

## The #Resistance

Did you ever wonder exactly what the #Resistance is protesting, and what it stands for? Operation Wildfire was curious, so we watched the “Hands Off” protests to try to learn.

We'll begin with the short, easy answer. The *#Resistance* (also known as the Resistance) is an American liberal and left-wing political movement that protests the first and second presidencies of Donald Trump, whom they viewed as an existential threat to democracy and the republic itself.<sup>1</sup>

According to *Newsweek*: [Hands Off] “Protesters primarily targeted the president and Musk for actions taken during the early months of the second Trump administration, criticizing mass federal layoffs, immigration crackdowns, and U.S. involvement in the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza.” Let's take a closer look at their issues.

**Secure the border, arrest and deport criminal illegal immigrants.** The Department of Homeland Security is fulfilling President Trump's promise to make America safe again by arresting and removing violent criminal illegal aliens. The number of migrants illegally crossing the U.S. southern border plummeted in February to the lowest level seen in decades, according to internal data obtained by Axios. To learn more about the latest numbers, visit <https://www.axios.com/2025/03/04/illegal-border-crossings-february-decline-trump>. Perhaps the #Resistance forgot that their allies once agreed with President Trump?

Civil rights icon U.S. Representative Barbara Jordan in 1996 insisted that there's “no national interest in continuing to import lesser skilled and unskilled workers to compete in the most vulnerable parts of our labor force.”<sup>2</sup>

President Bill Clinton addressed illegal immigration in his 1995 State of the Union address. To learn more, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lDrBs13oA>

In 2005, then U.S. Senator Barack Obama said, “We simply cannot allow people to pour into the United States undetected, undocumented, unchecked, and circumventing the line of people who are waiting patiently, diligently, and lawfully to become immigrants in this country.” To learn more, visit <https://www.c-span.org/clip/news-conference/user-clip-senator-obama-on-immigration-2005/4656154>

Later, President Obama was famously labeled “deporter in chief” by critics in the immigrant-rights community.<sup>3</sup>

**Eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in the U.S. government.** The U.S. Government Accountability Office reported an estimated \$236 billion in “improper payments” during the most recently completed fiscal year (FY 2023). Over the last 20 fiscal years, it has made an estimated \$2.7 trillion in such improper payments. To learn more, visit <https://www.gao.gov/blog/federal-government-made-236-billion-improper-payments-last-fiscal-year>

Last year the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office reported that “\$516 billion in appropriations for 2024 was associated with 491 expired authorizations of appropriations.” In addition, CBO wrote, “Nearly two-thirds (\$320 billion) of that \$516 billion was provided for activities whose authorizations expired more than a decade ago.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Resistance\\_\(American\\_political\\_movement\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Resistance_(American_political_movement))

<sup>2</sup> The Free Press, “I Used to Hate Trump. Now I'm a MAGA Lefty.” April 2, 2025.

<sup>3</sup> “The Obama Record on Deportations: Deporter in Chief or Not?” January 26, 2017.

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/obama-record-deportations-deporter-chief-or-not>

<sup>4</sup> “Democrats rage against DOGE – but shouldn't everyone be against waste?” The Hill, February 14, 2025.

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- **Iron Mountain.** We recently learned that “Federal employee retirements are processed using paper, by hand, in an old limestone mine in Pennsylvania. 700+ mine workers operate 230 feet underground to process ~10,000 applications per month, which are stored in manila envelopes and cardboard boxes. The retirement process takes multiple months.”<sup>5</sup>
- **USAID.** Taxpayer funding for USAID doubled from the beginning of President Trump’s first term in 2017 to the end of President Joe Biden’s, rising from 20.5 billion in 2017 to \$42.4 billion in 2024.<sup>6</sup> While USAID has done much good around the world, in recent years it appears to have become a dumping ground for special interest projects, ranging from advancing DEI in Serbia to a trans comic book in Peru.
- **Massive Layoffs.** Federal government agencies are directed to continue restructuring their programs and personnel, canceling contracts and consolidating government buildings – while also increasing productivity and delivering “better service for the American people.” A hiring freeze, in addition to firing of probationary employees and layoffs/buyouts for others, is in place. Agencies were also encouraged to cut back on layers of management and the use of consultants and contractors and to consider consolidating field offices. To learn more, visit <https://www.npr.org/2025/03/15/nx-s1-5328721/reduction-in-force-rif-federal-workers-job-cuts-musk-doge-layoffs>
- **The Festivus Report.** And we can’t forget U.S. Senator Rand Paul’s Annual Festivus Report that highlights more than a trillion dollars of what he calls “wasteful spending by both parties.” To learn more, visit <https://wjl.com/news/nation-world/senator-rand-paul-highlights-government-waste-annual-festivus-report-pickleball-border-science-experiments-cats-paraguay-trump-doge>

Is this the kind of inefficiency and waste the #Resistance wants to protect? Perhaps they forgot the words and actions of former Presidents Obama and Clinton. Maybe it’s because their efforts were unsuccessful?

