

Jimmy Carter in a Nutshell

Jimmy Carter's favorite President was Barack Obama, for the simple reason that Obama eclipsed Carter as the worst President in the 248-year history of the U.S. (The reputations of both are more than safe after four years of Joe Biden...)

By 1980, after four disastrous years with Carter in office, a joke began circulating in Washington, D.C. that captured the essence of the Carter Administration as no historian or political commentator could ever hope to do. In the interest of brevity, that joke will suffice as Carter's *Obituary* in these pages because it's all he really deserves:



James Earl Carter, Jr.

Jimmy Carter dies and goes to Heaven, where he meets many famous people including all former U.S. Presidents. One day Carter runs into Teddy Roosevelt and they immediately begin comparing notes on their experiences in the *Oval Office*.

TR asks Carter if anything momentous happened while he was president, to which Carter replied that yes, in 1979 the Soviet Union, which TR knew as the *Russians*, invaded Afghanistan -- a neighboring and sovereign nation -- and then executed its central government before installing a “*puppet*” regime.



Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan in 1979

TR became flustered, grew red in the face and in a tense voice asked if Carter had sent in the Marines? Instead, Carter replied that no, he opted not to use force, and merely prohibited our American athletes from participating in the *1980 Moscow Olympics* as a sanction.

TR shook his head in disbelief and befuddlement, but continued the conversation. He then asked Carter in a strained voice if anything *else* had happened that was noteworthy? Carter replied that yes, in 1979 the nation of Iran -- which TR knew as the *Persians* -- seized our Embassy in Tehran, then kidnapped 53 of our diplomatic personnel and held them hostage for 444 days.

Hearing this, TR turned bright red, his eyes began to bulge and he roared, “*Well, you sent in the Marines this time, didn’t you Jimmy?*” To

this Carter responded, *“No, we encouraged all Americans to tie yellow ribbons around trees and lamp-posts in protest.”*



Kidnap of U.S. Embassy Personnel by Iranian Militants in 1979

After a few moments of silence, TR began chuckling quietly to himself before he turned to Carter and bellowed:

*“OH COME ON JIMMY, NOW I KNOW YOU’RE PULLING MY LEG: NEXT, YOU’LL BE TELLING ME YOU GAVE AWAY THE **PANAMA CANAL** !”*

Earl Holt III