

## Liebe Lehrerinnen und Lehrer,

in diesem **Themenheft** werden wichtige Persönlichkeiten aus Politik und Gesellschaft vorgestellt, wie z. B. Barack Obama und Ketanji Brown Jackson. Weiterhin werden die *Jim Crow Laws* als Grundlage für systematischen Rassismus und Chancenungleichheit gegenüber Afroamerikaner:innen erläutert. Die Bedeutung der *Jim Crow Laws* für das reale Leben von Afroamerikaner:innen in den USA wird an einem konkreten historischen Beispiel aufgezeigt. Den Abschluss des Heftes bildet eine Einheit über Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Ein besonderes Plus dieses Heftes ist die Materialvielfalt: Sachtexte, Videos, Podcasts, Cartoons, Infografiken und Trainingseinheiten inkl. Lösungen festigen das Verständnis und bereiten u. a. auf den Mittleren Schulabschluss (MSA) im Fach Englisch vor.

Anhand von Text 2 wird die Fertigkeit Hören trainiert. Die Audiodateien (mp3 Files) finden Sie als Download auf unserer Homepage unter: <https://www.sprachzeitungen.de/extra-audios-englisch>

Viel Erfolg und einen interessanten sowie abwechslungsreichen Unterricht wünscht

*Ihre Englisch-Redaktion*

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# Obama – What He Meant Then and Now

BY SAMUEL CHESNEY

**1** IN THE LEAD-UP to the 2004 election cycle, a young senator from Illinois was asked if he would ever plan on running for president. I remember hoping he would say “yes” because I had never seen a politician so well-spoken and comfortable in front of the camera. However, he answered in the negative. I was just a young teenager at the time. However, I asked my father who this man was because I planned to keep an eye out for him in the future. He told me that the man I was watching was Senator Barack Obama. Little did I know that I would be seeing a lot more of him in the years to come.

**2** Three years later, in 2007, Obama announced that he would run for president of the United States. I knew this was a big moment. Although he was not the first African American to run for president or to be considered as a possible candidate of a party, something felt different. There was momentum and a desire for change. After the Bush Presidency and errant wars in multiple countries, we needed something new.

**3** Barack Obama was a candidate who could rally different constituencies. He sent a clear signal to minority voters, young and old, that they would be heard. His first election in 2008 was an ecstatic time. Voters had not only the chance to change the future but also the opportunity to make history by electing the first African American president of the United States. The infatuation that Obama’s voters felt for him was also reflected in the enormous crowd in Chicago that celebrated his election victory in November 2008. This momentous occasion was also so close to home as friends traveled with their families to Washington DC the following January to witness the inauguration of the first Black president of the United States of America.

**4** His election as president was a historical moment, given the fraught history of the country regarding race and discrimination. It was also a reemergence of the United States on the world stage. A new, fresh face unlike typical winners of elections in Western society would now represent the US at international meetings and forums. The bitter taste of the years of war and mismanagement that preceded Obama’s presidency would hopefully be redeemed by real change and good faith dialogue. People at home were optimistic that the country could finally move beyond its troubled past.

**5** The first challenges for Obama’s presidency were the



**Barack Obama.** | PHOTO: Getty Images

2008 recession as well as the Occupy Movement, which was the first large political movement of my generation. Though these issues stemmed from problems inherited from the previous presidency, they were a test for young people as to whether or not they would be heard. The difficult years following the Great Recession had already caused Obama’s popularity to slump by the time he was due for re-election. He was having trouble convincing young people to have hope with promises that things would soon get better.

**6** In other arenas, however, he was exactly what many were hoping for. One of his first executive actions was a breath of fresh air, no pun intended – Obama recognized climate change as a real threat to humanity and to the future of young people as well as generations to come. The Affordable Care Act (ACA), which was passed in 2010, was a step in the right direction that many Americans needed, especially young Americans trying to make a future for themselves after the recession. Although the law left a lot wanting, many young people employed by small businesses saw it as a positive change.

