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Obama says Americans too 'lazy' to explore the world, triggers backlash at home

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08/09/2016



President Barack Obama says Americans are so uninterested in the rest of the world because they are “lazy” and don’t feel like knowing about “other people.” His remarks have not gone unnoticed at home, where angered Americans suggested he stay abroad.

*“[...] We are such a big country we haven’t always had to know about other parts of the world,” Obama told a Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) town hall. “If you are in Laos, you need to know about Thailand and China and Cambodia, because you are a small country and they are right next door and you need to know who they are.”*

*“If you are in the United States,” Obama continued, “sometimes you can feel lazy and think, ‘You know we are so big we don’t have to really know anything about other people.’”*

*“That’s part of what I’m trying to change,” Obama added.*

At the same time, Obama did not forget to flatter Laotians. After calling Americans “lazy” twice, once in reference to acting on climate change, he said that Laos has the “youngest population” and the fastest growing economy, which Americans could in fact learn from.

*“If we are not here interacting and learning from you, and understanding the culture of the region, then we will be left behind,” Obama said. “We will miss an opportunity, and I don’t want that to happen. Okay?”*

Sabaidii, Laos! Honored to be the first U.S. president to visit Laos and to begin a new partnership between our countries.

— President Obama (@POTUS) [September 6, 2016](#)

While the Laos town hall exploded in applause, the internet burned in anger.

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Americans turned to Twitter to let their frustration out, accusing the president of being “*anti-American*.”

Some people on the social media have even suggested that maybe Obama should stay in Laos if he likes it so much.

SO DONE WITH [@POTUS](#) and his lies to Americans. Has the nerve to call us racist & lazy in Laos. Stay there Obama. AMERICA doesn't want you!!

— Kathy Orozco (@kathyorozco25) [September 7, 2016](#)

Anti-American and Cowardly Obama Waits Until He's Overseas to call the American People... <https://t.co/FAhvM4P67mpic.twitter.com/Wx1KA3YCNT>

— Obama Updates (@obamolizer) [September 7, 2016](#)

Others have said that Obama just hates Americans...

Obama hates Americans - calls us lazy <https://t.co/ejXqULbqLn>

— Prudence (@DearPrudence310) [September 7, 2016](#)

Think Obama can't offend and disparage America any more than he already has? Think again!...

<https://t.co/1lj3GMSbIY>

— Chip Woods (@chipwoods) [September 7, 2016](#)

Obama in Laos calls Americans lazy because we're not falling for his climate change crap? The sight & sound of this wicked man is repulsive!

— Take Back USA (@SetUSAFree) [September 7, 2016](#)

There were also those who suggested that Obama really meant just himself, as they recalled him golfing on vacation while Louisiana was going underwater during the recent flooding.

CORRECTION, OBAMA IS THE LAZY ONE. PLAYING GOLF AND LAVISH VACATIONS DURING OFFICE SEEM TO BE HIS PRIORITY. <https://t.co/qoUzoq5hbr>

— Angie (@votetrumpvote) [September 7, 2016](#)

How dare obama say Americans are lazy! We're not the ones playing golf during a natural disaster that affected "his people". you hypocrite

— Steve C (@360hemi) [September 7, 2016](#)

(Someone even bothered to count all the rounds Obama played in the past eight years)

WOW, America is Lazy? This from a so called leader who has played 186 rounds of golf since becoming POTUS. <https://t.co/3Hf85t4joV>

— Brian Matthew (@bricrem2) [September 7, 2016](#)