



American politics

## Democracy in America

### A new brain for Barack Obama

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AFP

A NEW brain for Barack Obama! It's 78 years old and it still works perfectly. It belongs to Zbigniew Brzezinski, the peppery ex-national security adviser to Jimmy Carter.

[David Ignatius](#) says Mr Obama should adopt Mr Brzezinski as his foreign-policy guru, on the grounds that Mr Brzezinski's latest book, "Second Chance" (reviewed [here](#) by the *New York Times*), offers a one-stop policy framework that can substitute for the senator's lack of experience in the field while making all the right noises about a new direction for America. Here's Mr Ignatius:



*"Brzezinski argues that the world is undergoing a "global political awakening," which is apparent in radically different forms from Iraq to Indonesia, from Bolivia to Tibet. Though America has focused on its notion of what people want (democracy and the wealth created by free trade and open markets), Brzezinski points in a different direction: It's about dignity.*

*The worldwide yearning for human dignity is the central challenge inherent in the phenomenon of global political awakening," he argues ... The next president, Brzezinski writes, will need "an instinctive grasp of the spirit of the times in a world that is stirring, interactive, and motivated by a vague but pervasive sense of prevailing injustice in the human condition."*

I don't think he is talking about Newt Gingrich.

It is hard to see from this height what the Brzezinski overview would mean in terms of policy specifics. But the "dignity" rhetoric will sound great in campaign speeches, dock nicely into any domestic policy platform, and, why not, sound good on inauguration day too.

Guys, it's a fit. Connect the pipes.

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