

RUSSIA

2016ER ATTACKS

2016ER REPUBLICANS HAVE CRITICIZED CLINTON OVER HER “RESET” POLICY WITH RUSSIA

Bobby Jindal Blamed The Obama White House And Former Secretary Of State Hillary Clinton For Fumbling Foreign Policy, Including “Russia’s Incursion Into Crimea And Ukraine.” “Otherwise, Jindal’s remark were heavy on blaming the Obama White House, including former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, for fumbling foreign policy. ‘Today, we see a world in which the Obama administration has neglected or abandoned America’s long-standing allies. Our “special relationship” with Britain is gone, NATO is drifting, Eastern Europe is disaffected, and Israel has been purposefully alienated from the United States,’ he said. He went on to say the last months has sparked the rise of ISIS, Russia’s incursion into Crimea and Ukraine, and other flare-ups around the world.” [The Post And Courier, [10/7/14](#)]

Fiorina: “I Have Met Vladimir Putin And Know That It Will Take More To Halt His Ambitions Than A Gimmicky Red ‘Reset’ Button.” [Conservative Political Action Conference, [2/26/15](#)]

Jeb Bush’s Prepared Remarks To The Chicago Council On Global Affairs Contained A “Veiled Allusion” To Hillary Clinton In Criticizing The US-Russian “Reset” She Spearheaded. “While the excerpts make no specific mention of Hillary Clinton, they contain a veiled allusion to the former secretary of state’s 2009 attempt to re-establish relations between the United States and Russia. The so-called reset has become a focal point in Republican attacks against Clinton as she prepares for a potential 2016 run. ‘With grandiosity, they announce resets and disengage,’ Bush will say. ‘Hashtag campaigns replace actual diplomacy and engagement. Personal diplomacy and maturity is replaced by leaks and personal disparagement.’” [CNN, [2/18/15](#)]

Walker: Hillary Clinton Gave Russia A Reset Button. “The fervent Republicans who throng the Conservative Political Action Conference every year aren’t representative of the American electorate ... Rubio and others skipped ahead to criticize former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, whom they excoriated as no different from Obama in foreign affairs. ‘She actually gave a reset button to the Russians,’ exclaimed Walker, to whoops from the audience. ‘A reset button!’” [Los Angeles Times, [3/3/15](#)]

CLINTON DEFENSE

THE RUSSIA RESET WAS CONSIDERED BY SOME EXPERTS AND JOURNALISTS TO HAVE ACHIEVED ITS MAIN OBJECTIVES BY 2011

Carnegie Endowment Report: “Little More Than A Year On, The Reset Has Produced Some Impressive Concrete Outcomes.” “Little more than a year on, the reset has produced some impressive concrete outcomes, ranging from a new strategic nuclear arms control agreement to cooperation on the transit of troops and equipment to Afghanistan to a united front on a new round of sanctions against Iran.” [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, [2010](#)]

Washington Post: “The Reset In Relations” Between The U.S. And Russia “Has Brought The United States A Number Of Rewards.” “Still, a serious rupture between the United States and Russia could have wide-reaching consequences. The reset in relations has brought the United States a number of rewards, including cooperation on fighting terrorism, permission to use Russian territory to supply troops in Afghanistan, agreement on the New START nuclear arms pact and cooperation on dealing with Iran.” [Washington Post, [12/8/11](#)]

December 2011: Washington Post: “The Obama Administration Has Shown Signs Of A Less Tolerant Approach To Russia, Suggesting It Had Met Its Reset Objectives And Was Preparing For A Testier Relationship.” “The Obama administration has shown signs of a less tolerant approach to

Russia, suggesting it had met its reset objectives and was preparing for a testier relationship...At the end of October, Clinton's chief technology aide visited Russia to promote the benefits of a free Internet. Her assistant secretary for democracy and human rights met beleaguered activists, asking what kind of support the United States could provide." [Washington Post, [12/8/11](#)]

UNDER SECRETARY CLINTON, THE U.S. AND RUSSIA NEGOTIATED A NEW ARMS REDUCTION TREATY WHICH WAS PRAISED FOR ITS IMPORTANCE AND SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION AND APPROVED BY THE SENATE IN 2010

The Senate Voted To Allow Ratification Of The New START Treaty In December 2010 In A 71-26 Vote With 13 Republicans Voting In Favor. [Treaty Doc. 111-5, Vote 298, 111th Congress, [12/22/10](#)]

