



President Partisan

Forget Jobs And Unity, Obama's Second Inaugural Address Was A Rallying Cry For Liberals

YESTERDAY, OBAMA EXTENDED HIS HAND TO LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

The Washington Post's David Ignatius: "A Flat, Partisan And Pedestrian Speech" (David Ignatius, Op-Ed, "A Flat, Partisan And Pedestrian Speech," [The Washington Post](#), 1/21/13)

- **Obama's Second Inaugural Address Was "More A Laundry List Of Preferred Political Programs Than A Vision For A Divided America And Disoriented World."** "President Barack Obama's second inaugural address, by contrast, was flat, partisan and surprisingly pedestrian—more a laundry list of preferred political programs than a vision for a divided America and disoriented world." (David Ignatius, Op-Ed, "A Flat, Partisan And Pedestrian Speech," [The Washington Post](#), 1/21/13)
- **"The Speech Lacked The Unifying Or Transcendent Ideas That Could Help Obama Do Much More Than Continue The Washington Version Of Trench Warfare During His Second Term."** "All worthy causes, but the speech lacked the unifying or transcendent ideas that could help Obama do much more than continue the Washington version of trench warfare during his second term. If you were hoping that the president would set the stage for a grand bargain to restructure America's entitlement programs and fiscal health for the 21st century, you wouldn't have found much encouragement." (David Ignatius, Op-Ed, "A Flat, Partisan And Pedestrian Speech," [The Washington Post](#), 1/21/13)
- **Obama's Speech Was A "Rallying Cry To His Supporters As They Prepare For Political Fights Ahead."** "Maybe Obama has a strategic vision for the second term. But all I heard today was a rallying cry to his supporters as they prepare for the political fights ahead." (David Ignatius, Op-Ed, "A Flat, Partisan And Pedestrian Speech," [The Washington Post](#), 1/21/13)

NBC's Chuck Todd: In A Second Term, Obama Wants To Mainstream The "Liberal Progressive Movement." TODD: "I think you heard in the inaugural address today in the way that President Obama believes Ronald Reagan mainstreamed the conservative movement in the 1980s, that one of the things he wants his presidency to do is to basically mainstream the liberal progressive movement in the same way, so if the country is, say, center or center right, you can have this argument that when he leaves that he has mainstreamed it and moved the country more center left. And I think you heard that. It was a robust defense of a lot of progressive ideals in a way, and, yes, you heard pragmatic pieces to the speech saying, you know, we're not going to get everything we want, things like that, we do need to learn to

compromise. It was pretty clear that he was defending government and defending progressivism in a way that you didn't always hear on the campaign trail, frankly." (MSNBC's ["MSNBC Live."](#) 1/21/13)

The Washington Post's Dan Balz: "At A Time When Jobs Remain A Top Priority For Most Americans," Obama "Chose Neither To Highlight That Problem Nor To Offer Any New Solutions."

"On Monday, he touched only lightly on that crisis and spoke of the economy in positive terms. 'An economic recovery has begun,' he said. At a time when jobs remain a top priority for most Americans, he chose neither to highlight that problem nor to offer any new solutions — though, ultimately, he will be judged on his effectiveness in restoring the economy to its full strength." (Dan Balz, "Obama Speech Reveals Different Leader," [The Washington Post](#), 1/21/13)

- **Balz: "This Was Not The Politician Who Campaigned In 2008 On Themes Of Transcending The Divisive Politics Of The Past."** "This was not the politician who campaigned in 2008 on themes of transcending the divisive politics of the past, though there were ritual calls for the country and its political leaders to seize this moment together. Instead, it was a president who has accepted the reality of those divisions and is determined to prevail on his terms." (Dan Balz, "Obama Speech Reveals Different Leader," [The Washington Post](#), 1/21/13)

Politico's John F. Harris And Jonathan Martin: "President Obama Goes On The Offense For Liberalism." (John F. Harris And Jonathan Martin, "President Obama Goes On The Offense For Liberalism," [Politico](#), 1/21/13)

- **Obama's "Ideological Ambition Was On Bright Display."** "Monday's address will vindicate the patience of liberals — environmentalists who wanted more, supporters of single-payer health care who viewed the Affordable Care Act as an unsatisfying consolation prize — who always believed Obama was more on their side than he was letting on. It will also vindicate the fury of conservatives, who can now say they correctly had Obama's true measure while refusing to believe his appeals to bipartisanship or find common ground with him in the first term. If Obama's ideological ambition was on bright display, the speech prompts some fairly obvious so-what and now-what questions." (John F. Harris And Jonathan Martin, "President Obama Goes On The Offense For Liberalism," [Politico](#), 1/21/13)

