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**Auszug aus:**

*Speech Analysis - Barack Obama's Inauguration Speech as  
the 44th President of the USA on January 20th, 2009*

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Titel:	<b>Speech Analysis – Barack Obama’s Inauguration Speech as the 44th President of the USA on January 20th, 2009</b>
Reihe:	Redeanalyse im Englischunterricht
Bestellnummer:	66617
Kurzvorstellung:	<p>Diese komplett ausgearbeitete Redeanalyse befasst sich mit der Amtsantrittsrede Barack Obamas vom 20. Januar 2009. Bei der Analyse stehen vor allem die in aktuellen Lehrplänen geforderten Kompetenzen zur Redeanalyse im Vordergrund. Die Rede passt damit optimal in das Kernlehrplanthema „American Dream“.</p> <p>Text der Rede und Musterlösung sind komplett in Englisch.</p>
Inhaltsübersicht:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Didaktische Hinweise zur Klausur</li><li>• Transcript of Barack Obama’s Inauguration Speech (January 20th, 2009)</li><li>• Tasks</li><li>• Solutions</li><li>• Erwartungshorizont</li></ul>

In order to emphasize the importance of fighting evil in the world, without directly saying so, Obama calls to mind the successful wars of the past against “fascism and communism” (l. 92). He does not focus on the war against those regimes, though, but on the unwavering attitude and the mental strength of the people that were the basis for the USA's successes: “sturdy alliances and enduring convictions” (l. 93).

Obama also emphasizes his belief that the USA are a very strong nation that has to use its strength responsibly (“our power grows through its prudent use” l. 95). In this way, he assures those in the audience who are pro-war that he is not planning on giving up the fight, but also those who are anti-war by promising them that he will be very careful and responsible. He thereby cleverly pleases each member in the audience, no matter which opinion he or she has on the issue of national safety.

Obama then goes on to explain why America has the strength to face these challenges. He points out that America's diversity (“patchwork heritage”) is “a strength, not a weakness” and that they, through civil war and segregation, have nevertheless learned to stand united against all odds.

Having closed the circle of his line of argument, Obama starts the concluding part of his speech by again stressing that despite the new “challenges” (l. 136), it is the nation's principles that will help the USA. It is important to note that Obama always makes use of the positive term “challenge” instead of the term “problem” which has rather negative connotations. Obama then lists all the virtues that are going to be needed in the future, as they have been displayed in the past: “honesty and hard work, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity...” (ll. 137/138). By explicitly naming them, Obama makes his appeal a lot less abstract for the audience, who may thus be easily able to follow his speech and at the same time look for these positive attributes inside themselves. Obama thereby draws his audience deeply into his line of thought, an ideal condition to follow up with his next appeal, namely that the nation has “duties” (l. 142).

Obama finishes his speech by directly and strongly appealing to his audience to be brave and strong alongside him as their new president, so that the nation will still be great in the time of their “children's children” (l. 163). After this strong and spirited last paragraph, Obama concludes by thanking his audience.

### 3. Comment on whether you think America is still in the “midst of crisis”.

Obama pointed out in his Inaugural Speech in 2009 that it was “well understood” that America was facing many difficult challenges. Now, eight years later, though America is no longer in this “in the midst of crisis”, the nation still has several challenges to face, in my opinion.

Many of the problems which Obama addressed in 2009 have since been resolved: America is no longer at war with Iraq, the economic recession has ended, homes have been rebuilt, the health care system has been fundamentally reformed, education reforms have been passed and sustainable



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