Washington Post: The New START Treaty Aimed To Reduce The Stockpile Of Deployed, Strategic Nuclear Weapons In Both Countries" And Establish "New Procedures To Verify Which Weapons Each Country Possesses." "President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed a sweeping new arms reduction pact Thursday that pledges to reduce the stockpile of deployed, strategic nuclear weapons in both countries and commits the old Cold War adversaries to new procedures to verify which weapons each country possesses." [Washington Post, [4/8/10](#)]

Washington Post: "Experts From The Right And The Left Agree The [New START] Treaty Extends A Verification Plan That Has Allowed The World's Two Nuclear Giants To Maintain Stability That Has Existed For The Past 20 Years." [Washington Post, [4/8/10](#)]

USA Today: The New START Treaty Limited The U.S. And Russia Each To "1,550 Strategic Warheads, Down From 2,200." "A U.S.-Russia nuclear arms treaty that limits the number of atomic warheads the former Cold War foes can possess and allows them to inspect each other's arsenals — securing a key foreign policy goal of President Barack Obama— went into effect Saturday...New START, negotiated last year, limits each side to 1,550 strategic warheads, down from 2,200. It limits the number of deployed strategic launchers and heavy bombers to 700." [USA Today, [2/5/11](#)]

Washington Post: Carnegie Endowment Nuclear Nonproliferation Scholar Said NATO Allies Strongly Supported New START And Thought "We Would Really Lose Credibility" If The U.S. Failed To Pass It. "The stakes were high: Defeat of the pact would have severely damaged Obama's global standing, hampering his ability to negotiate other treaties, and would have dealt a major setback to the president's 'reset' of relations with Russia. 'It's one of those things in life where failing to get it would be more important than actually what you get with it,' said George Perkovich, a scholar on nuclear nonproliferation at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Perkovich noted that Washington's NATO allies had strongly supported the pact. 'We would really lose credibility' if it failed, he said Tuesday." [Washington Post, [12/22/10](#)]

Washington Post: New START Required The Votes Of Two-Thirds Of Senators Present To Allow President Obama To Proceed With Ratification. "The Senate ratified the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, known as New START, by a vote of 71 to 26, easily clearing the threshold of two-thirds of senators present as required by the Constitution for treaty ratification." [Washington Post, [12/22/10](#)]

Steven Pifer Of The Brookings Institute Said Of The New START: "Implementation Appears To Be Going Smoothly...Russia Has Already Met These Limits" And "The Two Sides Have Carried Out More Than One Hundred Inspections And Exchanged Almost 6,000 Treaty Notifications." "New START requires both countries to reduce arsenals to no more than 1,550 deployed strategic warheads on 700 deployed strategic missiles and bombers by February 2018. Implementation appears to be going smoothly. Russia has already met these limits, while U.S. strategic forces are moving towards them. The two sides have carried out more than one hundred inspections and exchanged almost 6,000 treaty notifications." [Steven Pifer, Fletcher Forum of World Affairs, [2/4/14](#)]

UNDER SECRETARY CLINTON, THE U.S. SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED TRANSPORT OF LETHAL MATERIEL THROUGH RUSSIA TO SUPPORT THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

Congressional Research Service: “In February 2009, Russia Allowed A Resumption Of Shipment Of Non-Lethal Equipment Into Afghanistan Through Russia.” And This Path “Played A Significant Role In Removing Much U.S. Equipment During The 2014 U.S. Drawdown.” “Russia seeks to contain U.S. power in Central Asia and to prevent the infiltration of radical Islamists based in Afghanistan into Russia. In part acting on the latter interest, Russia cooperated in developing the Northern Distribution Network supply line to Afghanistan. In February 2009, Russia allowed a resumption of shipment of non-lethal equipment into Afghanistan through Russia. (Russia had suspended the shipments in 2008 over differences over the Russia-Georgia conflict.) About half of all ground cargo for U.S. forces in Afghanistan flowed through the Northern Distribution Network from 2011-2014, despite the extra costs as compared to the Pakistan route. The route played a significant role in removing much U.S. equipment during the 2014 U.S. drawdown.” [Congressional Research Service, [2/24/15](#)]