In 2011, President Obama and Vice President Biden unleashed a Campaign to Cut Government Waste. To learn more, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hpd61WfMvk>

Former President Bill Clinton was recently praised by *Newsweek* for his attempts to reform the Federal Government through his National Partnership for Reinventing Government led by Vice President Gore. To learn more, visit <https://www.newsweek.com/how-bill-clinton-shrunk-federal-government-30-years-before-doge-2032893>

**Regulate imports with a reciprocal tariff to rectify trade deficits.** President Trump declared that foreign trade and economic practices have created a national emergency, and his order imposes responsive tariffs to strengthen the international economic position of the United States and protect American workers.

Democrats used to sound a lot like President Trump when discussing trade. To learn more, visit [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJbFvN2I\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJbFvN2I_s)

**Eliminate waste, fraud and abuse from Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.** The Social Security Administration made an estimated \$72 billion in improper payments between 2015 and 2022. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services estimated it made \$140+ billion in improper payments in 2024 alone.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> “Insane Priorities of USAID,” <https://kutv.com/news/nation-world/list-insane-priorities-of-usaid-spending-during-biden-administration-foreign-assistance-president-donald-trump-karoline-leavitt-condoms-in-gaza-elon-musk-department-of-government-efficiency>

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The Trump Administration wants to eliminate improper payments – but does not intend to end Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid.<sup>7</sup>

While the Democrats and the #Resistance continue to repeat the mantra that Trump will cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, they appear to forget what some of their leaders had to say about reforming these programs:

On November 9, 1997, President Clinton said there should be a long-term reform of Social Security and Medicare in the final three years of his presidency. To learn more, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uydf4YbBwkQ>

On March 3, 2013, President Barack Obama raised anew the issue of cutting entitlements such as Medicare and Social Security as a way out of damaging budget cuts. To learn more, visit <https://www.cnn.com/2013/03/03/obama-renews-offer-to-cut-social-safety-net-in-big-budget-deal.html>

## **The U.S. involvement in the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza.**

The Biden administration's policy on these conflicts consisted of calibrating how far you can nurture a war before pushing it over the precipice of escalation. And it has gone badly and placed the U.S. on the edge of two wider wars. If Biden is the leader of the world, then he has recklessly and dangerously mismanaged it.<sup>8</sup>

Enter the Trump Administration. Allies say the foreign policy version of "flood the zone" is working. But critics argue that the hurry-up approach in Israel, Ukraine and Iran may not lead to stable, durable solutions to conflicts around the world.<sup>9</sup> Only time will tell.

## **Summary**

We've learned that the #Resistance and "Hands Off" protests are against President Trump. It appears that what they support is the status quo.

Ironically, if you simply look at the policies President Trump represents, it's the kind of agenda that was viewed as solidly Democratic for 100 years.

But, if you get your news from the mainstream media, you may believe that President Trump is a far-right extremist, a racist, a hater, a George Wallace for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. But, when viewed dispassionately, Trump is more like a 21<sup>st</sup> Century FDR: socially moderate, anti-interventionist and committed to America's blue-collar workers as the backbone of this country.<sup>10</sup>

Think of his major convictions: He's anti-war. He promised to veto a national abortion ban. He is respectful of religion but also pro-gay. And most importantly, he represents the working class's best shot at achieving the American Dream that we've seen in 60 years.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> "White House says Trump won't cut Social Security or Medicare after Musk remarks,"

<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5188082-white-house-donald-trump-social-security-medicare-cuts/>

<sup>8</sup> "From Ukraine to Gaza, the Recklessness of Biden Cannot Be Ignored," Common Dreams,

<https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/biden-foreign-policy-gaza-ukraine>

<sup>9</sup> "Trump's Attempts to Resolve Global Conflicts Quickly Face Diplomatic Reality,"

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/22/world/europe/trump-ukraine-russia-israel-gaza-iran.html>

<sup>10</sup> The Free Press, "I Used to Hate Trump. Now I'm a MAGA Lefty." April 2, 2025.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.