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## Auszug aus:

*Stationenlernen The Obama Administration*

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## Station Pass "The Obama Administration"

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Station	Priority	Name der Station	Finished	Any questions?
1	compulsory	"Obamacare"		
2	compulsory	Economic Policy		
3	compulsory	Environmental and Energy Policy		
4	compulsory	Foreign Policy		
5	free-choice	Ferguson		
6	compulsory	Democrats and Republicans – a divided Congress		
7	free-choice	Nobel Peace Prize for Barack Obama		

## Station 1: "Obamacare"

*During the election campaign, Obama promised that every American citizen would be able to afford health insurance if he became President – an ambitious plan in a country where 47 million people did not have health insurance and millions depended on welfare because of their medical bills.*



Author: United States Senate  
Source:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20070613015950/http://obama.senate.gov/files/senatorbarackobama.jpg>

### Obama's health care

The health care reform, which includes the duty of being health-insured for every American citizen, is one of Obama's most important domestic political projects and is often referred to as „Obamacare“. The reform is one of the most controversially discussed topics in the United States. Traditionally, the question whether health insurances should be private or public is constantly discussed.

The new *Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act* was signed into law on March 23, 2010. The new health care system was enacted to increase the quality and affordability of health insurance, lower the uninsured rate by expanding public and private insurance coverage, and reduce the costs of healthcare for individuals and the government.

Critics, mainly among Republicans, still define the health care reform as intolerable: if every citizen of the U.S. was obliged to get a health insurance before the year 2014, financial costs for the state, for economy and, finally, the tax payer would increase dramatically. Republicans declare the repeal of Obama's health care system as one of their major goals.

In May 2014, about 20 million Americans had gained health insurance coverage under the new law, and the percentage of uninsured Americans dropped from 18% in 2013 to 13.4%. But still, „Obamacare“ ranks behind most countries on many measures of health outcomes, quality, and efficiency. U.S. physicians face particular difficulties receiving timely information, coordinating care, and dealing with administrative hassles.

Among Obamacare's deficiencies is also the missing access to primary care, especially for the poor, and a large number of low-income residents, who skip needed care, do not get recommended tests or do not fill prescriptions because of the costs.

### TASK

Why could Obama's health care reform still fail? Discuss in groups.

## Station 2: Economic policy

***The economic policy of the Barack Obama Administration is a combination of tax increases on the wealthiest Americans and investment in myriad public services such as scientific research, infrastructure, health care reform, and education that is meant to boost the American economy and future prospects.***

### BARACK OBAMA'S ECONOMIC POLICY

The significantly indebted United States were, more than any other national economy, deeply affected by the \_\_\_\_\_. How close the U.S. were to a financial collapse within the first weeks of the crisis is revealed by the unbelievably huge \_\_\_\_\_ Obama put together in order to rescue the market. Shortly after becoming U.S. President, a stimulus bill worth \$789 billion was put on the market to alleviate effects of the economic downturn and to prevent a huge catastrophe. Against opposing voices, Obama seems to have made the right decision: the economic climate has improved and the consumption has recovered tentatively. The U.S. budget, which is burdened by the wars in \_\_\_\_\_ and by the Bush administration's



tax policy, shrinks even more after the new investment in the stimulus bill. In July 2010, Obama signed a financial reform created to stabilize the market and to prevent a \_\_\_\_\_. The reform distinguishes between merchant banking and investment banking and ties stock exchange speculators to stricter regulations. Similar to the health care reform discussion, Republicans also \_\_\_\_\_ Obama's approach to this issue.

Besides offering financial aid packages for the starving industry and the \_\_\_\_\_ of banks such as *Citigroup*, Obama also sharply criticized the parties who were in his eyes responsible for the crisis. During a speech at the University of Arizona, he denounced egoism and avarice of the \_\_\_\_\_.

On September 8<sup>th</sup> 2011, Obama held a long-awaited speech in front of the U.S. Congress concerning the financial situation of the nation. He promised to support the struggling \_\_\_\_\_ with a new \$450 billion Stimulus Plan. Additionally, the Obama administration hopes to generate new \_\_\_\_\_ through the modernization of the country's infrastructure and extensive renovation works on schools and other public buildings.

Concerning finance policy, Obama seems to have managed to conduct the \_\_\_\_\_ through the financial crisis. But still, there are a lot of obstacles for the Obama administration: the plans to increase minimum wages and to let students visit Community Colleges for 2 years without having to pay \_\_\_\_\_, can only be realized with financial support. If Republicans refuse to let Obama increase taxes for the upper class, there will not be enough capital for Obama's plans.



### TASK

Fill the gaps with the words listed below:

- business activity support program ● financial crisis ● Iraq and Afghanistan ●
- oppose ● tuition fees ● nationalization ● jobs ● financial elites ●
- economy ● follow-up crisis ● United States ●



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