### O/V

Russia relations outweigh Hegemony – Allison card proves US-Russia multilateralism is a reverse-causal link to prevent all-out hot nuclear war – Distinct from the heg scenario because it says engagemement with Russia specifically is key to prevent the nuclear exchange – and it comes first because our our impact assumes relations collapse within a 4 year window of the Romney presidency – Alison proves direct deterioration starts a war – outweighs structural collapse of global unipolarity – and turns the case – says cooperation with Russia is directly responsible for preventing nuke terror

### Obama Win

#### Obama will win---electoral college proves but the next 55 days are critical

Cillizza and Blake 9/12 Chris and Aaron, Washington Post, "President Obama's electoral college edge", 2012, www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2012/09/12/president-obamas-electoral-college-edge/

President Obama maintains an edge in the race for 270 electoral college votes, according to a state-by-state Fix analysis, even as national polling suggests the race remains tight between the incumbent and former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney.¶ Since we last analyzed the national map in July, and despite the fact that Romney has picked his vice president and both parties have held their nominating conventions, there’s been no polling data or spending decisions compelling enough to move any state from its current rating of toss-up, lean Obama or lean Romney.¶ That means that Obama can count on 196 solid electoral votes and another 41 — in New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Michigan — that lean his way for a total of 237. Romney has 170 solid electoral votes and 36 — Arizona, Missouri and North Carolina — leaning his way for a total of 206.¶ Among the states, then, that seem unlikely to move either way over the next 55 days, Obama starts with a 31-electoral-vote edge. But it’s in the eight states we rate as toss-ups where the incumbent’s current advantage makes itself clearer.¶ Relying solely on the Real Clear Politics poll of polls in each state — the most reliable apples-to-apples comparison we know of — there are seven swing states (Nevada, Colorado, Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida and New Hampshire) where Obama currently leads and one (Virginia) where Romney holds the lead.¶ Going by those polls, Obama would take 82 of a possible 95 swing-state votes and win reelection with 319 electoral votes.¶ Remove states where either candidate leads by a single point or less — that’s Iowa (Obama + 0.2) and Virginia (Romney + 0.8) — and Obama takes 76 of the swing-state electoral votes, giving him 313 — and a second term.¶ Now, to be clear, where polling in these swing states stands today isn’t a direct indicator of where the race will end up. Obama is the incumbent and, history shows, isn’t likely to win large swaths of voters who haven’t made up their minds yet. (If they’re not for him now, why would they be in six weeks time?)¶ And, in many of the genuine toss-up states, the Obama campaign thus far has heavily outspent Romney even when spending by conservative outside groups is added into the mix. Once GOP spending begins to assert itself, there’s a reasonable case to be made that many of these close states — Obama is ahead by no more than 3.4 points in any of the Fix’s eight toss up-states, according to RCP — could tilt Romney’s way.¶ As of today, however, it’s clear that Obama has more paths to 270 electoral votes than Romney. If Obama starts at 237 electoral votes — and that seems to be the case, as there is scant evidence that Michigan, Pennsylvania and New Mexico are regarded as seriously in play — then he could lose all but Florida and New Hampshire among the Fix’s eight swing states and still get to 270.¶ Win Ohio, Wisconsin (where no Republican has won since 1984) and either Nevada or Iowa, and Obama gets to 271 electoral votes. Obama could lose Virginia, Ohio and Florida and still be re-elected if he carried the other five Fix toss-up states.¶ We could go through electoral college scenarios all day. (Seriously.) But they almost all add up to the same thing: Obama remains in the driver’s seat when it comes to winning the 270 electoral votes he needs to claim a second term.¶ The next 55 days are (obviously) critical, as undecided voters begin paying attention (finally), but Obama has built himself a not-insignificant electoral college cushion to ward off any momentum won by Romney.

#### Obama’s leading in all key swing states

Konish 9/12 Lorie, On Wall Street, 2012, "Obama Will Win Election That Portends "Status Quo," UBS Predicts", www.onwallstreet.com/news/ubs-says-obama-will-win-election-2680840-1.html

Obama currently has an advantage in the 10 states that will likely decide the election, where polls show he is mostly even or leading for most of them, according to Ryan. Those states include: Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin.

