**Barack Obama**

**Barack Obama /**[bəˈɹɑːk oʊˈbɑːmə](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/API_b)/1 (born in [Honolulu](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honolulu), [Hawaii](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawa%C3%AF)) is an [American statesman](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homme_d%27%C3%89tat). He is the 44th [President of the United States](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pr%C3%A9sident_des_%C3%89tats-Unis), serving from January 20, 2009 to January 20, 2017.

The son of a [black Kenyan](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya) and a [white](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blanc_(humain)) American from [Kansas](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas) of [English](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angleterre) and [Irish](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irlande_(pays)) descent, he was raised for several years in [Indonesia](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indon%C3%A9sie). A graduate of [Columbia University](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_Columbia) in [New York](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York) and Harvard Law School, he was the first [African-American](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afro-Am%C3%A9ricains) to chair the prestigious [*Harvard Law Review*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_Law_Review) in 1990. After working as a [social worker](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travailleur_social)in Chicago's South Side during the 1980s, then a [civil lawyer](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Droit_civil)after graduating from Harvard, he taught [constitutional law](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Droit_constitutionnel) at the [University of Chicago](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_de_Chicago)from 1992 to 2004.

Married to [Michelle Robinson](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelle_Obama) in 1992, Barack Obama entered politics four years later: he was elected to [the Illinois Senate](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A9nat_de_l%27Illinois), where he served three terms, from 1997 to 2004. He opposed the [Iraq war](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerre_d%27Irak) launched by [George W. Bush](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush) and became known nationally for his speech at the Democratic National Convention in [July 2004](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juillet_2004), which nominated [John Kerry](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Kerry)as his presidential candidate. After failing to win the [Democratic nomination](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parti_d%C3%A9mocrate_(%C3%89tats-Unis)) for the [House of Representatives](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chambre_des_repr%C3%A9sentants_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) in 2000 , he was elected to the [U.S. Senate](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A9nat_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) in [November 2004](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novembre_2004). He then ran in the [Democratic presidential primaries](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primaires_pr%C3%A9sidentielles_du_Parti_d%C3%A9mocrate_am%C3%A9ricain_de_2008) against [Hillary Clinton](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillary_Clinton); trailing in votes, he won by a slight margin in terms of delegates and thus became the party's candidate.

He received 52.9% of the vote and 365 [electors](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coll%C3%A8ge_%C3%A9lectoral_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) in the [2008 presidential election](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lection_pr%C3%A9sidentielle_am%C3%A9ricaine_de_2008) against [Republican John McCain](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parti_r%C3%A9publicain_(%C3%89tats-Unis)). He was the first [mixed-race](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C3%A9tis) man of African descent to become President of the United States. His career has aroused great interest among voters and the media around the world. His [presidency](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pr%C3%A9sidence_de_Barack_Obama) comes against the backdrop of the war in Iraq, the [war in Afghanistan](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerre_d%27Afghanistan_(2001-2014)), the crisis in the [Middle East](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerre_de_Gaza_de_2008-2009), a major recession in the [US economy](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89conomie_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) and the global [financial](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crise_financi%C3%A8re_mondiale_de_2007-2008) and [economic](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crise_%C3%A9conomique_mondiale_de_2008) crisis . He is the recipient [of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prix_Nobel_de_la_paix_2009).

He promulgated an [economic recovery plan](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plan_de_relance_%C3%A9conomique_des_%C3%89tats-Unis_de_2009), introduced the renewal of unemployment insurance authorizations and job creation, the one on the [protection of patients and affordable care](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patient_Protection_and_Affordable_Care_Act) as well as a reform of financial regulation in 2010. In the field of foreign policy, he gradually withdrew US troops from [Iraq](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irak), increased those in [Afghanistan](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afghanistan) and signed an arms control treaty with [Russia](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russie). He also commanded the operation that led to the death of [Osama bin Laden](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oussama_ben_Laden). In 2011, during the [Libyan civil war](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premi%C3%A8re_guerre_civile_libyenne), he contributed to the overthrow of [Muammar Gaddafi](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mouammar_Kadhafi). Running for re-election in the [2012 presidential election](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lection_pr%C3%A9sidentielle_am%C3%A9ricaine_de_2012), he ran against Republican [Mitt Romney](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitt_Romney), whom he defeated with 332 Electoral College votes and 51% of the national vote.

During his second term, Barack Obama tried to promote [increased gun control](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contr%C3%B4le_des_armes_%C3%A0_feu) and successful constitutional recognition of [same-sex marriage](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariage_homosexuel_aux_%C3%89tats-Unis). In foreign policy, he ordered military [intervention](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Op%C3%A9ration_Inherent_Resolve) in Iraq and [Syria](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syrie) against the [Islamic State](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89tat_islamique_(organisation)). It continues the process of withdrawing U.S. forces from Afghanistan. In 2013, he ordered at the last minute a retaliatory operation against the regime of [Bashar al-Assad](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachar_el-Assad), while the latter uses [chemical weapons](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armes_chimiques_pendant_la_guerre_civile_syrienne) against the civilian population of [the rebel areas of Syria](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerre_civile_syrienne). He ratifies the [Paris climate agreement](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accord_de_Paris_sur_le_climat), reaches an [Iran](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accord_pr%C3%A9liminaire_de_Gen%C3%A8ve_sur_le_programme_nucl%C3%A9aire_iranien) [nuclear](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Programme_nucl%C3%A9aire_de_l%27Iran) deal, and [normalizes](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/D%C3%A9gel_cubain) [U.S. relations](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relations_entre_Cuba_et_les_%C3%89tats-Unis) with [Cuba](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba).

If his last months of presidency are marked by a rising popularity, with a majority of favorable opinions at the national level, the Republican [Donald Trump](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Trump) succeeds him after winning the [presidential election of 2016](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lection_pr%C3%A9sidentielle_am%C3%A9ricaine_de_2016) against the candidate of the Democratic Party, [Hillary Clinton](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillary_Clinton), who had received the support of Barack Obama. After the [2020 presidential election](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lection_pr%C3%A9sidentielle_am%C3%A9ricaine_de_2020), [Joe Biden](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Biden), [vice president of the United States](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice-pr%C3%A9sident_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) during Obama's two terms, succeeds Donald Trump.

