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## The Obama Administration's First 100 Days

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DUBAI • SINGAPORE

**January 20, 2009:**  
President Barack Obama takes the Oath of Office during the swearing-in ceremony at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knV0A4tEBR8&feature=related>



### First 100 Days




*"The first 100 days is going to be important, but it's probably going to be the first 1,000 days that makes the difference."*  
- President Obama

### First 100 Days

Since FDR, the first 100 days have been used as a benchmark to measure the early success of a president. Obama has been formally creating his presidential footprint during his first 100 days.

### First 100 Days



**Note:** There are >5,000 articles about Obama's First 100 Days, and many portals on the major news programs (CNN, Fox, CBS, etc.) devoted to it. Except for Lincoln & Roosevelt, most presidents have not faced this level of urgency to have an impact.

### First 100 Days Approval Ratings

**President Obama Approval Rating:**

Approve	62%
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**US Congress Approval Rating:**

Approve	32%
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### First 100 Days Approval Ratings Comparison Chart Presidents

Year	President	Approval Rating
1953	Eisenhower	73%
1961	Kennedy	83%
1969	Nixon	62%
1977	Carter	63%
1981	Reagan	68%
1989	Bush	56%
1993	Clinton	55%
2001	Bush	62%
2009	Obama	62%

### First 100 Days Approval Ratings Comparison Chart Congress

Year	Congress	Approval Rating
1977	Carter	31%
1981	Reagan	33%
1989	Bush I	42%
1993	Clinton	35%
2001	Bush II	50%
2009	Obama	32%

#### January 22, 2009:

Obama directs government to close Guantanamo Bay prison within one year.



#### January 30, 2009:

Obama telephones Chinese President Hu Jintao to discuss the need to correct global trade imbalances, how to combat the world economic meltdown, and ways to work together on NK & Iran



#### February 17, 2009:

Obama signs US\$787bn economic stimulus legislation; orders deployment of up to 17,000 additional troops to Afghanistan



#### February 19, 2009:

Obama meets Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper during his 1<sup>st</sup> foreign trip as president



**February 24, 2009:**

Obama meets Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso, first foreign dignitary invited to the White House; Obama addresses joint session of Congress



**February 27, 2009:**

Obama announces the end of the Iraq War in August 2010



**March 9, 2009:**

Obama repeals Bush's restrictions on federal funding of embryonic stem cell research



**March 19, 2009:**

Obama travels to California, touring an electric car facility; conducts town hall meeting; appears on Jay Leno



Obama on Leno:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMRkQPMmo7k&feature=channel>

**March 29, 2009:**

Obama orders Rick Wagoner, CEO of GM, to leave the company



**April 1, 2009:**

Obama meets Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, announces that both the USA & Russia will seek reductions in the two countries' nuclear arsenals



**April 2, 2009:**  
Obama attends G20 Summit in London



**April 4, 2009:**  
Obama meets the North Atlantic Council of NATO



**April 5, 2009:**  
Obama addresses audience in Prague that the US seeks a nuclear-free world



**April 7, 2009:**  
Obama visits US troops in Iraq; meets Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki & Iraqi President Jalal Talabani



**April 12, 2009:**  
Obama approves an operation for US Navy commandos to end a hostage standoff near the coast of Somalia; 3 pirates killed

**Pirate standoff heats up**

Somali pirates holding a U.S. hostage are demanding ransom while several ships with fellow pirates may be headed to the hostage scene.

- Foreign vessels captured by pirates enroute to lifeboat with U.S. captain in standoff with U.S. Navy destroyer
- Ships include German cargo ship, Taiwanese fishing vessel
- More than 50 crew held hostage on ships may be used in negotiations; citizens of China, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, the Philippines, Tuvalu, Indonesia, Taiwan

© 2009 MCT  
Source: ESPN, AP, Reuters  
Graphic: Judy Treibler

**April 13, 2009:**  
Obama loosens restrictions on travel and remittances for Americans with relatives in Cuba



**April 17, 2009:**

Obama attends the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad & Tobago



**April 29, 2009:**

Obama gives speeches on Day 100



Obama First 100 Days speeches:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txBh-vYgb-E&feature=channel>

## Obama as a Leader

**Vision & Communication:** Obama has articulated short-term and long-term goals for America regarding the economy, environment, education, healthcare, foreign policy, *etc.* He has been called “The Great Communicator” because he has communicated consistently, candidly, and thoughtfully and has also made himself heard outside of Washington D.C. (for example, being a guest on the Jay Leno show).



## Obama as a Leader

**Team Building:** Obama has brought together a diverse team who are unafraid to assert strong, sometimes opposing ideas.



Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State



Robert Gates  
Secretary of Defense



Arne Duncan  
Secretary of Education



Timothy Geithner  
Secretary of Treasury



Larry Summers  
Economic Advisor

## Obama as a Leader

**Authenticity:** Obama comes across as genuine, he is almost “cool” in his demeanor, naturally reserved, but his wife is perceived as warm and down-to-earth.



