Excerpt: His Highness the Aga Khan on Presidents Obama and Sarkozy

by NANOWISDOMS ARCHIVE OF IMAMAT SPEECHES, INTERVIEWS AND WRITINGS

Jean-Jacques Lafaye: People like to compare and contrast Presidents Sarkozy and Obama. What do you think of them?

Aga Khan: Before these two men came to power, it seemed to me that major international issues were suffering a kind of paralysis. Fortunately, things have changed. The two presidents belong to a younger generation. Each certainly possesses a young man's determination and sufficient confidence in his energy, education and intellectual capabilities to be able to say 'I am going to take a fresh look at this issue.' Both have shown great open-mindedness and I think they can be trusted. It would be unrealistic to say that they are going to solve every problem. But in my view their rejection of taboos and all forms of inflexibility is very important. And in Russia, too, younger leaders are in charge. There exists throughout the world a desire for change after years that have seen a marked unwillingness to give ground, particularly over the disaster of the war in Iraq, which was horrendous. These young leaders have to begin by repairing the damage done before they take [took?] office.

His Highness the Aga Khan’s 2010 Politique Internationale Interview with Jean-Jacques Lafaye, 'The Power of Wisdom' (Paris, France)

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