#### Obama leading---polls post-convention

Silver 9/8 Nate, NYT Political Blogger and Statistical Genius, 2012, "Sept. 8: Conventions May Put Obama in Front-Runner’s Position", fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/08/sept-8-conventions-may-put-obama-in-front-runners-position/

On Friday, we began to see reasonably clear signs that President Obama would receive some kind of bounce in the polls from the Democratic convention.¶ Mr. Obama had another strong day in the polls on Saturday, making further gains in each of four national tracking polls. The question now is not whether Mr. Obama will get a bounce in the polls, but how substantial it will be.¶ Some of the data, in fact, suggests that the conventions may have changed the composition of the race, making Mr. Obama a reasonably clear favorite as we enter the stretch run of the campaign.¶ On Saturday, Mr. Obama extended his advantage to three points from two points in the Gallup national tracking poll, and to four points from two in an online survey conducted by Ipsos. He pulled ahead of Mitt Romney by two points in the Rasmussen Reports tracking poll, reversing a one-point deficit in the edition of the poll published on Friday.¶ A fourth tracking poll, conducted online by the RAND Corporation’s American Life Panel, had Mr. Obama three percentage points ahead of Mr. Romney in the survey it published early Saturday morning; the candidates had been virtually tied in the poll on Friday. (The RAND survey has an interesting methodology — we’ll explore it more in a separate post.)¶ The gains that Mr. Obama has made in these tracking polls over the past 48 hours already appear to match or exceed the ones that Mr. Romney made after his convention. The odds, however, are that Mr. Obama has some further room to grow.¶ The reason is that the tracking polls are not turned around instantaneously. The Gallup poll, for instance, now consists of interviews conducted between Saturday, Sept. 1, and Friday, Sept. 7. That means that many of the interviews in the poll still predate the effective start of the Democratic convention on Tuesday night.¶ That Mr. Obama has made these gains in polls that only partially reflect the Democratic convention suggests that his bounce could be more substantial once they fully do so. Mathematically, Mr. Obama has to have been running well ahead of Mr. Romney in the most recent interviews in these surveys to have made up for middling data earlier in the week.

### AT: DOD

#### Agencies don’t shield and no risk of a turn---Obama is velcro and will only get blamed---no credit

Nicholas & Hook 10 Peter and Janet, Staff Writers – LA Times, “Obama the Velcro president”, LA Times, 7-30, http://articles.latimes.com/2010/jul/30/nation/la-na-velcro-presidency-20100730/3