The New York Times' Peter Baker: "Obama Offers Liberal Vision: 'We Must Act.'" (Peter Baker, "Obama Offers Liberal Vision: 'We Must Act,'" [The New York Times](#), 1/21/13)

- **Baker: Obama's Second Inaugural Address Offered A "Robust Articulation Of Modern Liberalism."** "Barack Hussein Obama ceremonially opened his second term on Monday with an assertive Inaugural Address that offered a robust articulation of modern liberalism in America, arguing that 'preserving our individual freedoms ultimately requires collective action.'" (Peter Baker, "Obama Offers Liberal Vision: 'We Must Act,'" [The New York Times](#), 1/21/13)

The Hill's Amie Parnes: "Obama Delivers Rallying Cry For Active Government In Inaugural Address." (Amie Parnes, "Obama Delivers Rallying Cry For Active Government In Inaugural Address," [The Hill](#), 1/21/13)

- **Obama's Speech Was "Heavy On Nods" To His "Liberal Base."** "In a speech heavy on nods to Obama's liberal base, Obama emphasized the need to work 'together' and called on the nation to change with the times and come up with 'new responses to new challenges.'" (Amie Parnes, "Obama Delivers Rallying Cry For Active Government In Inaugural Address," [The Hill](#), 1/21/13)

Politico's Glenn Thrush: "President Obama's Second Term: Return Of The Liberal." (Glenn Thrush, "President Obama's Second Term: Return Of The Liberal," [Politico](#), 1/21/13)

- **Obama's Second Inaugural Address Was "The Most Liberal Speech He Has Delivered As President."** "President Barack Obama's second inaugural address was the most liberal speech he has delivered as president — a blunt summons to wage war on poverty, defend entitlements for the middle class, end 'perpetual war' overseas and move past the calibrated progressive agenda of his first term. Gone were the pleas for bipartisanship of his first inaugural, vaporized by years of partisan battle and Obama's own sense of a new mandate — achieving bipartisan results through force, not conciliation." (Glenn Thrush, "President Obama's Second Term: Return Of The Liberal," [Politico](#), 1/21/13)

Los Angeles Times: Obama's Inaugural Address Was A "Strong Reaffirmation Of The Core Of Liberal Democratic Politics." "Obama wove those specific policy pledges, along with brief reminders of his proposals for gun control and immigration reform, into a text that, overall, amounted to a strong reaffirmation of the core of liberal, Democratic politics and its belief in the positive role that government can play in the nation's life." (David Lauter, "Inauguration 2013: Obama Addresses Gays, Compromise, Climate Change," [Los Angeles Times](#), 1/21/13)

NBC News: "More Than Anything Else" Obama's Second Inaugural Address "Was An Unabashed Defense Of Liberalism/Progressivism." "But chastened by the last four years and emboldened by his decisive re-election in November, Obama yesterday discarded that image of post-partisanship and instead called for action -- which was unmistakably on the liberal side. 'Progress does not compel us to settle centuries-long debates about the role of government for all time, but it does require us to act in our time,' he said in his second inaugural address. More than anything else, it was an unabashed defense of liberalism/progressivism." (Chuck Todd, Mark Murray, Domenico Montanaro and Brooke Bower, "First Thoughts: An Emboldened Obama," [NBC News' 'First Read'](#), 1/22/13)

Reuters: "Obama Delivered A Preview Of The Priorities He Intends To Pursue - Essentially, A Reaffirmation Of Core Liberal Democratic Causes." "Despite expectations tempered by lingering economic weakness and a divided Washington, Obama delivered a preview of the priorities he intends to pursue - essentially, a reaffirmation of core liberal Democratic causes - declaring Americans 'are made for this moment' and must 'seize it together.'" (Matt Spetalnick and Jeff Mason, "Confident Obama Lays Out Battle Plan As He Launches Second Term," [Reuters](#), 1/21/13)

ABC News: "Any Notion That The Country's Bitter Partisanship Might Fade" Was Tempered By Obama's "Assertive Push Of Central Democratic Tenets." "President Barack Obama appealed for 'one nation and one people' in his second inaugural address. Any notion that the country's bitter partisanship might fade, however, seemed tempered by the president's newly assertive push of central Democratic tenets: safety-net programs for the poor, equal rights for gays and minorities and government spending on investments like schools and highways. Deficit spending, the president's biggest conflict with Republicans, got only one passing mention. And he never uttered the word 'debt.'" ("Analysis: Obama Agenda Will Confront GOP On Debt," [ABC News](#), 1/21/13)

- **ABC News: "Obama Recited A Litany Of Liberal Ideals."** "In Monday's comparatively short speech, Obama recited a litany of liberal ideals." ("Analysis: Obama Agenda Will Confront GOP On Debt," [ABC News](#), 1/21/13)