- **Defense News:** Pakistan Had Closed Its Border To The US, Which Forced Them To Rely On Northern Routes Of Transport, Including Through Russia, Even Though They Were Longer And More Expensive. “Pakistan has agreed to reopen its border to NATO supply convoys into Afghanistan after a seven-month blockade, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said July 3, adding Washington was sorry for the loss of life in a botched U.S. air raid last year...The border blockade has forced the United States and its allies to rely on much longer, more expensive northern routes through Central Asia, Russia and the Caucasus. The cost of ferrying supplies by air and over northern railways and roads has cost the U.S. military about \$100 million a month, according to the Pentagon.” [Defense News, [7/3/12](#)]

Associated Press: Following Clinton’s First Visit To Russia As Secretary Of State In October 2009, A Senior Official Confirmed An “Agreement That Allows U.S. Military Planes To Transport Lethal Materiel Over Russia To Afghanistan.” “Clinton’s visit to Moscow is her first since becoming Washington’s top diplomat and since President Barack Obama, who visited Russia in July, vowed to ‘reset’ U.S.-Russia relations. The senior official traveling with Clinton said that there had been some improvements in cooperation, including a recent agreement that allows U.S. military planes to transport lethal materiel over Russia to Afghanistan.” [Associated Press, [10/12/09](#)]

SECRETARY CLINTON WAS AT TIMES AN OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN

Washington Post: Putin Blamed Secretary Clinton For Inciting Protests Against His Administration, Saying “She Set A Tone For Some Of Our Public Figures...They Heard This Signal And Launched Active Work With The U.S. State Department.” “Putin lacerated Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton for questioning the validity of last Sunday’s parliamentary elections and suggested that she had galvanized thousands of protesters by declaring the vote ‘neither free nor fair.’ ‘She set the tone for some of our public figures inside the country, sent a signal to them. They heard this signal and launched active work with the U.S. State Department’s support,’ he said.” [Washington Post, [12/8/11](#)]

Reuters: In A Speech To The Organization For Security And Cooperation In Europe, Secretary Clinton Called Russia’s 2011 Parliamentary Elections “Neither Free Nor Fair.” “‘When authorities fail to prosecute those who attack people for exercising their rights or exposing abuses, they subvert justice and undermine the people’s confidence in their governments,’ Clinton said in a speech at the meeting of the 56-nation OSCE, Europe’s biggest rights watchdog. ‘As we have seen in many places, and most recently in the Duma elections in Russia, elections that are neither free nor fair have the same effect,’ she added, in comments that went a step further than her criticism of the vote on Monday.” [Reuters, [12/6/11](#)]

Los Angeles Times: Secretary Clinton Criticized The Conviction Of Russian Businessman Mikhail Khodorovsky, Saying It “Raises Serious Questions About...The Rule Of Law Being Overshadowed By Political Considerations.” “‘Today’s conviction in the second trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev on charges of embezzlement and money laundering raises serious questions about

selective prosecution -- and about the rule of law being overshadowed by political considerations,' Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in a statement. 'This and similar cases have a negative impact on Russia's reputation for fulfilling its international human rights obligations and improving its investment climate.'" [Los Angeles Times, [12/28/10](#)]

UNDER SECRETARY CLINTON, THE U.S. SECURED RUSSIAN COOPERATION ON IRAN SANCTIONS

Secretary Clinton Announced In May 2010 That China And Russia Had Agreed To Back Sanctions Against Iran Over Its Nuclear Program. "The United States is to begin circulating today at the United Nations in New York a new resolution of sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program and continued enrichment of uranium. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's surprise announcement during Senate testimony Tuesday morning -- and her elaboration that both Russia and China are on board in supporting the new resolution -- is seen in part as a Big Powers' response to a deal struck with Iran Monday by Brazil and Turkey to move a portion of Iran's enriched uranium stockpile out of the country." [Christian Science Monitor, [5/18/10](#)]

The U.N. Security Council Imposed Sanctions On Iran In June 2010 With The Support Of China And Russia. "After several months of grueling diplomacy, the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday imposed a fourth round of sanctions on Iran's military establishment -- a move that the United States and other major powers said should prompt the Islamic Republic to restart stalled political talks over the future of its nuclear program...The administration did succeed in preserving support from China and Russia, although only after assuring them that the measures would not impair their ability to continue trading with Tehran." [Washington Post, [6/10/10](#)]

SECRETARY CLINTON HAS ADVOCATED FOR A RAMPED UP U.S. RESPONSE TO THE RUSSIAN INCURSION INTO CRIMEA, INCLUDING ARMING UKRAINIAN TROOPS