If Ronald Reagan was the classic Teflon president, Barack Obama is made of Velcro.¶ Through two terms, Reagan eluded much of the responsibility for recession and foreign policy scandal. In less than two years, Obama has become **ensnared in blame**.¶ Hoping to **better insulate Obama**, White House aides have sought to **give** other Cabinet officials **a higher profile** and additional public exposure. They are also crafting new ways to explain the president's policies to a skeptical public.¶ **But Obama remains** the colossus of his administration — to a point where trouble anywhere in the world is often his to solve.¶ The president is on the hook to repair the Gulf Coast oil spill disaster, stabilize Afghanistan, help fix Greece's ailing economy and do right by Shirley Sherrod, the Agriculture Department official fired as a result of a misleading fragment of videotape¶ What's **not sticking to Obama** is a legislative track record that his recent predecessors might envy. **Political dividends** from passage of a healthcare overhaul or a financial regulatory bill **have been fleeting**.¶ Instead, voters are measuring his presidency by a more immediate yardstick: Is he creating enough jobs? So far the verdict is no, and that has taken a toll on Obama's approval ratings. Only 46% approve of Obama's job performance, compared with 47% who disapprove, according to Gallup's daily tracking poll.¶ "I think the accomplishments are very significant, but I think most people would look at this and say, 'What was the plan for jobs?' " said Sen. Byron L. Dorgan (D-N.D.). "The agenda he's pushed here has been a very important agenda, but it hasn't translated into dinner table conversations."¶ Reagan was able to glide past controversies with his popularity largely intact. He maintained his affable persona as a small-government advocate while seeming above the fray in his own administration.¶ Reagan was untarnished by such calamities as the 1983 terrorist bombing of the Marines stationed in Beirut and scandals involving members of his administration. In the 1986 Iran-Contra affair, most of the blame fell on lieutenants.¶ Obama lately has tried to rip off the Velcro veneer. In a revealing moment during the oil spill crisis, he reminded Americans that his powers aren't "limitless." He told residents in Grand Isle, La., that he is a flesh-and-blood president, not a comic-book superhero able to dive to the bottom of the sea and plug the hole.¶ "I can't suck it up with a straw," he said.¶ But as a candidate in 2008, he set sky-high expectations about what he could achieve and what government could accomplish.¶ Clinching the Democratic nomination two years ago, Obama described the moment as an epic breakthrough when "we began to provide care for the sick and good jobs to the jobless" and "when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal."¶ Those towering goals remain a long way off. And most people would have preferred to see Obama focus more narrowly on the "good jobs" part of the promise.¶ A recent Gallup poll showed that 53% of the population rated unemployment and the economy as the nation's most important problem. By contrast, only 7% cited healthcare — a single-minded focus of the White House for a full year.¶ At every turn, Obama makes the argument that he has improved lives in concrete ways.¶ Without the steps he took, he says, the economy would be in worse shape and more people would be out of work. There's evidence to support that. Two economists, Mark Zandi and Alan Blinder, reported recently that without the stimulus and other measures, gross domestic product would be about 6.5% lower.¶ Yet, Americans aren't apt to cheer when something bad doesn't materialize.¶ Unemployment has been rising — from 7.7% when Obama took office, to 9.5%. Last month, more than 2 million homes in the U.S. were in various stages of foreclosure — up from 1.7 million when Obama was sworn in.¶ "Folks just aren't in a mood to hand out gold stars when unemployment is hovering around 10%," said Paul Begala, a Democratic pundit.¶ Insulating the president from bad news has proved impossible. Other White Houses have tried doing so with more success. **Reagan's Cabinet officials often took the blame,** shielding the boss.¶ But **the Obama administration is about one man**. Obama is the White House's chief spokesman, policy pitchman, fundraiser and negotiator. No Cabinet secretary has emerged as an adequate surrogate. Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner is seen as a tepid public speaker; Energy Secretary Steven Chu is prone to long, wonky digressions and has rarely gone before the cameras during an oil spill crisis that he is working to end.¶ So, **more falls to Obama, reinforcing the Velcro effect:** Everything sticks to him. He has opined on virtually everything in the hundreds of public statements he has made: nuclear arms treaties, basketball star LeBron James' career plans; Chelsea Clinton's wedding.¶ Few audiences are off-limits. On Wednesday, he taped a spot on ABC's "The View," drawing a rebuke from Democratic Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell, who deemed the appearance unworthy of the presidency during tough times.¶ "Stylistically he creates some of those problems," Eddie Mahe, a Republican political strategist, said in an interview. "His favorite pronoun is 'I.' When you position yourself as being all things to all people, the ultimate controller and decision maker with the capacity to fix anything, you set yourself up to be blamed when it doesn't get fixed or things happen."¶ A new White House strategy is to forgo talk of big policy changes that are easy to ridicule. Instead, aides want to market policies as more digestible pieces. So, rather than tout the healthcare package as a whole, advisors will talk about smaller parts that may be more appealing and understandable — such as barring insurers from denying coverage based on preexisting conditions.¶ But at this stage, it may be late in the game to downsize either the president or his agenda.

