



An Interactive Biography of Barack Obama

Charles River Editors

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Includes over 20 minutes of video showing important events in Obama's life.

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Everyone has read about history's most important people and events in dense textbooks and classrooms, but words can only say so much. In Charles River Editors' Interactive Biography series, history comes to life in video and audio, allowing people to not only read history but truly experience it, through the eyes and ears of the people who were there.

On November 4, 2008, 47 year old Barack Obama walked onto the stage in Grant Park to deliver an Election Night speech less than an hour after he had been officially declared President-Elect of the United States. As he came out to an audience numbering in the hundreds of thousands, with millions more watching on television, the first African-American elected president in the nation's history told Americans, "If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer."

Although it was a reference to his historic election, the quote applied equally to the very unique path Obama took in life to reach that moment. Though he was still young by presidential standards, the bi-racial native of Hawaii had already traveled a great distance physically and spiritually, learning about himself and discovering his self-identity along the way. After receiving a blue chip education that took him to Harvard Law School and helped him become a law professor and community organizer in Chicago, he began a rapid ascent through state politics to become a U.S. Senator in 2004.

To a degree, Obama's election in November 2008 was anti-climactic compared to the incredibly close victory he had over Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primaries. With 18.2 million votes total, Hillary Clinton had won more votes than any other candidate in the history of the presidential primaries, but it was Obama who won more delegates to become the first African-American nominated by either party. A few months later, he made more history by becoming the first African-American elected president.

Obama ran one of the greatest presidential campaigns in history, and he was helped by the fact that the Republicans were unpopular at the tail end of the Bush Administration. Since taking the presidency, he has faced a handful of thorny issues, particularly a poor economic recovery, leaving him engaged in tough battles with Republicans and a bitter reelection campaign in which he managed to defeat Mitt Romney. Obama has also had to make monumental choices on issues of national security in Afghanistan and the Middle East, as well as scrutiny over his use of drones. Obama survived a tumultuous first term and may face more of the same in the second term.

An Interactive Biography of Barack Obama chronicles the amazing life story and Obama's path to the presidency from his unique roots to his unique victory, but it also looks at his first term and looks forward to his second. Along with videos and pictures of important people, places, and events in his life, you will learn about Obama like you never have before.

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