

Does Obama even care if he's popular in his own country?

By Stephanie Gutmann World Last updated: December 9th, 2009

Does President Obama care about pleasing world bodies like the EU, the UN, and the Nobel committee more than the people of the United States? Is he, as [David Gutmann at frontpagemag.com](#) puts it, “already getting restless in his present job, and ... seek[ing] a promotion to an even greater status” — some grander, as yet uncreated position?

Of course it would be impossible to answer this question now; still, I am ready to bet that a vague sense that Obama is not terribly interested in being our president is behind his continued drop in job approval ratings among Americans. (Yesterday [Gallup recorded a new low of 47 per cent favourable](#).) As is always the case when one is talking about the zeitgeist, I have only anecdotal evidence of my theory that Americans are worried that he is ready to sacrifice “us” for a vaguely defined “them”. Gutmann (yes, we are related) googled the term “Obama, world president”, and came up 120, 000,000 hits. And there is his behaviour in Copenhagen. As the Telegraph’s [Geoffrey Lean](#) points out, he went from “green villain to hero in a few weeks”; but he did it by floating a plan – to regulate CO2 as a pollutant starting with ordinary “tail pipe emissions” – that if implemented would be deeply unpopular with Americans and wreak havoc with an American economy already in deep recession.

One begins to wonder if he’s already grown bored with trying to please those pesky, fickle voters. Obama spent his first months in office circling the globe. He seemed reluctant to settle down in the country that elected him and get down to the business of trying to sort out its problems. Even his biggest fans on the Left admit that he’s risked over-exposure by remaining in campaign mode. But campaigning for what? Gutmann points out that Obama’s “restlessness is a matter of record ... Just four years ago he was a backbencher in the Illinois legislature, but since then he has served a partial term in the US Senate, where he spent most of his tenure campaigning for the next giant step in his upward mobility, to the Oval Office. He has never in any office run for re-election, but has instead used any current position as a boost platform for his next installation.”

Just one problem: there is no such thing as world president. Yet.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/stephaniegutmann/100019326/does-obama-even-care-if-hes-popular-in-his-own-country/>