In October of 2001, American forces dropped into Afghanistan, overthrowing the Taliban government there and driving al-Qaeda into hiding in Pakistan.

In March of 2003, American forces invaded Iraq, overthrowing Saddam Hussein, and attempting to install a democratic government.

And only a last-minute surge of 30,000 more troops into Iraq kept the country from disintegrating into civil war.

But stiff Taliban resistance and Pashtun guerrillas kept U.S. forces from pacifying Afghanistan, or finding al-Qaeda leaders.
But it wasn’t all foreign wars. President Bush had an ambitious domestic policy, too. It went about as well as the wars did. Initial success … then increasing resistance.

And what policy there was got blown away in the wind of Hurricane Katrina, which drowned New Orleans (and killed over 1,800 people) on August 29, 2005.

In 2007, the sub-prime mortgage market took a hit … and in the autumn of 2008, it blew up the U.S. banking system, triggering the biggest stock-market crash since 1929.

Two wars, a hurricane, and a financial crisis made it the Democrats’ year in 2008. Barack Obama of Chicago, only the fifth black Senator in U.S. history …

... became the first black president in U.S. history. Maybe this can end well, after all.