### Link

#### Plan alienates the base—they want cuts

Center for Public Integrity 12 May 10, 2012, “Public overwhelmingly supports large defense spending cuts”, http://www.publicintegrity.org/2012/05/10/8856/public-overwhelmingly-supports-large-defense-spending-cuts

While politicians, insiders and experts may be divided over how much the government should spend on the nation’s defense, **there’s a surprising consensus among the public about what should be done: They want to cut spending** far more deeply than either the Obama administration or the Republicans.¶ That’s according to the results of an innovative, new, nationwide survey by three nonprofit groups, the Center for Public integrity, the Program for Public Consultation and the Stimson Center. Not only does **the public want deep cuts**, it wants those cuts to encompass spending in virtually every military domain — air power, sea power, ground forces, nuclear weapons, and missile defenses.¶ According to the survey, in which respondents were told about the size of the budget as well as shown expert arguments for and against spending cuts, two-thirds of Republicans and **nine in 10 Democrats supported making immediate cuts** — a position at odds with the leaderships of both political parties.

#### More deficit spending alienates swing state independents

Galston 5/10 William A. Galston is the Ezra K. Zilkha Chair in Governance Studies and senior fellow at Brookings. "Six Month's to Go: Where the Presidential Contest Stands as the General Election Begins," Brookings Governance Studies, 2012, http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2012/05/~/media/Research/Files/Papers/2012/5/10%20obama%20campaign%20galston/Where%20the%20Presidential%20Contest%20Stands.pdf

A recent report 50 found Obama statistically tied with Romney among Independents in swing states, with 36 percent of these Independents up for grabs. Among these “Swing Independents,” Obama now enjoys a lead of 44 to 38 percent. But there are some warning signs. These voters are split on Obama’s economic management, and they strongly prefer Republicans both on the budget deficit and government spending, issues of great concern to them. And according to the report, they are not much moved by the fairness argument. By 57 to 38 percent, they said it was more important to fix the budget deficit than to reduce the income gap. A plurality—42 percent—thought that reducing the budget deficit was the single most effective way of strengthening the economy. For this key group, the themes of growth and opportunity trump both the conservative focus on economic freedom and the liberal emphasis on economic inequality. They are most worried about the national debt (64 percent), congressional gridlock (55 percent), and the ability of the next generation to achieve the American dream (40 percent). And they are much angrier about the failure of Congress to address our problems than they are about Wall Street bailouts or the suggestion that the wealthy don’t pay their fair share of taxes.

### Iran Strike

#### Romney causes Iran Strikes –Obama doesn't

AP 7/29 Kasie Hunt. "Adviser: Romney would back strike against Iran," 2012, http://news.yahoo.com/adviser-romney-back-strike-against-iran-072640314.html

JERUSALEM (AP) — Mitt **Romney would back an Israeli military strike against Iran** aimed at preventing Tehran from obtaining nuclear capability, a top foreign policy adviser said Sunday, outlining the aggressive posture the Republican presidential candidate will take toward Iran in a speech in Israel later in the day.¶ **Romney has said he has a** "zero tolerance" **policy toward Iran obtaining the capability to build a nuclear weapon.¶** "If Israel has to take action on its own, in order to stop Iran from developing the capability, the governor would respect that decision," foreign policy adviser Dan Senor told reporters ahead of the speech, planned for late Sunday near Jerusalem's Old City.¶ Romney believes the option of a U.S. attack should also be "on the table." He has said he will do "the opposite" of what U.S. President Barack Obama would do in his approach to Israel.¶ The Obama administration hasn't ruled out the military option, but Obama has so far been relying on sanctions and diplomatic negotiations to discourage Iran from building a nuclear bomb.