**Personal situation**

**Birth and origins**

Barack2 Hussein Obama II /[bəˈɹɑːk huːˈseɪn oʊˈbɑːmə](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/API_b)/1 [Listen](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:En-us-Barack-Hussein-Obama.ogg) was born on August 4, 1961 at 7:24 p.m. at Kapiolani Maternity Hospital in [Honolulu](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honolulu)3.

**Genealogy**

[show]

Ancestry of Barack Obama

**Paternal family**

His father, [Barack Obama, Senior](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama,_Sr.) (born [in Nyang'oma Kogelo](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nyang%E2%80%99oma_Kogelo) in 1936 and died on [November 24, 1982](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/24_novembre) in [Nairobi](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nairobi) in a car accident), was a Kenyan economist and politician, of Luo 4 ethnicity. His parents met in 1960 during Russian language classes at the [University of Hawaii at Mānoa](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_d%27Hawa%C3%AF_%C3%A0_M%C4%81noa)5,6. In his autobiography, Part III, including *Granny's* account of the family origins and lives of Hussein and Barack, Sr., Barack Obama provides a fairly long genealogy in his father's line (12 generations above him) and indicates that the family lived from nomadic herding in the region of [Uganda](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ouganda)before settling in Kenya. at Alego7 and Kendu Bay8.

Barack Obama's great-grandfather, Jr. was simply called Obama (so he is the eponymous ancestor) and lived in Kendu Bay in the latenineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His grandfather, Hussein Onyango Obama (1895-1979), is presented as a rather original character; he was the first resident of Kendu Bay to come into contact with the British in Kisumu, around 1910. Immediately, he adopted a modern lifestyle (European clothes, learning to read and write, exceptional concern for hygiene). Disowned by his father and brothers, he put himself at the service of the colonizer. During the [First World War](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premi%C3%A8re_Guerre_mondiale), he was responsible for organizing chores in Kenya and then in Tanganyika. After the war, he worked as a servant and cook for various British bosses; at the same time, he returned to his roots by buying land in Kendu Bay and taking a wife, Helima (then a second, Akumu, then a third, Sarah). During the [Second World War](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seconde_Guerre_mondiale), he was in the service of a British officer in different places (Burma, Thailand, Ceylon, Europe). After his return, he stopped working as a domestic servant and became a full-time [farmer](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculteur); it was also the time he left Kendu Bay and settled in Alego.

In the [1950s](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ann%C3%A9es_1950), he was detained for six months following a slanderous denunciation of links with the Kenyan nationalist movement (KANU). Recognized innocent, he nevertheless emerges physically and morally weakened from this ordeal9.

Of his three wives, he had10 children.

Barack Obama Senior was the second child born in 1936 in [Kendu Bay](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kendu_Bay). His mother is Akumu. Barack Obama, Sr., who died in 1982, was educated in the [Muslim](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) religion but was nevertheless an [atheist.11](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ath%C3%A9isme) After Akumu's 12th departure in 1945, he was raised by Hussein Onyango's third wife in the village of Alego; when he completed his brilliant, though inassiduous, primary education, he was admitted to the Maseno missionary school, but was expelled for indiscipline, before completing his secondary education. He worked for several years as an office worker in Mombasa and Nairobi and married his first wife, Kezia. He was fortunate to be spotted as very gifted by two American academics who made him take a correspondence course and make him take the high school leaving examination at the United States Embassy; it was again with their support that he applied for scholarships from several American universities, and in 1959 he received a favourable response from the [University of Hawaii](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_d%27Hawa%C3%AF). He went on to study [econometrics](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89conom%C3%A9trie), obtained the highest marks of his class and founded the association of foreign students13.

[show]

Genealogy of the Obama family

**Maternal family**

Article connexe : [Ann Dunham](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ann_Dunham).

His mother, Stanley14 Ann Dunham (born 1942 and died 1995 ), was the daughter of Stanley (born March 23, 1918 and died February 8, 1992) and Madelyn Dunham (born [October 26, 1922](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/26_octobre) and died [November 3, 2008](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/3_novembre))15. The Dunham family is [Christian](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianisme), but Ann, an adult, is [agnostic](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnosticisme). Ancestry[[when?]](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aide:Quand) of Stanley's white family Ann Dunham seems to have counted the first black slave of the continent: [John Punch](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Punch) according to the site ancestry.com16, but he also has a family link with [Abraham Lincoln](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln)17and ancestors from [Bischwiller](file:////wiki/Bischwiller%23Personnalités_liées_à_la_commune) in [Alsace](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsace).

Ann Dunham was born in [Wichita](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wichita), [Kansas](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas)4, near a [military base](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Base_militaire)3. His father was called up in 1942 to serve as a [*GI*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/GI_(soldat)) in the U.S. Army. During the war, Dunham worked in the Wichita aircraft factories. After serving in Europe in George Patton's army, Stanley Dunham became a furniture salesman. The Dunham family moved quite often, living successively in [California](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Californie), [Kansas](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas), [Texas](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas), [Washington](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_(%C3%89tat)) (Seattle) before leaving for [Hawaii](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawa%C3%AF) in 1959. Stanley experienced professional setbacks, but Madelyn took a job as a bank executive.

Stanley Ann was studying [anthropology](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropologie) at the [University of Hawaii](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_d%27Hawa%C3%AF) when she met Barack Sr.18.

Barack Obama was raised by his maternal grandparents beginning in 1971. Being very attached to Madelyn ("*Toot*", Americanization of *Tutu*, "grandmother" in Hawaiian), the candidate even interrupted his campaign to take care of her while she was suffering in Hawaii. Madelyn Dunham died on [November 3, 2008,15](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/3_novembre) the very day before her grandson was elected President of the United States.

**Stepfamily**

Barack Obama's parents married on February 2, 1961.19 In August 1963, his father was accepted to [Harvard University](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_Harvard) but he left alone for Massachusetts because the scholarship he had obtained did not allow him to support his wife and son. The divorce was pronounced in January 1964. After graduating in economics in 1965, Barack Obama's father returned to [Kenya](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya) where he started a new family. Initially a prominent man close to Jomo [Kenyatta's](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jomo_Kenyatta) government, he ended up opposing the president's plans. Dismissed and boycotted, he sank into poverty and alcoholism before killing himself in a car accident in 1982 13. He stayed in Hawaii between December 1971 and January 1972 and this was the only opportunity for his 10-year-old son to see him.

