

Open Letter to President Emmanuel Macron

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Dear President Macron,

I am writing this letter as an observer of your presidency and of France's place in Europe and the world.

Few modern leaders have governed during a period as complex as the one you faced. During your time in office, France experienced the COVID-19 pandemic, economic turbulence, inflation, energy uncertainty, social unrest, war on the European continent, and growing geopolitical tensions.

Your supporters often point to several important achievements.

You promoted economic reforms intended to increase the competitiveness of the French economy and attract investment. France remained one of the leading economies of Europe and continued to attract significant international business activity.

You consistently advocated a stronger and more independent Europe, arguing that Europe should become more capable of defending its own interests in an increasingly unstable world.

You also demonstrated a willingness to engage in international diplomacy, even in situations where dialogue seemed difficult or unpopular.

At the same time, your presidency generated substantial criticism.

Many citizens felt that major reforms, particularly pension reform, were implemented despite strong public opposition. The resulting protests created the impression that a significant portion of society no longer felt heard by its leaders.

Some critics argue that your governing style became increasingly centralized and technocratic, relying more on institutional mechanisms than on broad public consensus.

Others point to growing concerns regarding immigration, public security, social cohesion, and the widening gap between political elites and ordinary citizens.

Your opponents often describe your presidency as intelligent but distant, ambitious but sometimes disconnected from the everyday concerns of many French people.

Supporters, however, would likely argue that difficult times require difficult decisions and that leadership sometimes means acting despite opposition rather than avoiding it.

History will ultimately determine the long-term impact of your presidency.

For now, it seems fair to say that your years in office have left a significant mark on France. Whether that mark will be viewed primarily as modernization or as division remains a question that future generations will answer more confidently than those living through the events themselves.

If I were to summarize my assessment in a single sentence, it would be this:

You demonstrated vision, energy, and political courage, but often struggled to convince large parts of society to follow the path you believed was necessary.

My overall assessment of your presidency:

3 out of 5.

A capable and influential leader whose achievements are substantial, but whose tenure has also been marked by deep social divisions and unresolved public dissatisfaction.

Respectfully, A Citizen of the World

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