**7** Obama also had a rough time with other domestic issues throughout his presidency. He had to plead for gun control measures in the wake of the Sandy Hook Shooting and was not able to capitalize on the Black Lives Matter movement after the numerous murders of unarmed Black men and women at the hands of law enforcement. One unfulfilled

**0-3** IN THE lead-up to im Vorfeld — **election cycle** Wahlen — **to run for the executive office** für das Präsidentenamt kandidieren — **momentum** Dynamik — **errant** fehlgeleitet — **to rally** mobilisieren — **constituency** Wählergruppe — **infatuation** Vernarrtheit — **momentous** bedeutsam — **to be close to home** (fig) von persönlicher Bedeutung sein — **inauguration** Amtseinführung

**4-5** **fraught** problematisch — **reemergence** Rückkehr — **to precede** s.th. etw. vorangehen — **tenure** Amtszeit — **to redeem** wiedergutmachen — **to stem from** s.th. auf etw. zurückzuführen sein — **as to whether or not ...** ob ... oder nicht — **to slump** stark sinken  
**6** **arena** Bereich — **no pun intended** kein Wortspiel beabsichtigt — **executive action** Amtshandlung — **ACA** US-Bundesge-

setz, das den Zugang zur Krankenversicherung regelt — **to leave a lot wanting** (fig) viel zu wünschen übrig lassen

**7** **domestic** innenpolitisch — **to plead for** s.th. inständig um etw. bitten — **in the wake of** nach — **to capitalize on** s.th. h.: aus etw. politischen Nutzen ziehen — **at the hands of** durch — **law enforcement** Polizei — **operational** in Betrieb —

promise that follows him to this day is that the Guantánamo Bay prison is still open and operational. However, he did end the war in Iraq, which had plagued the younger generations of Americans. Also, the economy did recover as he promised.

**8** Obama's legacy is complicated, especially given the events that have unfolded since he left office. He had shortcomings, as every leader of every country will inevitably have, but he was no stiff in a suit. Whether he was singing Al Green at the podium or playing along at the White House Correspondents' Dinner, he brought new life into the presidency. And we, at least those who voted for him, were aware of the opposing forces in the government that kept him from

accomplishing most things on his to-do list. Republicans limited the scope of the ACA, preventing Obama from making affordable healthcare accessible to all Americans. They also refused to go forward with Obama's nomination of a potential Supreme Court justice in the final months of his presidency.

**9** His was a presidency of national and international ups and downs. He will forever be remembered as the first African American president. But he will also be remembered as improving the international relations of the United States, its economy, and the lives of its citizens. His presidency was one in which the country seemed to, at least slowly, turn in the right direction.

to plague belasten

**8-9** legacy Erbe — to unfold s. zutragen  
— shortcoming Fehler — inevitably  
zwangsläufig — stiff in a suit (coll) steife(r)  
Anzugträger(in) — to play along mit-

machen; h.: e-n humorvollen Auftritt hinle-  
gen — White House Correspondents' Din-  
ner jährliche Benefizveranstaltung von  
Journalisten(-innen), die über das Weiße  
Haus berichten — opposing forces gegneri-

sche Kräfte — scope Geltungsbereich —  
Supreme Court justice Richter(in) am  
Obersten Gerichtshof der USA

# 1 Watch the video "President Barack Obama's Best Moments on Camera."

Match the years with what happened (a–i). You can either scan the QR code or use the link to watch the video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-EUBjOtRGaY>




After you have watched the video, fill in the years in the list below.

2008 • 2009 • 2010 • 2011 • 2012 • 2013 • 2014 • 2015 • 2016

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin have hamburgers at a restaurant among regular customers.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden run laps inside the White House to do sport while working.
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ President Obama and his wife Michelle impress the audience with a romantic dance live on stage.
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ President Obama dances with TV host Ellen DeGeneres on her late-night show.
- e) \_\_\_\_\_ While speaking at a funeral, President Obama sings Amazing Grace.
- f) \_\_\_\_\_ After receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, President Obama thanks his daughter for keeping things in perspective.
- g) \_\_\_\_\_ President Obama says his final goodbye at a White House event, literally dropping the mic.
- h) \_\_\_\_\_ While he is explaining his policies live from the White House Garden, Obama supports a pregnant woman who is about to faint.
- i) \_\_\_\_\_ While meeting with citizens on the street, President Obama calms a crying baby by taking her in his arms and rocking her.