Secretary Clinton: "I Think We Should Be Putting More Financial Support Into The Ukrainian Government...Make It Very Clear That The Money Comes With Certain Strings And That In The Absence Of Accountability, The Money Won't Come." "I think we should be putting more financial support into the Ukrainian government...I think we're smart enough to figure out how we would hold them accountable for that and to make it very clear that the money comes with certain strings and that in the absence of accountability, the money won't come." [Politico, [1/21/15](#)]

Secretary Clinton: "I Do Think We Should Do More To Help Ukraine Defend Its Borders...New Equipment, New Training For The Ukrainians." "I do think we should do more to help Ukraine defend its borders...New equipment, new training for the Ukrainians. The United States plus NATO have been very reluctant to do that, and I understand it completely because it's a very sticky, potentially dangerous, situation. But I think the Ukrainian army and the Ukrainian civilians who've been fighting against the separatists have proven that they're worthy of some greater support." [Politico, [1/21/15](#)]

2016ER VULNERABILITIES

Lindsey Graham Voted Against Allowing New START Treaty Ratification.
[Treaty Doc. 111-5, Vote 298, 111th Congress, [12/22/10](#)]

LIBYA

2016ER ATTACKS

Rand Paul has been the most outspoken critic of Hillary Clinton's foreign policy, accusing her of rushing into war in Libya and then quickly abandoning the country after the fall of Gadhafi—a development he claims helped facilitate security issues like the attack on Benghazi and the rise of ISIL.

RAND PAUL CLAIMED CLINTON'S HANDLING OF THE INTERVENTION IN LIBYA WAS HER "MAIN ACHILLES' HEEL"

Rand Paul Said Hillary Clinton's "Main Achilles' Heel" Was That She Did Not Think Through The "Unintended Consequences" Of Involvement In Libya And Did Not Provide "An Adequate Defense For Our Consulate In Libya." "Her [Hillary Clinton's] main Achilles' heel is that she didn't provide an adequate defense for our consulate in Libya,' Paul said during a trip to Georgia just before the midterms. 'And also, she didn't think through the unintended consequences of getting involved in the Libyan war. So I think you'd have an interesting dynamic, were there a [Republican] nominee that was for less intervention overseas and in the Middle East and that's fiscally conservative. You've never seen that kind of combination before, and I think there's a lot of independent voters, actually, that might be attracted to that kind of message.'" [Politico, [11/9/14](#)]

Rand Paul Referred To U.S. Military Engagement In Libya As "Hillary's War" And Said The Rise Of ISIS Was An Unintended Consequence Of It. "Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) certainly has a knack for boldness. On Sunday's Meet the Press, he dubbed U.S. military engagement in Libya 'Hillary's war' and stated the rise of the Islamic State (ISIS) is not a result of President Obama's inaction in the Middle East but the unintended consequence of the U.S. military engagement in Libya." [Breitbart, [8/27/14](#)]

Rand Paul: "Hillary's War In Libya Allowed Thousands Of Surface-To-Air Missiles To Fall Into The Hands Of Radical Islamists." "Hillary's war in Libya is a perfect example...Hillary's war made us less safe. Libya's less stable, and radical jihadists run amok. They swim in our swimming pool! Hillary's war in Libya allowed thousands of surface-to-air missiles to fall into the hands of radical Islamists. As Hillary was declaring victory in Libya, Ambassador Stevens was pleading for more security." [CPAC Speech, [2/27/15](#)]

CLINTON DEFENSE

SECRETARY CLINTON CLAIMED THAT THE U.S. DID NOT ABANDON LIBYA AFTER INTERVENING TO OUST GADHAFI

Secretary Clinton: "We Did Stick Around" In Libya After Gadhafi Was Ousted, "With Offers Of Money And Technical Assistance...To Border Security, Training." When *The Atlantic's* Jeffrey Goldberg claimed that the U.S. did not stick around for the aftermath of Qaddafi's fall in Libya, Secretary Clinton said: "Well, we did stick around. We stuck around with offers of money and technical assistance, on everything from getting rid of some of the nasty stuff he left behind, to border security, to training." [The Atlantic, [8/10/14](#)]

VISITING LIBYA JUST BEFORE GADHAFI'S DEATH, CLINTON OFFERED U.S. SUPPORT FOR A DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION, CITING U.S. AUSTERITY AS THE REASON AID TOTALS REMAINED LOW