#### Extinction

Hirsch 5 - Professor @ UC San Diego (Jorge, “Can a nuclear strike on Iran be averted,” November 21st)

The Bush administration has put together all the elements it needs to justify the impending military action against Iran. [Unlike in the case of Iraq](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/01/20020129-11.html), it will happen without warning, and most of the justifications will be issued after the fact. We will wake up one day to learn that facilities in Iran have been bombed in a joint U.S.-Israeli attack. It may even take another couple of days for the revelation that some of the U.S. bombs were nuclear. Why a Nuclear Attack on Iran Is a Bad Idea Now that we have outlined what is very close to happening, let us discuss briefly why everything possible should be done to prevent it. In a worst-case scenario, the attack will cause a violent reaction from Iran. Millions of "[human wave](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_wave_attack)" Iranian militias will storm into Iraq, and just as Saddam [stopped them with chemical weapons](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Jan2003/n01232003_200301234.html), the U.S. will stop them with nuclear weapons, resulting potentially in hundreds of thousands of casualties. The Middle East will explode, and popular uprisings in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and other countries with pro-Western governments could be overtaken by radical regimes. Pakistan already has nuclear weapons, and a nuclear conflict could even lead to Russia's and Israel's involvement using nuclear weapons. In a best-case scenario, the U.S. will destroy all nuclear, chemical, and missile facilities in Iran with conventional and low-yield nuclear weapons in a lightning surprise attack, and Iran will be paralyzed and decide not to retaliate for fear of a vastly more devastating nuclear attack. In the short term, the U.S. will succeed, leaving no Iranian nuclear program, civilian or otherwise. Iran will no longer threaten Israel, a regime change will ensue, and a pro-Western government will emerge. However, even in the best-case scenario, the long-term consequences are dire. The nuclear threshold will have been crossed by a nuclear superpower against a non-nuclear country. Many more countries will rush to get their own nuclear weapons as a deterrent. With no taboo against the use of nuclear weapons, they will certainly be used again. Nuclear conflicts will occur within the next 10 to 20 years, and will escalate until much of the world is destroyed. Let us remember that the destructive power of existing nuclear arsenals is approximately [one million times that of the Hiroshima bomb](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/1997/00/00_babst_consequences.htm), enough to erase Earth's population many times over.

### Russia Relations – XT Romney Kills Relations

**Romney destroys Russia relations – he’s labeled them our #1 geopolitical foe and embraces a Cold War ideology that refuses to make any concessions – that’s Felton.**

#### Romney win causes a full-scale crisis in relations - largest internal link to collapse

- at: any thumpers

Richter 7/2 Paul is a writer at the LA Times, citing Alexey Pushkov, chairman of the international affairs committee of the Russian Duma. "Russian official: Romney's hard line could bring 'full-scale crisis'," 2012, http://articles.latimes.com/2012/jul/02/news/la-pn-russian-official-romneys-hard-line-could-bring-fullscale-crisis-20120702

MOSCOW -- Mitt Romney’s comment that Russia is America’s **“**No. 1 geopolitical foe,” a red-meat line for Republicans, is also attracting some attention in Moscow. Alexey Pushkov, chairman of the international affairs committee of the State Duma, said in a recent interview that Russian leaders have noted Romney’s comments with concern, and are watching with interest as neoconservative and “realist” advisers maneuver for influence within the campaign. **“We don’t think that for us Romney will be an easy partner,”** said Pushkov, an ally of President Vladimir Putin. “We think that Romney will be, on the rhetorical side, a replay of the Bush administration.” He also noted Romney’s statements that the United States should assert its dominance in the 21st century. “If he is serious about this, I’m afraid he may choose the neocon-type people…In the first year of his presidency, we may have a full-scale crisis,” he said. Romney, in an interview with CNN in March, called Russia "without question our No. 1 geopolitical foe, they fight for every cause for the world's worst actors. The idea that [Obama] has more flexibility in mind for Russia is very, very troubling indeed." Pushkov said Russian leaders have noticed that Romney has among his foreign policy advisers several foreign policy figures often described as neoconservatives, such as Robert Kagan. “We don’t find it very positive,” he said. Pushkov said that the “reset” in U.S.-Russia relations that Obama has portrayed as a signature foreign policy accomplishment “is stuck, basically. It needs another reset.” Nevertheless, though the U.S. and Russia are at odds on issues such as Syria and missile defense, Obama would be “acceptable” as a partner for Russia in a second term, Pushkov said. Obama and Putin showed in their recent meeting in Mexico that “they don’t want a personal conflict,” he said.