

## The Obama Administration



President Barack Obama, first African-American president of the United States, takes the oath of office January 20, 2009. The new administration's agenda includes revitalizing the U.S. economy, tackling climate change, and completing the mission in Afghanistan. As the first U.S. president to assume office during wartime since the Vietnam era, Obama has made ending the Iraq war responsibly one of his priorities.

Vice President Joe Biden, a longtime member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, brings to the administration decades of legislative and foreign policy experience. Biden's initial responsibilities will include chairing a national task force to improve the standard of living for working families in the United States.



**The President's Cabinet:** Cabinet officials advise the president on any subject relating to their respective offices. The Cabinet is made up of the vice president, the White House chief of staff, the secretaries of each of the 15 executive departments, directors of the Office of Management and Budget, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the U.S. Trade Representative.

### Key Advisers



#### Hillary Clinton

Obama asked New York Senator and former first lady Hillary Clinton to become the next secretary of state. If confirmed by the Senate, Clinton will assist the president in formulating and executing U.S. foreign policy. The State Department represents U.S. interests in 260 embassies, consulates and other posts in 188 countries.



#### Timothy Geithner

Obama's choice for secretary of the Treasury, Timothy Geithner, previously headed the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The Treasury secretary manages the government's finances and works to ensure the soundness of U.S. and international financial systems.



#### Robert Gates

Obama asked Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, who helped shape U.S. efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, to remain in his post. Gates oversees U.S. military efforts in combat, humanitarian operations, disaster relief and peacekeeping assistance.