- 2 **Online** Read the text “Obama – What He Meant Then and Now.” Then decide if the statements about the text are true (T), false (F), or not in the text (N). Mark your answers.

Statements	T	F	N
a) Before running for president, Barack Obama served as US Senator.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b) During the Bush Presidency, tens of thousands of US soldiers died.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c) Barack Obama started work as US president in November 2008.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d) For many Americans, President Obama represented a hope for change.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e) The Occupy Movement was mainly active on the east coast of the USA.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f) During his presidency, Obama’s Climate Action Plan was often updated.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g) Obama couldn’t tackle the economic recession successfully.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h) The Affordable Care Act was his greatest achievement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i) Republicans refused to work together with President Obama.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- 3  What information does the text provide on the following prompts? Take short notes, and compare them with a partner.

- a) ACA (*five details*)

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- b) War in Iraq (*two details*)

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- 4 Find information online about two of the prompts below, which are only mentioned in the text but not explained.

- a) Guantánamo Bay prison

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**b) The Supreme Court**

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**c) Sandy Hook Shooting**

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**5 Find synonyms from the text for the words given below. The paragraphs where you can find the words are indicated in parentheses.**

- a) but      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 1)
- b) wish      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 2)
- c) many      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 2)
- d) to alter      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 3)
- e) huge      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 3)
- f) difficult      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 4)
- g) talk      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 4)
- h) history      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 4)
- i) earlier      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 5)
- j) to fall      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 5)
- k) problem(s)      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 5)
- l) danger      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 6)
- m) hard      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 7)
- n) to finish      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 7)
- o) stage      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 8)
- p) last      ➞ \_\_\_\_\_ (para. 8)

**6 Match the words from the text with the most suitable definitions.**

Write the correct letters in the grid. The paragraph where you can find the word is indicated in parentheses.

a) senator (para. 1)	A joyful and exciting
b) to announce (para. 2)	B different, unfair treatment based on race, gender, etc.
c) ecstatic (para. 3)	C to realize or be aware that something is true
d) to witness (para. 3)	D to say something publicly and officially
e) discrimination (para. 4)	E carrying no weapon
f) to precede (para. 4)	F all the people of around the same age
g) generation (para. 5)	G the way in which something develops
h) to recognize (para. 6)	H to finish something successfully
i) direction (para. 6)	I politician elected to represent a US state in the senate
j) domestic (para. 7)	J to come or happen before something else
k) unarmed (para. 7)	K related to or happening inside a country
l) to accomplish (para. 8)	L to see something with one's own eyes

a) \_\_\_\_ b) \_\_\_\_ c) \_\_\_\_ d) \_\_\_\_ e) \_\_\_\_ f) \_\_\_\_ g) \_\_\_\_ h) \_\_\_\_

i) \_\_\_\_ j) \_\_\_\_ k) \_\_\_\_ l) \_\_\_\_

**7 Online Use a word from the same word family as the words at the end of the lines to fill in the gaps.**

On November 4, 2008, Senator Barack Hussein Obama II. from Chicago, Illinois, was (1) \_\_\_\_\_ the 44th US president. His (2) \_\_\_\_\_ campaign was a sensation because he became the first African (3) \_\_\_\_\_ president in the history of the country.

Obama was (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in Hawaii in 1961 and spent part of his (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in Jakarta, Indonesia, where his mother's second husband used to live and work. After (6) \_\_\_\_\_ in with his grandparents in Hawaii again, Obama graduated as one of the (7) \_\_\_\_\_ students from high school in 1979, and he secretly

ELECTION

SUCCESS

AMERICA

BEAR

CHILD

MOVEMENT

GOOD

(8) \_\_\_\_\_ of a professional basketball career.

However, he enrolled at university and eventually studied to become a

(9) \_\_\_\_\_.