Ann Dunham remarried in 1965 to a student from [Indonesia](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indon%C3%A9sie), Lolo Soetoro, who returned to her country in 1966; Ann and Barack joined him in [Jakarta](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jakarta)20 in 1967. Barack spent four years in Indonesia. He first attended for two years the Catholic primary school St. Francis of Assisi, then a public school where he was the only foreigner19. In his registration file, he would have chosen, among the five [religions](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion) proposed, that of his father-in-law, [Javanism](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_traditionnelle_javanaise)21, a local branch of the Muslim religion22. During the [2008 nomination campaign](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primaires_pr%C3%A9sidentielles_du_Parti_d%C3%A9mocrate_am%C3%A9ricain_de_2008), neoconservative columnist [Daniel Pipes](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/N%C3%A9o-conservatisme) claimed that Obama had been a practicing [Muslim](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) during his stay in Indonesia (i.e. between 6 and 10 years old)23. Obama says his home was not religious.

In 1971, his mother sent him to Hawaii to live with his maternal grandparents, so that he could attend American high school (since the beginning of the Indonesian stay, she had him take a correspondence course and, in the last months, required him to get up very early to work with her before going to school); he enrolled at [Punahou School](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=%C3%89cole_Punahou&action=edit&redlink=1), a prestigious private institution in [Hawaii](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawa%C3%AF)24 for which he obtained a [scholarship](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bourse_d%27%C3%A9tudes). The following year, Ann, separated from Lolo Soetoro, joined him with Maya and, beginning new studies, undertook a master's degree devoted to the [anthropology](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropologie) of [Indonesia](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indon%C3%A9sie). According to Maya, the education her mother gave her two children at that time was "idealistic and demanding."25 In 1975, Ann returned to [Indonesia](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indon%C3%A9sie) to do the fieldwork required for her degree, but Barack refused to take her25. She became responsible for a program to help poor women organized by the [Ford Foundation](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fondation_Ford) and then helped develop the Indonesian [microcredit](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microcr%C3%A9dit) system 25. She completed her PhD in 1992 with a thesis entitled *The peasant blacksmithing in Indonesia*26. On November 7, 1995, she died in Hawaii, at the age of 52, of [ovarian cancer](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cancer_de_l%27ovaire). Barack Obama bitterly regrets not having been at his side at the time of his death.

Barack Obama recounts his childhood and [youth](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeunesse) (until 1988) in his [autobiography](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autobiographie) [*My Father's Dreams*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Les_R%C3%AAves_de_mon_p%C3%A8re)27.

**Religious beliefs**

Barack Obama joined the [Protestant](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestantisme) faith as an adult. As he wrote in his book *The Audacity of Hope*28, he was raised outside of any religious teaching in an atheist home, his father being from a Muslim family and his mother from a Christian family. In January 2008, Barack Obama told [*Christianity Today*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_Today): "I am a Christian, and a practicing Christian. I believe in the [redemptive death](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salut_(th%C3%A9ologie)) and [resurrection of Jesus Christ](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%A9surrection_de_J%C3%A9sus). I believe that faith opens a way for me to be cleansed of all sin and obtain eternal life.29 »

It was African-American [pastor Jeremiah Wright](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pasteur_(christianisme)) who brought Barack Obama to the Christian faith as a result of his involvement with him in social service within the African-American community. Barack Obama was then a twenty-year member of his parish, Trinity United Church of Christ, which belongs to the [United Church of Christ](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89glise_unie_du_Christ), a [Reformed](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89glises_r%C3%A9form%C3%A9es) and [Congregationalist](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89glise_unie_du_Christ) church. Wright also married Barack and Michelle Obama, baptized their two daughters and blessed their home. He was the first person to be named in Barack Obama's acceptance speech after his election to the [United States Senate](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A9nat_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) in 2004.30 However, in 2008, Pastor Wright's very virulent public statements about the [slave past of the United States](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esclavage_aux_%C3%89tats-Unis), whites and Jews greatly embarrassed the presidential candidate. Conservative circles took advantage of Pastor Wright's statements to accuse Barack Obama of being aligned with radical and unpatrioticpositions.30

Faced with the growing controversy and its consequences on his election campaign, Barack Obama then left this church and condemned the extreme remarks of his former pastor, while refusing to condemn outright the parish of [Trinity United Church of Christ](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Trinity_United_Church_of_Christ&action=edit&redlink=1), which is one of the largest black churches in Chicago and one of the most active in the social and solidarity field30.

After moving to [Washington](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_(district_de_Columbia)) in 2009, the Obama family attended services at several Protestant churches, including [Siloam Baptist](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Shiloh_Baptist_Church&action=edit&redlink=1) Church and St. [John's Episcopal Church](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._John%27s_Episcopal_Church), as well as *Evergreen Chapel* at [Camp David](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_David), but did not regularly attend services at any of them.31,32

**Private and family life**

On October 3, 1992, he married [Michelle Robinson](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelle_Obama), a [lawyer](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juriste) from Chicago whom he met in 1989 at the [law](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avocat_(m%C3%A9tier)) firm where he works and where she is an associate. The Obama couple will have two daughters, Malia Ann (born 1998) and Natasha, better known by her nickname *Sasha* (born 2001). Michelle Robinson-Obama was a renowned lawyer, an influential figure in the local [Democratic Party](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parti_d%C3%A9mocrate_(%C3%89tats-Unis))and close to Chicago [Mayor](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maire_de_Chicago) [Richard M. Daley.](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_M._Daley) It is she who will propel the political career of her husband13,33 while he had, until then, actively campaigned only to support the candidacy of [Bill Clinton](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Clinton) for the presidency of the [United States](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lection_pr%C3%A9sidentielle_am%C3%A9ricaine_de_1992), and that of [Carol Moseley-Braun](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carol_Moseley-Braun) in the [Senate](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A9nat_des_%C3%89tats-Unis).

**Education and professional career**

**Baccalaureate (1983)**

After high school, Barack Obama studied for two years at [Occidental College](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Occidental_College) in [Los Angeles](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles) ([California](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Californie)) and then entered [Columbia University](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_Columbia) in [New York](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York). He graduated in 1983-34 with a [bachelor's degree](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baccalaur%C3%A9at_universitaire) in [political science](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_politique), specializing in [international relations](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relations_internationales).

