

Obama Inauguration Day: Ho Hum. Who is Celebrating?

By [Danny Schechter](#)

Region: [USA](#)

Global Research, January 21, 2013

What a difference a term in office makes.

Look at the picture yesterday of the President becoming president again in an oval office ceremony surrounded only by his family swearing an oath administered by a Chief Justice he should be swearing at.

Today what fans turn up will cheer him on, but the die seems to be cast.

He is really alone, shorn of so many of the hopes and expectations his supporters invested in his candidacies.

Even his advisors are distancing themselves. So much for any sense of a grand crusade or plan for change! He is a reactor, not an enactor, a conciliator, not a combative fighter.

We know him now, even if we wish we didn't. Illusions keep disillusion away, but not forever.

Even his advisors are slipping away, leaving him to relay on managers and national securocrats He may not have sold out—because he was always this way—but he surely bought in. And, in the process was bought up by the banks and all the others who poured money into the hands of his eager “bundlers.”

The NY Times reports: “When [President Obama](#) offered a tongue-in-cheek lament last week that he was “getting kind of lonely in this big house,” he was referring to his two daughters, who he said were less eager to hang out with their dad as they grew older.

But Mr. Obama might just as well have been talking about the fraternity of middle-aged political advisers who have been at his side since before the 2008 campaign and who are finally moving on. Exhausted and eager for new careers, they nevertheless plan to create an ad hoc support group for the boss they are leaving behind.”

It has all become a matter of psychology, not politics. He lives in a club house but has no club, because the most powerful man on earth—so called—has no motivation/desire or power with which to really serve the people. The press talks about how he has aged, not what he has done.

What captures his focus reports Americas newspaper of record:

“For all the chatter about whether the president socializes enough in Washington, friends know that he has always been something of a loner. And yet he does not always like to be alone.

During long rides on [Air Force One](#), including his solitary flights to and from Hawaii over the holidays, he was busy rounding up players for one of his favorite pastimes: a hand of spades.”

Like so many of his predecessors, he has been done in by the power he thinks he has. Quotes La Stampa in Italy: “We new men from the provinces are no better than those who came before us,” confessed Emperor [Hadrian](#) [ruled 117-138]. “Power only serves to soil us.”

Because power corrupts all who use it and induces them to turn it to abuse.”

Yes he has been soiled” but doesn’t necessarily know it, because his “Approval” rating is higher than it was, reports the Inquisiter:

“President Obama has a 51 percent approval rating going into his second term, a sharp drop from how he started his first term but a steady improvement over the lows over the last two years.”

Break those figures are not quite what they appear, says the Rasmussen Poll:

- Strongly Approve: 31%
- • Strongly Disapprove: 35%
- • Total Approve: 55%
- • Total Disapprove: 45%

Will his new term be better than his first? Veteran observer Al Hunt, doubts it, writing: “Today, [Barack Obama](#) becomes the 17th president to be inaugurated for a second time, and historians offer useful context. “Obama has read the literature and understands overreach,” says Michael Beschloss, one of the more than half- dozen scholars who recently had dinner with the president. “This puts him one step ahead of most” re-elected presidents.

That sentiment contrasts with the mood of many Democrats these days. In conversations with a dozen Democratic politicians, with a few exceptions, there is a pervasive pessimism about the next several years. Almost all requested anonymity, not out of fear, they say, but to avoid giving solace to Republicans.

The political environment, they say, is as poisonous as it ever was. It isn’t much of an exaggeration to say that when most [House Republicans](#) wake up, their first thought is, “How can we stick it to Obama today?”

Politico reports that even his benefactors are sliding away, “Where President George W. Bush cleaned up for his second inaugural — 45 companies gave \$250,000 each — only nine companies have ponied up for Obama’s. And donations from the deep-pocketed folks who helped Obama raise over \$1 billion for his campaign haven’t been pouring in either.

One in-house Democratic lobbyist said there was little appetite to participate among executives he canvassed. “We don’t have one CEO that was really interested in attending,” the lobbyist said.

He was elected by the people,” said Lisa Gilbert of Public Citizen. “They are going to be the ones gathered at the Mall to hear his inaugural address. He should turn to them if he needs money.”

Who is celebrating?

According again, to the NY Times, not many:

“Wen the Monday festivities, with the traditional inaugural parade, balls and not least the re-enactment outside the Capitol of Mr. Obama’s swearing-in, will be less spectacular than four years ago, when the new president embodied hope and change for most Americans at a time of global economic crisis and two wars. This year fewer parties are planned, and fewer people are expected to swarm the National Mall.”

It all sounds like a bummer with the event overshadowing the national holiday honoring Dr King tomorrow. A victim of gun violence himself, an issue on the agenda today, would he be with the guests or in the streets? The difference between the two can be summed up in two competing slogans.

Dr.King is remembered for “I have a dream. “ Barrack Obama for “I have a Drone.” How sad is that?

News Dissector Danny Schechter blogs at NewsDissector.net He is bringing back the site, Mediachannel.org. He hosts a show on ProgressiveRadioNetwork.com (PRN.fm)Comments to dissector@mediachannel.org

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Danny Schechter](#), Global Research, 2013

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Danny Schechter](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca