



**Perry Diaz**

# *PerryScope*

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## *What Makes Obama Tick?*

**SACRAMENTO, CALIF., June 16 (PinoyGlobal)** - The meteoric rise of Barack Obama to the highest position of the most powerful nation in the world has made a lot of people wonder: what makes Obama tick? With barely five months into the presidency, President Obama has already demonstrated the qualities that made him overwhelmingly popular with the American people -- and people all the over world -- amidst the worst recession since the Great Depression. Indeed, these qualities have shaped Obama as a world leader capable of dealing with multitude of problems confronting the American people and of taking the initiative to deal with global issues as well.

Obama's recent historic visit to the Middle East and his speech at the Cairo University once again adds another quality -- diplomatic -- to his long list of qualities. It was a bold decision for him to go to the Muslim world to address them and share his vision on how he can work with them to achieve peace in the region.

But it would not be an easy task. Many have tried before him and they have all failed. If Obama would follow the trail of those before him, he would probably fail too. So what does Obama have to do this time around to achieve "lasting peace" in the Middle East?

Perhaps by looking at his qualities, we may be able to discern what Obama is capable of doing which distinguishes him from his predecessors. First, he is optimistic in everything that he does: from running for president to seeking a lasting peace in the Middle East. A junior US senator with a catchy name running for president might sound like kid stuff compared to brokering a peace agreement between Israelis and

the Palestinians and all the Arab nations. Yet he traveled to the war-torn Middle East in the most daring act by an American president. That's optimism.

In addition to his optimistic vision, Obama is dynamic. His dynamism projects a person sure of himself. And he goes about in a way that exudes confidence and control.

He is also energetic. He emotes positive energy and never slows down. Walking -- or running -- down the gangplank of Air Force gives you the notion that he's always in a hurry . . . to get things done. And he does. His first 100 days in office was a testament to his prolific work in getting things done.

He has a magnetic smile that breaks down barriers and wins friends. Which reminds me of Franklin D. Roosevelt's smile that captured the admiration of the American people in peace as well as in war.

An avowed liberal, Obama's pragmatic centrism has opened the minds of Americans -- liberals and conservatives alike -- and gave him one of the highest acceptance ratings an American president had achieved in his first 100 days in office.

And there is no doubt in my mind that he is a patriotic American. He always has the best interest of the American people in mind in any situation he is confronted with. And in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the safety of American soldiers remains foremost in his mind. He is committed to fighting -- and defeating -- al Qaeda and Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Obama is also enigmatic. Nobody seems to know what his next move would be. Nobody could have guessed what he

was going to say to address abortion during the recent Notre Dame commencement exercises. Nor what he was going to tell the Muslim world in his speech at the Cairo University. In both cases, he came through like how King Solomon would have addressed the issues. Indeed, his Solomonic wisdom would be his most effective quality in bringing the American people together and the warring factions around the world.

Yesterday, June 16, he and South Korean President Lee Myung-bak met at the White House to discuss the threat of a nuclear-armed North Korea. Obama said, "Today, President Lee and I reiterated our shared commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." To do that in a peaceful way would add another feather to Obama's cap.

He is peripatetic. Since assuming the presidency five months ago, Obama has traveled to Canada, Mexico, Iraq, Afghanistan, Europe, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Israel. And in every country he visited, his enthusiastic demeanor has captured the admiration of the people.

He is futuristic. When making a decision or pursuing a solution to a problem, Obama always takes into consideration what the future would be as a result of his actions. Global warming and reusable energy are two issues that have far-reaching effect on the future of planet Earth and human-

kind.

Several days ago, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton -- his bitter political rival during the 2008 elections -- said that Obama is doing a terrific job, saying that "it's an honor to serve the country with him."

Since Obama became president, new words were coined after him -- Obamamania, Obamism, Obamameter, Obadiplomacy, Obamystic, Obamysticism, Obamatics, etc. Obamatics

would certainly refer to the qualities that make Obama tick. I am sure that as he continues to govern with wisdom and have the best interests of the American people in mind and compassion in his heart, President Obama would be remembered for generations to come as the "People's President" who has finally reunited the United States of America as one people and one nation.

Many have said that Pax Americana is coming to an end and that, like Pax Romana and Pax Britannica, it would eventually fall. I don't argue with that; however, I believe that would not happen soon. The emergence of Obama has given hope that the American people would eventually live equally in peace and prosperity. That would be the true Pax Americana that the American people would be proud of and people around the world would emulate.