

BARACK OBAMA

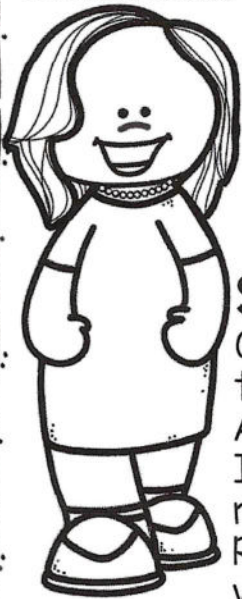
EARLY LIFE

Barack Hussein Obama II was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on August 4, 1961. His family called him Barry. Barack's father was from Kenya originally. He attended the University of Hawaii on scholarship, where he met Ann, Barack's mother, who was from Kansas originally. They married in 1960, but divorced when Barack was very young. His father was offered a scholarship to study at Harvard University in Massachusetts. Barack and his mother stayed in Hawaii. His father left and Barack only saw his dad one more time. When his mom remarried, Barack's family moved to Jakarta, Indonesia. Maya, his half sister was born in 1970. Barack moved back to Hawaii to live with his grandparents a year later. Barack earned good grades in school and also played basketball. He graduated high school in 1979.



YOUNG ADULT

Barack moved to Los Angeles, California after high school. He attended Occidental College there. He then transferred to Columbia University in New York City in 1981. He graduated from there two years later. Barack's father died in a car accident in 1983. In 1985, Barack moved to Chicago, Illinois. He worked as a community leader, helping people find jobs and improving neighborhoods. Barack entered Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1988. He graduated three years later and moved back to Chicago.



FAMILY

On October 3, 1992, Barack married Michelle Robinson. They later had two daughters. Malia Ann was born in 1998 and Natasha, called Sasha, was born in 2001.

SENATOR

Obama worked as a lawyer for several years. He started teaching at the University of Chicago in 1992. He also helped more Hispanics and African Americans to vote. In 1996, Barack decided to run for the Illinois state senate. He won and focused a lot of his work on fighting racial profiling. In 2000, he ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, but was defeated. Obama did not give up though, and was elected to the United States Senate in 2004. He won and became only the fifth black person to ever serve in the US Senate. He was a Democrat, but worked well with many Republicans. Obama helped write a bill to reduce nuclear weapons and opposed the war in Iraq. In addition, Obama helped improve education and cut taxes for the people of Illinois.

PRESIDENTIAL RUN

Obama spoke at the Democratic National Convention (DNC) on July 27, 2004 in Boston, Massachusetts. He got the attention of many people with his strong and powerful words. Four years later, he was selected by the Democratic Party to run for president. He ran against John McCain, a Republican senator from Arizona. Americans wanted to hear solutions to the struggling economy and how to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Barack Obama made history when he was elected the first African American president in United States history on November 4, 2008. He became the forty-fourth US president.



PRESIDENCY

On February 17, 2009, Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help improve the economy. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize that same year. The Affordable Care Act was signed by Obama in March of 2010. It insured 32 million Americans. Obama signed an agreement with Russian president Dmitry Medvedev the next month to reduce nuclear weapons. The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act was signed by Obama on December 13, 2010. School lunches were required to include more fruits and vegetables. The wars in the Middle East continued, but fighting troops finally withdrew from Iraq on August 31, 2010. However, more work needed to be done in Afghanistan so Obama sent more troops there. In a secret attack ordered by Obama on May 2, 2011, troops stormed a house in Pakistan and killed the terrorist leader Osama Bin Laden. He was the mastermind behind the attacks on America on September 11, 2001.

SECOND TERM

President Obama was reelected as president on November 6, 2012. He started his second term on January 21, 2013. His second term was difficult with a government shut down, controversy over the Affordable Care Act, and race riots for months in Ferguson, Missouri after an African American was shot by a white police officer. There continued to be unrest overseas. A terrorist group called ISIL posed a threat to many in the Middle East and the United States. Obama ordered air strikes on ISIL bases in Syria in 2014. Obama announced the Clean Power Plan in August of 2015. It placed more limits on power plants to make the air cleaner. Obama worked to improve public health, the economy, and global peace during his eight years as US president.

POST-PRESIDENCY

After eight years, Barack moved out of the White House in 2017. He now lives in both Washington, DC, and Chicago. He and his wife, Michelle, started the Obama Foundation in Chicago so they could continue to help others. He is also building the Barack Obama Presidential Center in Chicago.