**First experiences (1983-1985)**

Even before graduating from Columbia University, Barack Obama considered becoming a "*community organizer*"36, but his efforts with various organizations (including the Chicago City Hall, recently led by a black man, [Harold Washington](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Washington)) were unsuccessful. He joined a consulting firm ([Business International](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Business_International_Corporation&action=edit&redlink=1) Corporation37) working for multinationals in New York, first as a research assistant and then as a financial analyst, an important function that allowed him to have an office and a secretary. Following a contact with his aunt Auma, he decided to reorient himself towards community work and left his company. Still in New York, he experienced a period of precarious work (he worked for three months for [Ralph Nader's](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph_Nader) organization), then was recruited by a Chicago activist, Jerry Kellman (whom he called *Marty Kaufman* in his autobiography).

**Chicago (1985-1988)**

In the summer of 1985,33 he chose to work as a community organizer in the underprivileged [black](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afro-Am%C3%A9ricains) neighborhood of [Bronzeville](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bronzeville), a suburb of Chicago. He became an assistant to Jerry Kellman, a Christian social worker and member of a network of progressive churches. Until 1987, Barack Obama, nicknamed "Baby Face" by local [pastors](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pasteur_(christianisme)), roamed the [South Side](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Side_(Chicago)) to help residents organize in defense of their interests, to obtain the removal of asbestos from [public housing](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logement_social), the opening of hiring offices, or to fight against [juvenile delinquency](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/D%C3%A9linquance). It was during this period that Barack Obama, raised without religion,38 approached the [United Church of Christ](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89glise_unie_du_Christ)led in the neighborhood by Pastor [Jeremiah Wright](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeremiah_Wright), and embraced the [Protestant](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestantisme) religion.

**Harvard (1988-1991)**

During 1987, he applied to several universities and was accepted into Harvard in February 1988. He left Chicago in May 1988 and after a tourist stay in Europe, left for his first trip to Kenya. He then studied for three years33 at Harvard [Law School](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facult%C3%A9_de_droit_de_Harvard) in [Cambridge](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambridge_(Massachusetts)) near [Boston](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston); he graduated [*magna laude*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mention_honorifique). In 1990, he was the first African-American39 elected (against 18 other candidates) editor of the prestigious [*Harvard Law Review*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_Law_Review), which is reported by the national press.

**Teacher (1991-2004)**

At the end of his studies, instead of becoming an assistant to Justice Abner Mikva, Barack Obama returned to Chicago to become a professor of [constitutional law](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Droit_constitutionnel) at the [University of Chicago](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_de_Chicago) where he worked until 2004.33 He joined a law firm specializing in civil [rights](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Droits_civiques).

**Political career**

**Senator from Illinois (1997–2004)**

In 1996, Barack Obama was elected to the [Illinois Senate](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A9nat_de_l%27Illinois) in the 13th [district](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circonscription), covering the [South Side](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Side_(Chicago)) neighborhoods of [Chicago](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago)33 including the Hyde [Park](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyde_Park_(Chicago)) neighborhood, in which he lived with his wife and two daughters until he entered the [White House](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maison-Blanche). He chaired the [Public Health](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sant%C3%A9_publique) Committee when Democrats regained the majority in the [state Senate](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A9nat_de_l%27Illinois).

He supported legislation to extend medical coverage to the poorest, championed the cause of [homosexuals](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homosexualit%C3%A9) and increased funding for the fight against [AIDS](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syndrome_d%27immunod%C3%A9ficience_acquise). His [tenure](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandat_politique) was marked by his ability to obtain, through compromise, Republican assent on laws such as those against racial profiling, video [surveillance](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vid%C3%A9osurveillance) of police [interrogations](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interrogatoire_policier) and a [moratorium](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moratoire) on the use of the [death penalty](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peine_de_mort) in Illinois.13

In 2000, he tried to be nominated in the Democratic [primaries](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lections_l%C3%A9gislatives_am%C3%A9ricaines_de_2000_en_Illinois) to be a candidate for the [U.S. House of Representatives](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chambre_des_repr%C3%A9sentants_des_%C3%89tats-Unis), but was defeated with 30% of the vote to 61% for [Bobby Rush](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobby_Rush_(homme_politique)), the incumbent Democratic incumbent and former historical figure of the [Black Panther Party](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Panther_Party).

Barack Obama also made national prominence in 2002 when he refused to endorse the [neoconservatives](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/N%C3%A9o-conservatisme)' explanations of a necessary invasion of [Iraq](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irak). "I am not someone who opposes war in all circumstances. I am opposed to a stupid war, not based on reason, but on passion, not on principles, but on politics," he declared on October 2, 2002 at Chicago40. This opposition to [the war](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerre_d%27Irak) launched by the [Bush](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush) administration on March 19, 2003 and approved by a large majority of the United States Senate (including [Hillary Clinton](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillary_Clinton)41), will serve as a reference throughout his campaign for the nomination of the [US presidential election of 2008](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lection_pr%C3%A9sidentielle_am%C3%A9ricaine_de_2008) to counter his opponents.

**United States Senator (2004–2008)**

Main article: [2004 United States Senate election in Illinois](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lection_s%C3%A9natoriale_am%C3%A9ricaine_de_2004_en_Illinois)

In the fall of 2002, he hired political consultant [David Axelrod](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Axelrod_(consultant_politique)) and officially announced his candidacy for the [United States Senate](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A9nat_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) in January 2003.42 Among the members of his campaign finance committee was a notorious fugitive, Tony Rezko.43,44 In July 2004, he gave a speech at the [Democratic Convention in Boston](file:////wiki/%25C3%2589lection_pr%25C3%25A9sidentielle_am%25C3%25A9ricaine_de_2004%23La_Convention_démocrate_de_Boston) nominating [John Kerry](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Kerry) as the party's presidential nominee. He glorifies the [American dream](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%AAve_am%C3%A9ricain), the generous [America](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89tats-Unis), recalling his family origins. He calls for the unity of all Americans and denounces the divisive "mistakes" and "extremism" of the [George W. Bush](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush) administration. This speech [*The Audacity of Hope*](https://fr.wikisource.org/wiki/Discours_d%27ouverture_de_la_Convention_nationale_d%C3%A9mocratique_de_2004)45 reprinted in the print media and on television makes Barack Obama known to Democratic activists but also to many Americans46.

