

## What kind of politics do we want?

Published: January 21, 2026, 7:56 pm

---

Trust Obama to ask the right question. What kind of politics do we want? That was his question yesterday.

And I suggest, whatever your view of Obama (and it's hard for it not to be favourable in the light of his successor) this is the question all people in all countries need to ask now.

The [Guardian](#) covers him asking it yesterday. The target was, of course, Trump. But the question is bigger than Trump, however important he might be.

The question goes to the core of the search for truth.

And asks if we want a politics based on hope, and not fear.

And empathy, and not aggression.

And of mutual respect instead of mistrust.

In essence, it is asking do we care for the other person, whoever they might be, or not?

It is the question of our times.

Do we want ethical politics, or not?