New York Times: In Late 2011, Secretary Clinton "Pledged Political And Economic Support For Libya's Transitional Government." "Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton pledged political and economic support for Libya's transitional government on Tuesday, even as a senior administration official warned that Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi and his loyalists remained 'a lethal nuisance' who could stall the country's evolution... Mrs. Clinton raised a host of issues with Mr. Abdel-Jalil and other Libyan officials, including the consolidation of political control, the prevention of violence against Colonel Qaddafi's supporters and the integration of myriad rebel militias into a new security structure." [New York Times, [10/18/11](#)]

New York Times: Between February And October 2011, “The United States...Contributed \$135 Million In Assistance To Libya’s New Leader...Including Humanitarian Aid And Military Equipment — Though Not Weapons, Which France, Qatar And Other Nations Have Supplied.” “The United States has contributed \$135 million in assistance to Libya’s new leaders since February, including humanitarian aid and military equipment — though not weapons, which France, Qatar and other nations have supplied.” [New York Times, [10/18/11](#)]

- **New York Times: In Late 2011 Secretary Clinton Promised Libya “Medical Equipment And Treatment In The United States For Some Of The Most Gravely Wounded Fighters, Educational And Cultural Exchanges And A Project...To Help Preserve Ancient Ruins.”** “Mrs. Clinton promised more help on Tuesday, including medical equipment and treatment in the United States for some of the most gravely wounded fighters, educational and cultural exchanges and a project with Oberlin College in Ohio to help preserve ancient ruins at Cyrene.” [New York Times, [10/18/11](#)]

New York Times: Secretary Clinton “Said The Relatively Meager Amount Of New Assistance [To Libya] Reflected Not Only Fiscal Austerity At Home...But Also The Fact That Oil-Rich Libya Needed Expertise More Than Cash To Rebuild Its Society And Economy.” “Mrs. Clinton said the relatively meager amount of new assistance reflected not only fiscal austerity at home — she told Mr. Jibril that such aid faced deep opposition in Congress — but also the fact that oil-rich Libya needed expertise more than cash to rebuild its society and economy after four decades under Colonel Qaddafi.” [New York Times, [10/18/11](#)]

FACT CHECKERS HAVE DEBUNKED CLAIMS THAT THE U.S. ALLOWED REBELS TO ACQUIRE THOUSANDS OF SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES AFTER GADHAFI’S FALL

Politifact: Of An Estimated 20,000 Surface-To-Air Missiles That Gadhafi Amassed Over 40 Years, “The United States Recovered 5,000, NATO Destroyed Thousands, The U.S.-Backed Transitional Government Acquired Many, And Many Are Inoperable.” “The 2011 U.S.-backed Libyan uprising -- part of the Arab Spring -- toppled the decades-long dictator Col. Muammar Gaddafi. At the time, the State Department estimated that Gaddafi had amassed about 20,000 MANPADS over 40 years...Of those 20,000 MANPADS -- the United States recovered 5,000, NATO destroyed thousands, the U.S.-backed transitional government acquired many, and many are inoperable. While we know terrorists got their hands on a few, it’s highly unlikely that they have ‘thousands.’” [Politifact, [3/9/15](#)]

2016ER VULNERABILITIES

Christie Said President Obama Had Taken The Leadership Role In Libyan Conflict—“He’s Calling The Shots, And We All Know That.” MORGAN: “Would you like to see a spreading of that load going forward, where America’s not the go-to country -- for military support, for helping out with despotic regimes and so on?” CHRISTIE: “Well, America’s always got to be the leader in that regard.” MORGAN: “Does it have to be?” CHRISTIE: “I think it does --” MORGAN: “I mean, look at Libya and the way President Obama dealt with that. You know, he quite deliberately decided America wasn’t going to be the leader.” CHRISTIE: “Yes. But we really are. I mean, come on, let’s face it, we are. He’s calling the shots, and we all know that. And so, let’s not be kidding because they call it something different. America’s taken the responsibility.” [Piers Morgan Tonight, CNN, 6/14/11]

The Senate Voted 90-10 To Shelve Rand Paul’s Resolution Saying The President Could Not Act Unilaterally In Libya, Which He Forced To The Floor By Threatening To Hold Up Senate Action Until It Was Voted On. “On a 90-to-10 vote, the Senate on Tuesday voted to shelve a resolution proposed by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) on the U.S. involvement in Libya, four days after Paul and a fellow freshman, Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah), threatened to hold up Senate action until Paul’s measure was brought to the floor...The Paul resolution is comprised of one sentence: a statement made by then-Sen. Barack Obama in 2007 that the president cannot unilaterally act on matters of war.” [Washington Post, [4/5/11](#)]

