

Berlin, 10 September 2009

Dear Madams, Dear Sirs!

We would like to draw your attention to our new discussion series "**America Reloaded**".

Promising change, Barack Obama has become president of the United States of America in 2008. His historic victory was welcomed with enthusiasm not only in America, but throughout the world. His election expresses the hope of many for a sustainable change in US politics. A little less than one year after the elections, we will begin to take a look at what the new administration has been able to accomplish or get underway during Obama's first few months in office. How much change has been possible with regard to key issues such as international relations, environmental policy, or social justice? In a series of six public events hosted by Hebbel Theater Berlin, national and international experts will review important aspects of the Obama administration's political agenda, with special emphasis on transatlantic relations.

21 September 2009, 19.00 h, HAU 1, Stresemannstr. 29, 10963 Berlin

### **On Equal Terms? US Development Policy under Barack Obama**

The first installment of the AMERICA RELOADED series will look at the US role in international organizations. Jean Ziegler, Swiss sociologist and United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food from 2000 to 2008, will present his new book *Hatred of the West: How Poor Peoples Defend Themselves Against the Economic World War* a discussion with representatives of international organizations on the US role in the context of global developmental cooperation. Will the West take on responsibility and respect its own values? Have we really seen the emergence of a new style in US foreign policy, one characterized by an emphasis on multilateral cooperation? What are the preconditions for beginning a real dialogue among equal partners?

Please make a note for the forthcoming parts of the discussion series “America Reloaded“ in this year. We are looking forward to welcoming you:

11 October 2009, 19.00 h, HAU 3, Tempelhofer Ufer 10, 10963 Berlin

### **Politics and Web 2.0: the Obama Method**

Hey there: Barack Obama is using Twitter! With his groundbreaking and highly successful online presidential campaign, Barack Obama revolutionized political communications, effectively using social networking sites on the Internet for fundraising and constituency building. As President, he continues to use communities such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, or Flickr to create an unprecedented level of transparency and openness in government. In the second installment of “America Reloaded”, Thomas Gensemer, the man who masterminded Obama’s online presidential campaign, will explain how the Internet can motivate people to get politically involved offline. Just two weeks after the German federal elections, he will go on to discuss with German new media strategists and politicians whether Obama’s methods may also work over here.

16 November 2009, 19.00 h, HAU2, Hallesches Ufer 32, 10963 Berlin

### **Walls Between People**

“The walls between old allies on either side of the Atlantic cannot stand”, Barack Obama said in his Berlin speech in July 2008, standing not far from where the Wall once divided the city. “The walls between the countries with the most and those with the least cannot stand. The walls between races and tribes; natives and immigrants; Christian and Muslim and Jew cannot stand. These now are the walls we must tear down.” On the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the third installment of AMERICA RELOADED will be devoted to walls and borders that continue to separate peoples. After an initial presentation of striking photography by Alexandra Novoseloff, we will discuss selected examples. What is the Obama administration’s approach to tearing down existing walls, especially in places where US interests are involved, e.g. the Israeli border, the US-Mexican border fence, or the invisible borders between the West and the Muslim world?

You can find further information on our website [www.america-reloaded.de](http://www.america-reloaded.de) .

We are looking forward to welcoming you to “America Reloaded“ in the Hebbel Theater.

Yours sincerely

### **Grit Kümmele**

President

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