could have it all, up front. No waiting . . .

"So now Obama could put his entire agenda on the table at once, declare a national crisis, and jam it through. No time for debate. No time even to print the bill so members could read what they were voting for. *Emergency!*

"Despite the empirical evidence that spending and one-shot tax don't work, Obama couldn't resist. He finally had a chance to take advantage of Keynesian economic theory, to get Congress to pass all of his pet spending bills . . . Suddenly everything was a stimulus measure."

- On pages 10-20, there is a detailed listing of items in the stimulus package.
- On pages 20-21: "It's all a big spender could ever wish for—an orgy of outlays.

"But even that much spending wasn't enough for Obama and his hungry Democrats. As soon as Congress passed the stimulus bill, it went to work on a supplemental appropriations bill and added another \$410 billion to the spending frenzy.

"Obama had promised that he would eliminate earmarks. In his campaign against John McCain, he excused his own earmarks as a political necessity, making plain his desire to reform the system if he were elected. But enthusiasm for the avalanche of spending overcame his commitments and Obama signed the bill—even though it contained 9,287 earmarks, whose cost totaled \$12.8 billion.

"These earmarks made a mockery of the reform Obama claimed as his mantra. But even as he violated his promises by signing the earmark-laden bill, he issued recommendations to Congress to avoid earmarks in the future, clinging to his image as an apostle of fiscal responsibility."

The authors say much more, but I think you get the point.

## Political blueprint

At this time, I want to give some quotes from chapter five ("Obama's Blueprint for Political Domination").

Again, the authors make some strong accusations. Will their predictions come true? One thing is certain. We have the advantage of watching how accurate their assessments are.

■ On page 115: "To implement and sustain an agenda as aggressive and far-reaching as President Obama has proposed, it will take a permanent political upheaval in this country, not just one victory in one election. Obama knows that if he can't use his presidency to realign America's political parties and power centers to make them friendly to his socialist agenda, he will soon become a footnote in history—a man who attempted bold changes but failed or who passed them only to see them repealed when he lost power.

"He election in 2008 opened the door to the changes he wants to make. But to keep them on the books, he must win election after election, winning two terms, keeping a leftist Congress in power, and ensuring that his successor does not reverse his policies."

■ On pages 115-116, the authors listed their opinion of the administration's "four-part plan to create a national political realignment." Listed are the four points.

"1. Grant legal status and then citizenship to as many now-illegal immigrants as possible, so that they'll vote Democratic far into the future.

"2. Control the 2010 census, using it to overcount poor people, minorities, and other Democratic constituencies.

"3. Change the rules of union elections to expand—vastly—the proportion of the labor force who belong to Democratic-controlled unions.

"4. Use the powers of the Federal Communications Commission to muzzle conservative talk radio."

## Closer to God

Friends, the troubles are real.

As I said earlier, we grow best when we are uncomfortable enough to trust more in God. We make progress when the reality of life influences us to get closer to God.