On November 2, 2004, after beating his Democratic opponents a few months earlier in the primaries, Barack Obama was elected to the [United States Senate](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A9nat_des_%C3%89tats-Unis)with 70% of the vote against 27% for his [Republican](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parti_r%C3%A9publicain_(%C3%89tats-Unis)) opponent, the former [ambassador](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambassadeur) and conservative African-American political columnist [Alan Keyes.](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Keyes) . The score is not a surprise. For several months, Barack Obama spent much of his election campaign without any opponent appointed against him following the last-minute withdrawal of Jack Ryan, the Republican candidate; the latter had himself succeeded Blair Hull, the winner of the [primaries](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lection_primaire). With both mired in scabrous affairs with their respective wives, it was only two months before the election that Alan Keyes was nominated as the Republican candidate despite the fact that he resided in [Maryland](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maryland), had no connection to [Illinois](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illinois) and that in 2000 he had denounced Hillary [Clinton's](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillary_Clinton) parachuting into [New York](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York).

Barack Obama succeeds incumbent Republican Senator [Peter Fitzgerald](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Fitzgerald). He was sworn in as a senator on January 4, 2005, becoming the only man of colour to sit in the Senate, and the fifth in history.47 He resigned as a senator on November 16, 2008, following his election as President of the United States.

**2008 presidential election**

**This section is too long.**  It could benefit from being shortened or divided into several subsections. It is also possible that its length creates an imbalance in the article, to the point of compromising neutrality by giving disproportionate importance to one aspect of the topic.

**Presidential primaries**

On January 16, 2007, he announced the creation of an exploratory committee to raise funds for a candidacy for the [2008 presidential election](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lection_pr%C3%A9sidentielle_am%C3%A9ricaine_de_2008); on February 10, 2007, he declared his candidacy for the Democratic [nomination](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primaires_pr%C3%A9sidentielles_du_Parti_d%C3%A9mocrate_am%C3%A9ricain_de_2008)48, despite his relative inexperience and the competition in the Democratic camp of [Hillary Clinton](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillary_Clinton), hitherto favorite for the primaries. On December 15, 2007, he received the support of the prestigious national daily [*The Boston Globe*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Boston_Globe)49.

Throughout 2007, he insisted that he embodied change and opposed partisan politics.50 His candidacy excites some of the independent voters and the 50 young people. He won the support of many personalities such as Senator [John Kerry](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Kerry), businessmen [Warren Buffett](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warren_Buffett) and George [Soros](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Soros), actors [George Clooney](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Clooney), [Matt Damon](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matt_Damon), [Will Smith](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_Smith), [Ben Affleck](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Affleck), [Robert De Niro](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_De_Niro), actresses [Halle Berry](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halle_Berry) , [Sophia Bush](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophia_Bush) and [Scarlett. Johansson](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scarlett_Johansson), rocker [Bruce Springsteen](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Springsteen), singer [Nicole Scherzinger](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicole_Scherzinger), rapper [Nas](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nas_(rappeur)), novelist [Toni Morrison](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toni_Morrison) or TV host [Oprah Winfrey](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oprah_Winfrey), an extremely influential figure in her country, especially within the [African-American](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afro-Am%C3%A9ricains) community 51. On April 21, 2008, he also gained the support of filmmaker [Michael Moore](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Moore).

On January 3, 2008, Barack Obama surprised52 by winning the first primaries, the [caucuses](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caucus) of [Iowa](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iowa), a white state with more than 96%, with 38% of the votes cast, far ahead of [Senator John Edwards](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A9nat_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) (30%) and former [*First Lady*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premi%C3%A8re_dame) Hillary Clinton who obtained 29%53, thus demonstrating for the first time that a mixed-race candidate could have a real chance at the national level.

He then succeeded in imposing on the primary campaign, both Democratic and Republican, the theme of "*change*". On January 8, he lost in [New Hampshire](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Hampshire) (37%) to Hillary Clinton (39%) despite polls announcing him as the favorite with a 10-point lead of54. His [defeat speech](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Remarks_of_Senator_Barack_Obama_on_New_Hampshire_Primary_Night) is tinged with hope and remotivation. From this defeat Barack Obama draws his new slogan: "*Yes we can*", promised great fame. According to the sources, it has its origin in the rallying cry launched in 1972 by the trade unionist [César Chávez](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C3%A9sar_Ch%C3%A1vez) ("[*Sí se puede"),*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=S%C3%AD_se_puede&action=edit&redlink=1) to whom Obama will pay tribute once elected,55 or in the slogan of [Dolores Huerta](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolores_Huerta), a civil rights activist in the 1960s to whom Barack Obama presented a high distinction56.

After a controversy with Hillary Clinton over [civil rights](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Droits_civiques) and the respective roles of [Martin Luther King](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King) and President [Lyndon B. Johnson](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyndon_B._Johnson), he again came second in terms of votes, behind Hillary Clinton, in the [Nevada](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada) [caucus](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caucus) of January 19 (51% to 45%). Nevertheless, Barack Obama obtained a majority of thirteen delegates against twelve for Hillary Clinton, which is why he refused to concede defeat. He also mentions irregularities in the vote that he blames on the Clinton camp, accusing [Bill Clinton](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Clinton) and his wife of distorting the facts againsthim.57

On January 27, his very large victory (55% against 27% for Hillary Clinton) in the primaries of [South Carolina](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caroline_du_Sud)58 revived his candidacy in the run-up to [*Super Tuesday*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Super_Tuesday) on February 5.

On January 28, he won the support of Caroline Kennedy,59 as well as [Edward Moore Kennedy](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Moore_Kennedy) and Patrick Kennedy,60

On *Super Tuesday*, February 5, Barack Obama won thirteen [states](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89tats_des_%C3%89tats-Unis), compared to nine for Hillary Clinton.

On February 2, [Will.i.am](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will.i.am) recorded [*Yes We Can*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yes_We_Can), a song inspired by a speech given by Obama following the 2008 [New Hampshire primary](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primaire_du_New_Hampshire). Mixed with images and excerpts from the speech, it is performed by many celebrities (most American musicians, singers and comedians) supporting Senator Obama. The song was produced by Will.i.am, the music video was directed by [Jesse Dylan](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesse_Dylan), the son of singer [Bob Dylan](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bob_Dylan)61.

