

Barack Obama

The Physiognomic Summary

Nearly 400 years ago, the first Africans landed in America, as slaves.

Now, for the first time, America has elected an Afro-American to the Office of President. There have indeed been dark-skinned people in the top US positions, like Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice as Secretary of State, or Kofi Annan as Secretary-General of the United Nations. However, racially based prejudices are still not a thing of the past. As part of the spectacular election of Barack Obama on Nov. 4th 2008, evidently more than 10 percent of the white voters did not vote because of race. If only Caucasians had voted then Obama would not have been elected, but rather the Republican candidate, John McCain, a 72-year-old cancer patient, who in the event of his death would have been replaced by his problematic Vice President, Sarah Palin (b. 1964). We do not want to examine, if positioning McCain as their top candidate was thoughtlessness, inability, or bad faith on the part of the Republicans. Possibly, it was a bit of all three.

Barack Obama is active, decisive and energetic. The svelte, long shape and the compact, determined facial features indicate this. He is very active, however, he is not athletically muscular, rather bone thin. As the bones confer control and durability to the overall constitution, so he also has self-control, internal durability and directive force in the psychological sense. Together with his powerfully deep voice and habitually earnest friendliness, this functions very suggestively and disarmingly. He has shown the American people and the world that it is possible to persuade millions of people in a relatively short period of time. One might assume that with such characteristics, he will benefi-



1 Barack Obama (b. 1961; Juras Dr.; Senator, Ill., D) while speaking during the election campaign at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY on Oct. 15th 2008 (Keystone)

cially affect many discussion partners, namely those with an, at least, neutral and honest disposition. Others will want to test him, his resolution under pressure and his resilience in hostile environments. It should be assumed that he is aware of this. It should also be assumed that he wants to influence foreign policy issues which have an inherently oppositional and aggressive component, all the same with his personal charm rather than with oppressive equipment. Assuredly, this last will create a powerful and stubborn domestic opposition for him. On the other hand, it should be assumed that he knows that a good reputation in political issues initially receives it weight from the might standing behind him.

The sophistication and refinement manifested in the body shape, the hands as well as the face, give him a finer edge in discourse with his friends and opponents to a certain extent. For this reason, it should also be assumed that he is likely to avoid militaristic negotiations. Less is likely to be said about the “Roguish States” and “Axis of Evil” in the near term.

As part of the indicated physical and psychological constitution, Obama has a harmonious frame of mind. Most importantly, it is this special characteristic, which leads to comparisons with earlier Presidents J. F. Kennedy and F. D. Roosevelt. It is also this, which permits people to hope that he will correct some things for the better and open the way into a better future.

The easily recognized, skewed characteristics of his face, to an extent the nose, the position of the ears and eyes, do not harm the overall appearance of normal harmony. Rather, they show that he, in turn, as part of a congenial and well-intending communication style, can be thoroughly provocative, challenging, oppositional and pushing, even dictatorial.

Obama is also disposed towards upholding an appropriately worthy image in all situations. To this end, one is seldom able to note omissions and lack of self-control, open anger and rage, open hate or anything of this nature.

This personal discipline and talent for presentation can be recognized in his long mid-facial features. In

addition, this, the nasal formation and the tension in these features indicate an exceptional talent for organization.

The formation of the forehead and the expression of the eyes indicate a particular intelligence. It points less to the intelligence of a scientist, but rather that of a person, who has been gifted with special abilities in memorization, logical thinking and oratory power. These features bring basic humanity and the social aspect of well-intended thinking and planning to the fore. He will have a tendency to attach a higher priority to social concerns than to military ones. He can be expected to minimize the war budget for the benefit of social and cultural concerns. He seems to understand the importance of education for global competition and for the operation of a democracy.

One can characterize his mental disposition and behavioral tendencies as social and liberal.

If he can follow through on his intentions then he will not merely have an open ear for social, educational and cultural concerns, but also give them a higher priority. Given the circumstances in the USA and limited by the fact that even the US President can only spend money once, he will encounter a powerful opposition, which is more interested in stimulating the defense industry and developing its power and the associated economic industries. It will be interesting to see how Obama will behave in this difficult situation. That he will have to betray the ideals that awakened the hopes of a large portion of the population and brought him this success, and declare them to be mere means to an end, should not be assumed. No moss ever grew on a rolling stone. For many people, Obama will be an uncomfortable President in any event.

Considering that the Bush government left the country in a deso-

late state, and deeply indebted, one may place a lot of hope in Obama. It is not clever to expect that, in a short period of time, he will be able to correct that which others have botched over many years. All the same, and despite his virtues, one should expect nothing superhuman but rather achievable actions from him.

It will be interesting to see how Obama will be able to personally come to terms with important representatives of other countries.

A good relationship with Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, should be expected, which will help the real problems and differences to be addressed more easily.

It should be possible to establish a better relationship with Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, even if Brown is initially irritated and hesitant.

From Obama's view, the President of France will be a reliable man; certainly reliable in mercurialness, hastiness, and for this reason a certain tendency towards hasty decisions.

It would best for Switzerland, however, to explain their very special system of democracy and taxation to the Americans. And, if the appearance of Obama admonishes certain business about proper conduct, then that should be welcomed. As a graduate of Harvard, he will be able to understand Swiss democracy and the origins of Swiss sociopolitical and economic success, when they have been properly presented. However, such things must be explained to him and the Americans at a less stressful point in time. If he were to be told of these things by skilful lobbyists, who were hostile to Switzerland, then he would only be able to recognize this, when he had been properly informed in advance. In the past, Switzerland has suffered a great deal of damage because this country has not informed others about its special situa-

tion, but rather relegated the provision of this information to agitators, the disingenuous and other, still worse ideologists. Therefore, Switzerland needs an active policy about the provision of information.

Obama will have more difficulty with Medwedew and Putin, the President and Prime Minister, respectively, of Russia. The recent chilling in the relationship between Russia, on the one side, and Europe and America, meaning NATO, on the other side, complicates this relationship. The personalities of Medwedew and Putin are, however, inappropriate to honest cooperative efforts. It might be that Obama will make a friendly impression on these two gentlemen. However, that will fall apart due to the fact that they will use it as a chance to do sly and dangerous things, such as attaining territorial and political power, among other things.

The election of Barack Obama is truly something very special. Coming from unassuming circumstances, he was able to obtain the highest office in the most powerful country. His individual gifts, which in this case do not just include the ability to win an election, means that social status and material inheritance, and even skin color, were not pivotal factors.

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Original article with all illustrations and explanations from *PHYSIOGNOMIE UND CHARAKTER*, Nr. 4/2008.