

# Obama's first year leaves nation polarized

A year into office, U.S. President Barack Obama is still popular on the world stage but is suffering a slump in his approval rating at home, with more than half of voters saying the country is on the wrong track



**Obama effect:** Belief that U.S. will *"do the right thing in world affairs"*

	Bush 2008	Obama 2009	Change
Canada	28%	88%	Up 60%
Britain	16%	86%	Up 70%
France	13%	91%	Up 78%
Germany	14%	93%	Up 79%
Spain	8%	72%	Up 64%
Poland	41%	62%	Up 21%
Russia	22%	37%	Up 15%

**Handling U.S. economy:** Obama bailed out financial system, rescued car industry and won \$787 billion for his so-called stimulus bill, but promise to cut federal deficit by more than half in his first term appears unlikely.

**Deficit has hit record \$1.42 trillion, 11.2% of GDP**



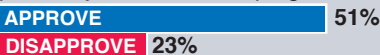
**Iraq:** Pledged to pull all U.S. combat troops out by August 2010, but will leave 35,000 to 50,000 support troops in Iraq until mid-2011



**Iran:** Obama made good on promise to pursue dialogue with Tehran over its nuclear ambitions, only to see his overture rebuffed



**North Korea:** Following Pyongyang's second nuclear test in May, an increasing proportion of Americans approve Obama's handling of threat poised by state's nuclear programme



**Health care:** Close to signature, bill will give 30 million Americans health insurance they didn't have; workers won't lose their medical insurance when they move job



**Afghanistan:** Has doubled number of U.S. troops in country to 74,000 and ordered another 30,000 there by middle of this year



**Terrorism:** Plan to close Guantanamo Bay detention camp and transfer prisoners to federal maximum-security prisons in U.S. has public support

