

Barack Obama Visits Berlin as a Presidential Candidate (July 24, 2008)

Abstract

As the Democratic hopeful for the U.S. presidency, Barack Obama made a stop in Berlin during a 2008 foreign tour that was designed to bolster his foreign policy credentials. The Obama team's desire to see him deliver a speech at the highly symbolic Brandenburg Gate prompted Germany's political parties to engage in a discussion about the appropriate venue for his public address. While Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) – apparently out of consideration for incumbent Republican president George W. Bush – rejected a Brandenburg Gate appearance, Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit supported the idea. In the end, Obama gave a speech at the Victory Column [*Siegessäule*]. A crowd of around 200,000 gave him an enthusiastic reception that reflected his general popularity in Germany. According to surveys at the time, 75 percent of Germans considered Obama a better candidate than John McCain.

Source



Source: picture-alliance/dpa (c) dpa

Recommended Citation: Barack Obama Visits Berlin as a Presidential Candidate (July 24, 2008), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/a-new-germany-1990-2023/ghdi:image-4147>> [March 22, 2025].