

Who will tame Donald Trump, the unpredictable showman?

By Simon Tisdall, Observer's Foreign Affairs Commentator

Michelle Obama's one-woman boycott of Donald Trump's presidential inauguration on Monday requires no explanation. It's plain that the former first lady has zero tolerance and even less love for a man who delights in racist and sexist behaviour. Lots of other people, especially among US allies in Europe, would boycott Trump, too, if they could. Yet, inescapably, they must deal with him for the next four years. Such fear and loathing is by no means universally shared. A poll, published last week by the European Council on Foreign Relations, found that in China, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, South Africa, and Brazil, more people welcome Trump's return than deplore it. In contrast, people in the UK, France, Germany, and a clutch of other west European countries are frankly appalled at the prospect.

Important Vocabulary with British Pronunciation

- boycott (/bɒɪkɒt/) - ■■

Example: Many people decided to boycott the event.

- inauguration (/ɪnəʊreɪʃən/) - ■■■■

Example: The inauguration of the new president was widely watched.

- tolerance (/tɒlərəns/) - ■■■■

Example: He has no tolerance for corruption.

Important Phrases and Expressions

- hold one's nose - ■■■■■■

Example: Many voters held their noses and supported the candidate.

- play ball - ■■■■

Example: The company refused to play ball with the new regulations.