In Chicago, his new hometown, he worked at a law firm,

(10) \_\_\_\_\_ at the local university, and became politically

(11) \_\_\_\_\_ for the presidential campaign of

Democratic nominee Bill Clinton in 1992. This was the start of Obama's career

in (12) \_\_\_\_\_ : he served in the Illinois Senate from

1996 to 2004, (13) \_\_\_\_\_ a successful campaign for a

seat in the US Senate until 2008, and then (14) \_\_\_\_\_

to announce his candidacy for president of the USA. In the presidential race

of 2008, Obama (15) \_\_\_\_\_ Republican candidate John McCain

and then (16) \_\_\_\_\_ the USA for two terms until 2016.

DREAMER

LAW

TEACHER

ACTIVIST

POLITICIAN

RUNNER

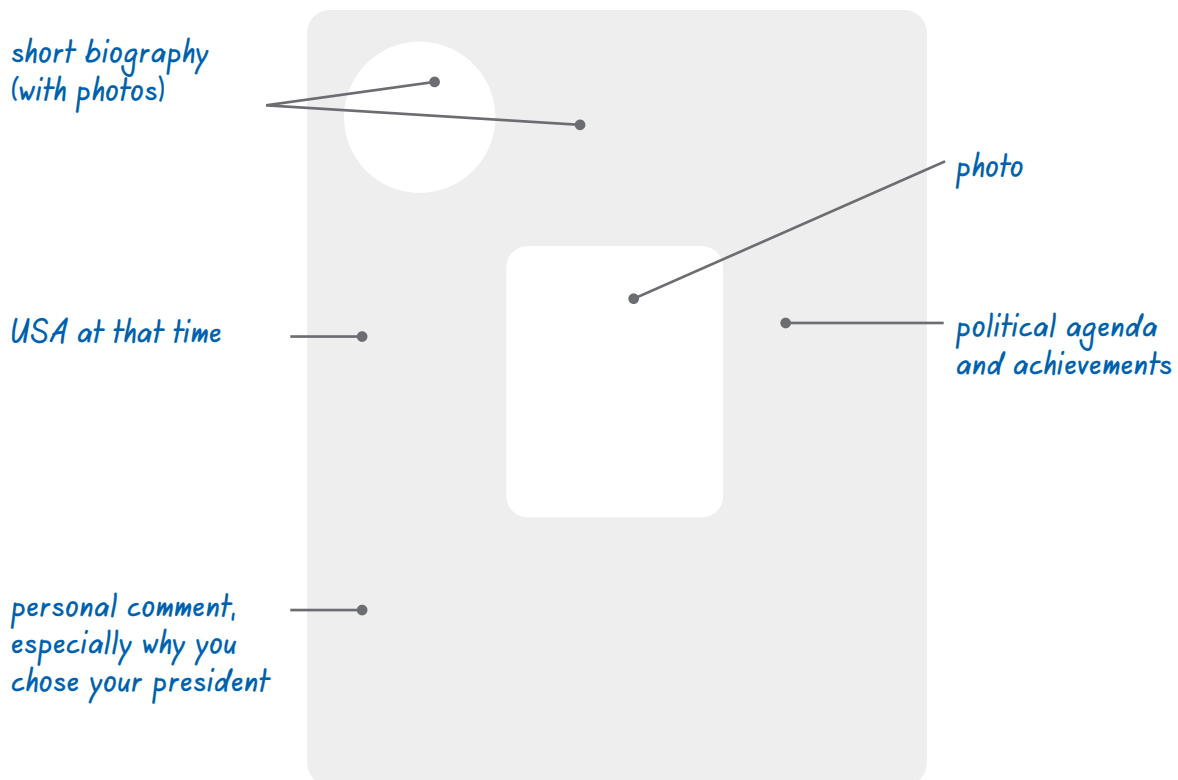
DECISION


BEAT

LEADING

### 8 Find information about another US president who you think is interesting.

Make a large poster, for example, in A3 format, about this president. It may look like the template below, but feel free to completely design it yourself. Then show it to the group, and inform everyone about the president you chose.



- 9  What are today's most important political issues? Collect as many ideas as you can, and make a list. Compare with your partner.

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- 10 Now decide on one issue that both of you find important. Write a short text about this issue and why you chose it.

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