

**To what extent did Barack Obama give a new face to the American dream?**

1. **Obama’s propelling journey, where it all begun:**
2. *A unique backstory:*

Raised by a **white household** = never really witnessed black oppression as a child.

**In Chicago :** discovered the reality of the situation (poverty, racism, violence, unemployed people, and the black community’s problems in general) **= nourished his realization of the necessity of being involved in politics and the need for change.**

⇒ He got nominated as **the president of the law review of Harvard** (first black student to occupy the function) → Started to make changes from the beginning.

1. *A political debut, the staircase to his presidential mandate:*

**1995:** **elected senator of Illinois** ⇒ first win that marks his entry to the domain of politics.

**A few years later:** an **attempt** to sit in the **US senate in Washington** against Bobby Rush = Failed.

**2004:** new **chance of getting to sit in the US Congress**. = Succeeded.

⇒ A real thunderclap for American politics : **the democratic party found a candidate** capable of uniting Americans with Democratic values across all political, racial or social divides.

**2008: allegations by the Republican Party** ⇒  As an answer to that, Obama made a **unifying speech** : = He called for evolution.

1. **Obama’s achievements as the Head of State of America:**
2. *His efforts for the development of social policies in the US :*

⇒ **2003 :** He became **President of the Public health Commission and social services of Illinois** → *26 bills* about social health care, medical reimbursement and education.

**⇒ Obamacare 2010 :** When he was elected, 45M Americans were uninsured. The **main goals** were to :

* make **insurances available** to more people ;
* make the **healthcare more accessible** ;
* stop private insurance companies from **denying or charging people**

**more based on preexisting health conditions.**

*= By 2016, more than 20M previously uninsured people had acquired healthcare.*

**⇒ Reelection in 2012 :** reinforced Obamacare, tried but failed to introduce gun control measures, samesexe marriage in the Constitution.

1. *Obama’s impact on the international political sphere:*

He showed his will to make up with the Arab-Muslim World : started his speech in Egypt by Salam Aleikum + stepped back from Bush’s nuclear rearmament policy. Soon after, in 2011, he **ordered the beginning of a progressive withdrawal of American troops in Afghanistan**

**⇒ 2011 :** commanded the **total withdrawal of American troops in Iraq**, a war he qualified as a “Dumb war” in 2003