## Obama as a Leader

**Resilience:** Unclear whether Obama is resilient, but the way he managed and persevered in his presidential campaign indicates he has capacity for resilience. However, his ability to champion unpopular causes may be a challenge going forward.



## Obama's Administration & Singapore



"You can count on Singapore as a friend and a partner."  
-Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, upon Obama's election victory



## Obama's Administration & Singapore

US-Singapore relations are excellent:

1. Free Trade Agreement
2. Strategic Framework Agreement on Security Matters

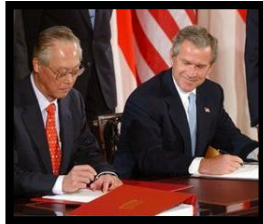


## Obama's Administration & Singapore

### Free Trade Agreement Facts:

Date: May 6, 2003

- ❖ USA's 1<sup>st</sup> FTA with Asian country
- ❖ 1300 USA companies in Singapore
- ❖ 15,000 USA citizens in Singapore



- ❖ USA is largest investor in Singapore (2007 FDI US\$82.6 billion)
- ❖ USA: Singapore's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest trading partner
- ❖ Singapore: USA's 16<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner

## Obama's Administration & Singapore

### Free Trade Agreement Mutual Benefits:

1. US law firms can create joint ventures to practice Singapore law
2. Singapore eliminates all tariffs on USA imports; USA eliminates 92% and then the rest by 2011
3. Allowed for easier movement of citizens between countries (less restrictive visa requirements, longer stays, etc.)



## Obama's Administration & Singapore

### Strategic Framework Agreement on Security Matters:

Date: July 12, 2005



### Areas of cooperation:

- ❖ Counterterrorism, counter-proliferation, joint military exercises and training, disaster management, policy dialogues, defense technology
- ❖ Implementation will be carried out jointly by the Department of State (USA) and the Ministry of Defense (Singapore)



## Remaining Challenges: Economy

### First 50 Days:

Dow Jones dropped 32% (Jan 20: 9600; March 9: 6500)

### Second 50 Days:

Dow Jones rose 28% (March 9: 6500; May 22: 8300)

### Credit Markets:

As of May 19, they are showing signs of improving, but still a long way to go before returning to pre-crisis levels.

### Bottom line:

Now the economy has become less about what Obama inherited and more about his responsibility for actions he's taken.



## Remaining Challenges: Foreign Policy

### War in Iraq / Afghanistan:

Can Obama truly bring it to an end?

### Relationship with China:

Can Obama establish a strong relationship with China so they can cooperate on the financial crisis, global warming, and regional security?

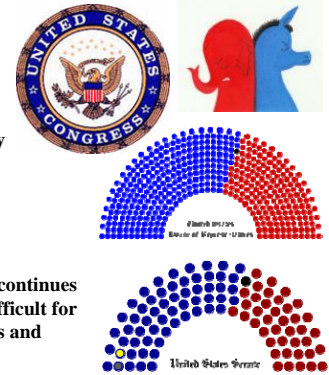
### North Korea & Iran:

Can Obama promote a nuclear-free agenda and simultaneously engage both nations?



## Remaining Challenges: Bipartisanship

Not entirely successful; very few **Republicans** voted YES on the economic recovery & reinvestment package; partisan polarization is above average at the 100 Day mark, and it is worrisome because the partisan gap usually *increases* over the course of an administration.



**Bottom line:** if polarization continues to increase, it could prove difficult for Obama to implement policies and make real changes.

## Political Polarization at 100 Days

President	Democrat Approval	Republican Approval	Partisan Gap
Eisenhower (R)	64%	87%	23%
Kennedy (D)	89%	60%	29%
Johnson (D)	82%	67%	15%
Nixon (R)	49%	83%	34%
Ford (R)	41%	67%	26%
Carter (D)	73%	48%	25%
Reagan (R)	46%	91%	45%
Bush I (R)	42%	81%	39%
Clinton (D)	82%	25%	57%
Bush II (R)	31%	93%	62%
Obama (D)	91%	28%	63%

## Where is George W. Bush?



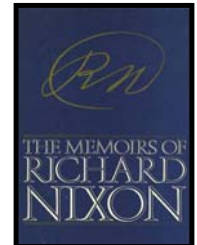
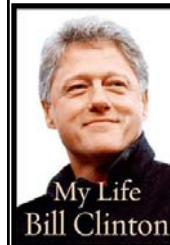
## Where is George W. Bush?

George & Laura Bush bought a house in **Erwin Hollow, Texas**



## Where is George W. Bush?

Bush is writing a book, tentatively titled "**Decision Points**" which will be published in 2010 by Crown Books (Random House). The book chronicles 12 difficult personal & political decisions he faced during his presidency.



## Where is George W. Bush?

**March 17, 2009:**

Bush gave a speech in Calgary, Canada; stated he would not criticize Obama and hopes he succeeds and that Obama deserves his office.



## Thank You! Any Questions?