On February 9, he won the states of [Washington](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_(%C3%89tat)), [Nebraska](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebraska), [Louisiana](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiane) and the [Virgin Islands](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%8Eles_Vierges). The next day, February 10, he won the [state of Maine](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maine_(%C3%89tats-Unis)). On February 12, by winning the three Democratic primaries in [Virginia](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginie_(%C3%89tats-Unis)), [Maryland](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maryland) and Washington, Barack Obama gained an advantage in the race for the 2,025 delegates needed for the Democratic nomination. With 1,231 delegates, he is now ahead of Hillary Clinton (1,196 delegates), winning the confidence not only of a good part of the African-American electorate but also that of the elderly (53% against 47% for Hillary Clinton) and women (58%); Whites remain somewhat supportive of Hillary Clinton (48% vs. 51%).62

On February 19, he won the primaries in [Wisconsin](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wisconsin) and [Hawaii](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawa%C3%AF), scoring ten consecutive victories over Hillary Clinton.

On February 22, with more than 65% of the vote, Illinois Senator Barack Obama easily won the expatriate Democratic primary. In France, it exceeds the 70% mark.63

On March 4, he won in [Vermont](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermont) but lost in [Ohio](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio) and [Rhode Island](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhode_Island). In [Texas](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas), he won more representatives at the convention than Hillary Clinton (99 to 94). He maintains a lead of more than 100 delegates.

He won the [Wyoming](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyoming) primary on March 8 and the [Mississippi](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi_(%C3%89tat)) primary three days later.

On March 18, 2008, he delivered an important speech in Philadelphia64 on the question of race.

On April 22, Hillary Clinton won the [Pennsylvania](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennsylvanie)65 primary ; her campaign, which could not afford to increase its delay further, then benefited from a second wind at the expense of that of Obama. The latter has been weakened in public opinion by his ambiguous attitude towards the verbal excesses of his former pastor, the communitarian Jeremiah Wright66, as well as by accusations of elitism.

Thus, on May 3, he won by only seven votes the caucuses of [Guam](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guam), Pacific island, with 50.08% of the vote against 49.92% for Hillary Clinton.

On May 6, he won the state of [North Carolina](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caroline_du_Nord) with 56% of the vote but lost by 22,000 votes in Indiana (49% of the vote).67

On May 13, Hillary Clinton won the West [Virginia](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginie-Occidentale) primary with 67% of the vote to Barack Obama's 26%. The candidate enjoys a massive vote of white and modest voters, very numerous in this state68. Obama can nevertheless catch up with this last category of voters and with the "blue collar" (white workers) thanks to the rallying of weight of [John Edwards](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Edwards), announced the day after the primary of West Virginia69.

At this stage of the primaries, the final five upcoming consultations will be of relative importance, with neither candidate able to secure a qualifying majority of ordinary delegates, while the superdelegates, who remain split between Obama (282), Clinton (273) and indecision (about 240), will likely have the final say at the Democratic Convention in August. Some observers, however, are betting on a Clinton withdrawal before the end of the70 process.

On May 20, Obama and Clinton both won a primary. The first won in Oregon (58% of the vote), the second in Kentucky (65% of the vote).71

On May 30, he left the [United Church of Christ](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89glise_unie_du_Christ) following controversy over the comments of Wright and Rev. Michael Pfleger. Obama had been a member of this Church for about twentyyears.72,73

On June 3, after the last primaries ([Montana](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montana) and [South Dakota](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dakota_du_Sud)), he reached the required threshold of 2,118 delegates, as well as the support of many superdelegates.74 Despite Clinton's claim of a majority of the "popular vote" (in the number of activist votes) and the senator's refusal to declare defeat, Obama is now almost certain to be nominated for the White House at the Democratic convention at the end of August.

On June 7, Hillary Clinton "suspended" her campaign for the Democratic nomination and supported Barack Obama in his presidential campaign against Republican [John McCain](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_McCain)75.

**Democratic nomination**

On August 27, the third day of the [2008 Democratic National Convention](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Convention_nationale_d%C3%A9mocrate_de_2008&action=edit&redlink=1) in [Denver](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denver), Obama was officially sworn in by acclamation, or *roll call*, launched by Senator Hillary Clinton.76 More than twenty years after the Reverend [Jesse Jackson](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesse_Jackson), three times candidate for the Democratic nomination and first to win primaries, notably in 1988, it is the first mixed African-American39 invested for the presidential election by a major party77.

**Financing his election campaign**

Regarding the financing of electoral campaigns, weakly regulated by American legislation, Barack Obama declares himself in favor of a system of public financing and indicates even before his declaration of candidacy that he would finance his presidential campaign if his Republican rival did the same.

However, in June 2008, he decided to base his campaign on private fundraising, thus escaping the fundraising limit imposed in case of publicfunding.78 He became the first candidate to do without these federal funds since Congress passed campaign finance laws, drafted after the [Watergate](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scandale_du_Watergate) scandal.79

More than 40 percent of Obama's campaign funds come from [California](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Californie), [New York](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89tat_de_New_York) and [Illinois](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illinois), traditionally 80 Democratic states.

Obama's top 5 donor groups are shareholders, employees, or80 members :

1. The [University of California](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_de_Californie);
2. [Goldman Sachs](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goldman_Sachs): The bank raises more money for Obama's presidential campaign than any other bank or company listed on Wall Street, more than a million dollars from its employees and executives81. Subsequently, several former Goldman executives held senior positions in the Obama administration81,82 and the bank's influence over the Obama administration sparkeddebate.83 Observers point in particular to the direct and indirect aid received by the bank in 2008 and 2009 during the [subprime crisis](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crise_des_subprimes) in relation to the aid provided to [Lehman Brothers](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lehman_Brothers) forced to go bankrupt81,83;
3. Le [Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard-Smithsonian_Center_for_Astrophysics) ;
4. [Microsoft](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft) ;
5. [JPMorgan Chase](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/JPMorgan_Chase).

