

January 2011

Text 1

The following text is an extract from a speech given by King James I on his accession to the throne in 1603.

As to the firſt: It is the bleſſing which God hath in my Perſon beſtowed vpon you all, wherein I proteſt, I doe more glorie at the fame for your weale, then for any particular reſpect of mine owne reputation, or advantage therein.

The firſt then of theſe bleſſings, which God hath ioyned with my Perſon ſent vnto you, is Outward peace: that is peace abroad with all foreine neighbours: for I thanke God I may iuſtly ſay, that neuer ſince I was a King, I either receiued wrong of any other Chriſtian Prince or State, or did wrong to any: I haue euer, I praife God, yet kept Peace and Amitie with all, which hath bene ſo farre tyed to my perſon, as at my comming here you are witneſſes I found the ſtate embarqued in a great and tedious warre, and onely by mine arriuall heere, and by the Peace in my Perſon, is now amitie kept, where warre was before, which is no ſmall bleſſing to a Chriſtian Commonwealt: for by Peace abroad with their Neighbours the Townes flouriſh, the Merchants become rich, the Trade doeth increaſe, and the people of all ſorts of the Land enjoy free libertie to exerciſe themſelues in their ſeueral vocations without perill or diſturbance.

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The following texts are both examples of speeches given by American politicians

Text 2

The following transcript is the beginning of Barack Obama's speech after the American Presidential elections in November 2008.

Key

(.) micropause

(1) timed pause in seconds

I was never the likeliest candidate for this office (2) we didn't start with much money or many endorsements (.) our campaign was not (.) hatched in the halls of Washington (.) it began in the backyards of Des Moines (.) and the living rooms of Concord (.) and the front porches of Charleston (.) it was built by working men and women who dug into what little savings they had to give five dollars (.) and ten dollars (.) and twenty dollars to this cause (.) it grew strength from the young people who rejected the myth of their generation's apathy (.) who left their homes and their families for jobs that offered little pay and less sleep (.) it drew strength from the not-so-young people who braved the bitter cold and scorching heat to knock on the doors of perfect strangers (.) from the millions of Americans who volunteered (.) and organized and proved that more than two centuries later a government of the people (.) by the people (.) and for the people has not perished from this Earth (.) this is your victory (2) I know you didn't do this just to win an election and I know you didn't do it for me (.) you did it because you understand the enormity of the task that lies ahead (1) for even as we celebrate tonight we know the challenges that tomorrow will bring are the greatest of our lifetime (.) two wars (.) a planet in peril (.) the worst financial crisis in a century (1) even as we stand here tonight we know there are brave Americans waking up in the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan to risk their lives for us (.) there are mothers and fathers who will lie awake after their children fall asleep and wonder (.) how they'll make the mortgage (.) or pay their doctor's bills (.) or save enough for their child's college education (.) there is new energy to harness and new jobs to be created (.) new schools to build and threats to meet (.) alliances to repair (.) the road ahead will be long (.) our climb will be steep (.) we may not get there in one year or even one term (.) but America I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there (.) I promise you (.) we as a people will get there [applause] (15) there will be setbacks and false starts (.) there are many who won't agree with every decision or policy I make as President (.) and we know that government can't solve every problem (.) but I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face (.) I will listen to you especially when we disagree (.) and above all I will ask you join in the work of remaking this nation the only way it's been done in America for two-hundred and twenty-one years (.) block by block (.) brick by brick (.) calloused hand by calloused hand (1) what began twenty-one months ago in the depths of winter cannot end on this autumn night (.) this victory alone is not the change we seek (.) it is only the chance for us to make that change (.) and that cannot happen if we go back to the way things were (.) it cannot happen without you (.) without a new spirit of service (.) a new spirit of sacrifice (1) so let us summon a new spirit of patriotism (.) of service and responsibility (.) where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves but each other (.) let us remember that if this financial crisis taught us anything it's that we cannot have a thriving Wall Street while Main Street suffers (.) in this country we rise or fall as one nation (.) as one people.

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