Pence Thanked Secretary Of State Hillary Clinton For Her Efforts To “Isolate Libya During A Time Of Extraordinary Tragedy In The Streets.” “Thank you, Chairman. And I want to thank the Secretary of

State for her testimony and her service to the country. It's good to see you back before the committee. I also want to thank you, specifically, for the efforts by the administration and your offices to further isolate Libya during a time of extraordinary tragedy in the streets, tragedy of which I think we're probably only partially aware. I – I want to continue to encourage and urge the administration to stand with those that are standing in that now bifurcated country to use all means at our disposal to provide support and certainly associate myself with Mr. Royce's comments about isolating radio communications and – and would express appreciation for your efforts at Geneva and elsewhere to facilitate a coordinated -- a coordinated international response, including a no-fly zone. Gadhafi must go. And I'm – I'm grateful to hear the Secretary of State and the administration take that position unambiguously." [Hearing on Assessing U.S. Foreign Policy Priorities and Needs Amidst Economic Challenges, House Foreign Affairs Committee, [3/1/11](#)]

Pence: "I Certainly Support The Decision To Enforce A No-Fly Zone [In Libya] With The Wanton Slaughter Of Civilians That Was Taking Place At The Hands Of Muammar Gaddafi." "COTTO: Let's get into this budget thing, but for starters, because obviously Libya is pretty significant in the news today, can I just get your initial thoughts on us getting involved over there? Do you think it's a good idea? A bad idea? Too late? What are your thoughts? PENCE: Well, I certainly support the decision to enforce a no-fly zone with the wanton slaughter of civilians that was taking place at the hands of Muammar Gaddafi. I think the international community responded in a proper way. I'm disappointed that the President consulted with the UN and didn't consult or seek resolution for the use of force from the Congress. It's also disappointing for me to see us yield the lead role to the French in this matter. I mean, the French are essentially leading the world community in confronting Muammar Gaddafi." [Radio Interview, WLS-AM, [3/21/11](#)]

Rubio Said Congress Should Go Beyond President Obama's State Goals In Libya And Authorize The Removal Of Gadhafi. "While many Republicans have questioned U.S. military strikes in Libya and the Obama administration has emphasized limits on America's role, freshman GOP Sen. Marco Rubio says Congress should go beyond President Obama's stated goals and authorize the removal of Moammar Gadhafi." [Palm Beach Post, 4/1/11]

Rubio Refused To Give The President More Credit On Libya – Insisting It Was To The Credit Of Europe. Asked if the President should get more credit for bring down Gadhafi, Rubio said: "No, let's give credit where it's due. Number one, the French and the British carry the load on this and let's not forget that. Number two, the Libyan people. Actually, I should say it in the reverse. The Libyan people, OK? (Inaudible) -- those Libyans laying in those beds who fought for their freedom and were able to accomplish it. The British, the French and our NATO allies who were involved. I think the president did the right thing. He just took too long to do it and he didn't do enough of it and the proof is in -- is in -- is in -- you see it now before us. What has happened as a result of this being an extended conflict? A number of things. The country is now more beat up. It's going to cost more money to rebuild Libya. You have more people dead. You have more people maimed. And so people that instead of being able to go work have to go to rehab to be able to gain their functionality. You have thousands of rocket -- shoulder fired rockets that are missing all of that because of how long this took in the chaos." [Rubio Media Availability on Jobs, 10/20/11]

Politifact: Rand Paul's Claim That U.S. Intervention In Libya "Allowed Thousands Of Surface-To-Air Missiles To Fall Into The Hands Of Radical Islamists" Is Mostly False. "Paul said that U.S. military involvement in Libya 'allowed thousands of surface-to-air missiles to fall into the hands of radical Islamists.' Experts told us that even though some terrorists are known to have a few Libyan surface-to-air missiles, the idea that they have 'thousands' is extremely unlikely... It's also incorrect to say the United States' military involvement caused these missiles to go missing. The weapon looting began before the United States and NATO showed up. And when they showed up, they destroyed or recovered many thousands. It's arguable that American involvement had the exact opposite effect than what Paul asserts. The statement contains an element of truth but ignores critical facts that would give a different impression, so we rate Paul's claim Mostly False." [Politifact, [3/9/15](#)]