**Presidential campaign**

Main article: [Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campagne_pr%C3%A9sidentielle_de_Barack_Obama_de_2008)

**Election against McCain**

With a record turnout of 63% of registeredvoters,84 Barack Obama won [the presidential election on November 4, 2008](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lection_pr%C3%A9sidentielle_am%C3%A9ricaine_de_2008) with a margin of more than 9 million votes85 over his opponent [John McCain](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_McCain). The victory was clear both in the electorate (365 to 173,86.87) and in the popular vote (52.9% to 45.6%).88 In addition to his victories in the hotly contested swing states of [Ohio](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio) and Florida, Obama narrowly toppled traditional Republican strongholds like Indiana-89, and even won the votes of two former [Confederate states](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89tats_conf%C3%A9d%C3%A9r%C3%A9s_d%27Am%C3%A9rique) (in addition to Florida): [Virginia](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginie_(%C3%89tats-Unis)) 90 and [North Carolina.91](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caroline_du_Nord) . Barack Obama wins in all age groups, except among those over 65, and enjoys a stronger mobilization of young voters, while 68% of 18-25 year olds voted in favor of him92. He also won the votes of 54% of Catholics, 78% of Jews, as well as 67% of Latinos and 95% of African Americans.93

On the evening of November 4, 2008, he delivered his [victory speech](https://fr.wikisource.org/wiki/Discours_de_Barack_Obama_%C3%A0_Chicago_le_4_novembre_2008) to several hundred thousand people in Grant Park, Chicago, Illinois.94 After thanking all his supporters (family, collaborators, voters), he evokes the major issues of his future mandate; in particular the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the economic crisis. His speech is tinged with significant references to the inaugural speeches of [John F. Kennedy](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Fitzgerald_Kennedy), Abraham Lincoln and also to the speeches delivered by [Martin Luther King](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King); he quotes word for word a passage from Abraham Lincoln's speech at his first inauguration.95

The election of Barack Obama is generally very well received abroad, where it is often the occasion for popular celebrations. [Kenya](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya), his father's native country, even declares a [public holiday](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jour_f%C3%A9ri%C3%A9). Also unprecedented, governments traditionally on very bad terms with the United States are congratulating the new president, such as [Raúl Castro](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ra%C3%BAl_Castro) ([Cuba](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba)), [Hugo Chávez](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugo_Ch%C3%A1vez) ([Venezuela](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venezuela)) and [Mahmoud Ahmadinejad](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahmoud_Ahmadinejad) ([Iran](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran)). From [South Africa](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrique_du_Sud), he is also congratulated by Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President [Nelson Mandela](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nelson_Mandela)96.

Barack Obama was formally elected by the electorate on 15 December 2008 — his victory having been officially proclaimed in [the United States Congress](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congr%C3%A8s_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) by [Dick Cheney](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_Cheney) on 8 January 2009)97 — and he succeeded [George W. Bush](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_W._Bush) on 20 January 2009. He then became the forty-fourth [president of the United States](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pr%C3%A9sident_des_%C3%89tats-Unis), and the first 39-year-old African-American to reach the [White House](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maison-Blanche).

The beginning of his presidency began against the backdrop of the war in Iraq, the [war in Afghanistan](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerre_d%27Afghanistan_(2001-2014)) and a major recession in the [American economy](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89conomie_des_%C3%89tats-Unis).

Barack Obama owes his victory in particular to the vote of many first-time voters, recruited thanks to a revolutionary campaign to mobilize donors, activists, and finally voters. This mobilization was based on three main levers: the message, [new technologies](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nouvelles_technologies) and field organization.

The message is "change", based on emotion, on the model of *community organizing* campaigns, making voters the actors of this change. The ability of Obama's campaign (or organization) to channel the flow of money and volunteers was a determining factor in his victory; by taking and improving on the model set up by the Republicans eight years earlier, Obama was able to channel and build on his popular success.98

New technologies are [Internet tools](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet) that are used primarily to recruit supporters and organize [activism](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militantisme). There are social networks, such as [Facebook](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facebook), on which Barack Obama is by far the person in the world with the most declared supporters, with nearly five million supporters in January 2009 99, but also an exceptional database called Catalist, "a unique file that individually lists 220 million Americans, with up to 600 pieces of information per person", and to accurately target all voters to craft 100 personalized messages.

Finally, the field organization combines mobilization communication, local activism and a fundraising campaign, structured in geographical groups (DC for Obama, etc.) or thematic groups (Students for Obama, Lawyers for Obama, etc.), organized on the model of the [telethon](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/T%C3%A9l%C3%A9thon), which ultimately allows Barack Obama to benefit *from*  a budget of $750 million compared to $350 million for John McCain. In total, Barack Obama raised an army of 1.2 million activists, representing 25% of the campaign budget ($200 million). These activists approached, directly or by phone, nearly 68 million Americans, more than half of voters and 99 percent of100 target voters.

**Presidential transition**

Related article: [Presidency of Barack Obama](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pr%C3%A9sidence_de_Barack_Obama).

The indirect U.S. presidential election meant that the [president-elect](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pr%C3%A9sident_%C3%A9lu_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) did not take office until eleven weeks after the popular vote. This period between [Election](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Election_Day) Day on November 4 and [Inauguration Day](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inauguration_Day), the day of the presidential inauguration on January 20, is a phase of appointment of the new [presidential](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administration_aux_%C3%89tats-Unis) administration and transition with the outgoing administration. The first appointment of the new administration is that of [Rahm Emanuel](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rahm_Emanuel) as [White House Chief of Staff](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chef_de_cabinet_de_la_Maison-Blanche). Many names circulated as to the [various secretaries](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cabinet_(%C3%89tats-Unis)), and on December 1, it was announced that her former rival for the nomination [Hillary Clinton](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillary_Clinton) would be proposed by the Obama administration as [Secretary of State](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secr%C3%A9taire_d%27%C3%89tat_des_%C3%89tats-Unis)101. The main positions are filled from the beginning of December. Although Obama focused his presidential campaign on the slogan of change, there is a preponderance of veterans of the [Clinton administration](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pr%C3%A9sidence_de_Bill_Clinton) in the new team, out of a claimed concern to benefit from their experience in the face of the crisis.

In keeping with his promises to overcome the bipartisan divide 102, Obama keeps in defense his incumbent appointed by George W. Bush in 2006, [Robert Gates](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Gates), a close friend of Republicans 103 and the [Bush family](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Famille_Bush) in particular104; he also meets twice his unfortunate opponent [John McCain](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_McCain)  in mid-November 2008 and January 19, 2009, at a ball in honour of the former Vietnam Veteran 105. He also appointed two other men close to the Republicans in his administration, [Ray LaHood](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray_LaHood) (former Republican representative) as Secretary of Transportation and General [James L. Jones](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_L._Jones), close to John McCain106, as National Security Advisor.

