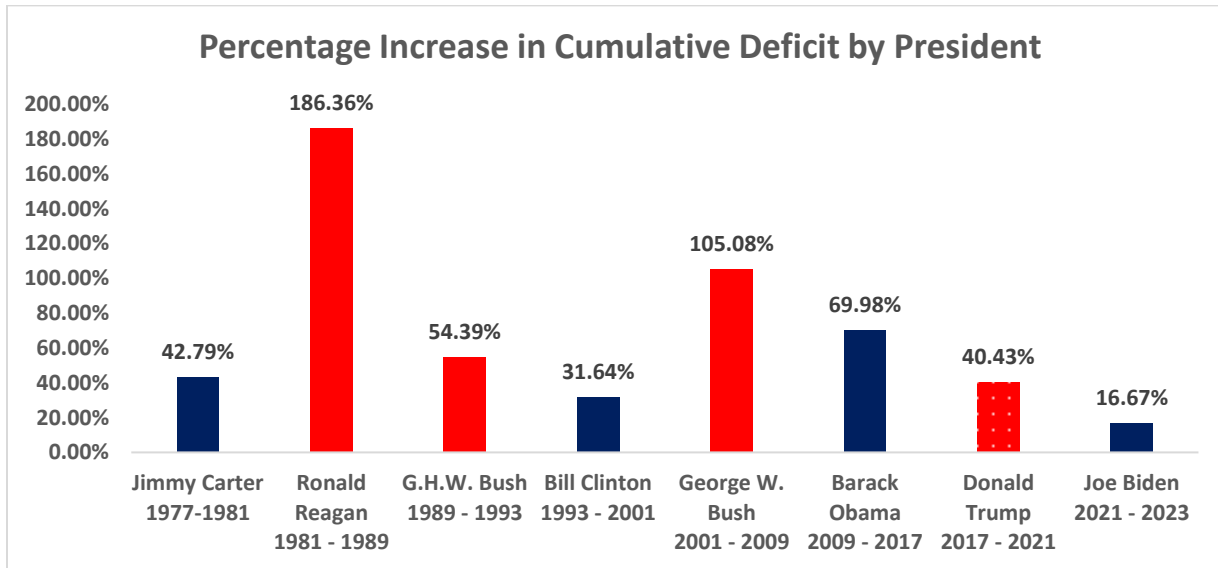


The Delray Democrat

“There You Go Again”¹

Michael K. Cantwell

With the economy generating nothing but good news, get ready for Republicans to begin yowling about the deficit. But they are the real budget busters. Next to blowing up the economy, it’s what they do best.

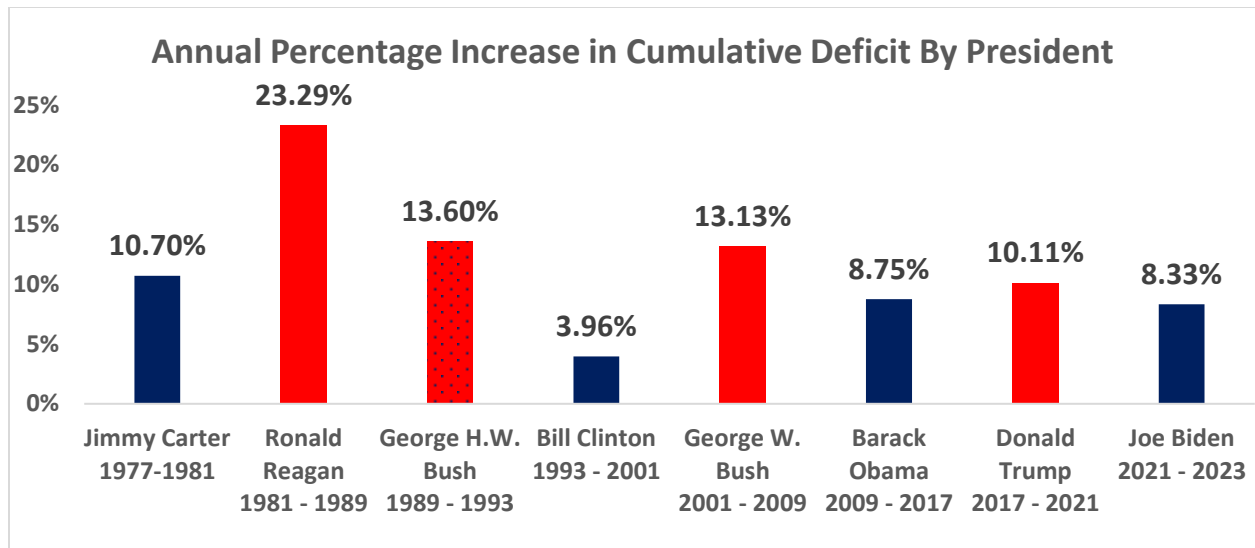


Even a casual glance at either chart reveals that Republicans are the real deficit busters, making their selective silence when a Republican president is exploding the deficit all the more hypocritical. Moreover, the Democratic president who they target is usually in the process of cleaning up the mess left by his Republican predecessor.

For example, despite inheriting three straight annual budget surpluses from Bill Clinton, the feckless George W. Bush bequeathed Barack Obama the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression. Nearly 3.5 million jobs were lost in the final 6 months of Bush’s term, and an additional 5 million were lost before Obama’s stimulus began to right the economy. When 8 million fewer people are out of work, they are not paying taxes and government is spending money to help them, a natural recipe for exploding the deficit.

Despite the 5 million jobs lost in his initial year, Obama left office with more than 12.5 Americans Not only are the three worst budget busters Republicans (while the three best stewards are Democrats), the Republicans don’t only rack up deficits while in office. They contribute to their predecessors’ deficits by leaving them economic disasters to clean up.

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), February-March 2024, page 2.



See the pattern? As did Bush, Donald Trump inherited a strong economy from his predecessor and left his successor an economy that was in tatters. He cannot be blamed for Covid (which I once correctly [mused](#) might be the *deus ex machina* that would end the Greek tragedy that was his presidency), but his colossal incompetence in responding to the pandemic left Biden with the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression and the worst public health crisis in over a century.