President Bush wanted this transition to go as smoothly as possible, Obama quickly gained access to classified information and received the same security reports as the sitting president from the [CIA](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Intelligence_Agency) and [FBI.](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Bureau_of_Investigation)

Arguing that there can only be one sitting U.S. president at a time, Barack Obama made the controversial choice to remain largely silent in December 2008 and January 2009 during the Israeli offensive against [Hamas](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamas) in [Gaza](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza). It slowed down very significantly a few days before his inauguration.

Obama enjoys enhanced security, very similar to that of the sitting president. It is provided by the [Secret Service](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Secret_Service), the federal agency responsible for protecting the president, vice president and various personalities. He traveled in an armored convoy and his home in [Hyde Park](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hyde_Park_(Chicago)) and the federal building in Chicago serving as his headquarters during this transition period were closely monitored. The president-elect did not move to Washington until early January 2009.

During election campaigns, the main candidates in the US presidential election enjoy protection from the Secret Service for 120 days before the election, since the decision of President [Lyndon B. Johnson](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyndon_B._Johnson) following the assassination of the prospective candidate of the Democratic Party, [Robert Kennedy](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Francis_Kennedy), in 1968, in the middle of the electoral campaign. Candidate Obama was the first, in May 2007, to benefit because of the risk of attacks by [white supremacists](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mouvements_racistes)107. This protection was, as for the Republican candidate, reinforced after their respective nomination as their party's candidate.

**President of the United States (2009–2017)**

Main article: [Presidency of Barack Obama](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pr%C3%A9sidence_de_Barack_Obama)

**First presidential term**

Main article: [First inauguration of Barack Obama](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premi%C3%A8re_investiture_de_Barack_Obama)

On January 20, 2009 at 12:07 p.m., Barack Obama was sworn in on [Capitol Hill](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitole_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) in [Washington, D.C.](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_(district_de_Columbia)) , in front of an unprecedented crowd estimated at more than 2 million people, and in front of hundreds of millions of viewers around the world. He is thus officially inaugurated as the 44th president, in an atmosphere of unusual national and international fervor (nearly 8 out of 10 Americans then give him their confidence in the face of the crisis). Symbolically, the first African-American mixed-race president reuses the [Bible](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible)that was used in 1861 for the inauguration of [Abraham Lincoln](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln). In the preceding days, he had remade the latter's journey from [Philadelphia](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphie) to Washington that year, and had addressed the crowd from the [Lincoln Memorial](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Memorial).

As a sign of national unity, Barack Obama chose a [gay Episcopalian](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89glise_%C3%A9piscopalienne_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) bishop to say the opening prayer of his inauguration festivities, an anti-abortion evangelical pastor for the opening prayer of the ceremony, and a famous veteran of the civil rights movement, former companion of [Martin Luther King](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King), for the closing prayer. The inauguration speech of the new president insists on "the triumph of hope over fear", on the "refusal of the choice between our ideals and our security" and on international dialogue, without hiding from the Americans the difficulties that await them108.

Chief [Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cour_supr%C3%AAme_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) having misplaced an adverb when reciting the constitutional formula ("... that I will execute the Office of President to the United States faithfully" instead of "[...] that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States"), and thus makes the new president hesitate, the swearing-in is redone in private the next day, January 21 at the [White House](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maison-Blanche) to avoid any possible legal challenge109.

Barack Obama is seen as a pragmatic politician, adept at [compromise](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compromis) to advance his ideas and projects and able to rally various categories of the electorate, even if his votes in Congress may have placed him to the [left](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gauche_(politique)) of the110 party. His January 2010 State of the [Union address](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discours_sur_l%27%C3%A9tat_de_l%27Union_(%C3%89tats-Unis)), coming shortly after losing the super majority in the [Senate](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A9nat_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) with the election of [Ted Kennedy's](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Moore_Kennedy) successor in [Massachusetts](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts), emphasized the need to reform global [finance](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finance), in the wake of the [2008](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crise_bancaire_et_financi%C3%A8re_de_l%27automne_2008) financial crisis. , and calls on Democrats and Republicans to pass legislation to counter the [Supreme Court's](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cour_supr%C3%AAme_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) [*Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citizens_United_v._Federal_Election_Commission) decision of January 21, 2010, which expands the possibilities of corporate (domestic and foreign) election financing.111 The loss of the majority in the Senate jeopardizes the reform of the [social protection](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protection_sociale_aux_%C3%89tats-Unis) system. Obama is also adept at a broad openness of (unclassified) information held by administrations and government agencies to the public, as well as a [participatory](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Participation_(politique)) and [collaborative](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Travail_collaboratif) approach, which he translated, from his first day of work in the White House by the [*Open Government Initiative*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_Government_Initiative).

Barack Obama is presented as a follower of [multilateralism](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multilat%C3%A9ralisme), a supporter of [*realpolitik*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Realpolitik), and takes as a model [James Baker](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Baker), praising the American foreign policy conducted under the presidency of [George H. W. Bush](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_H._W._Bush) during the First [Gulf War](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerre_du_Golfe) in 1991 and the fall of the [Berlin Wall](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mur_de_Berlin) in 1989 112 . His foreign policy is implemented by his Secretary of State, [Hillary Clinton](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hillary_Clinton). If he wants to be tougher on North Korea's nuclear program, his main proposals are a withdrawal within 16 months of US troops (fighters) from Iraq, which would begin as soon as he takes office, and the beginning of a dialogue "without preconditions" with [Iran](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran). 113 . However, he said after his election that he considered Iran's nuclear program "unacceptable". This statement was criticized by the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, [Ali Larijani](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali_Larijani)114.

Regarding relations with Israel and the [Palestinians](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestiniens), after being ambivalent, he delivered a speech on 4 June 2008 at the conference of the pro-Israel [coterie](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lobby) [Aipac](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Israel_Public_Affairs_Committee) (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) in which he expressed his support for the status of [Jerusalem](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%A9rusalem) as the undivided capital of the State of Israel 115,69 . Observers note, however, that relations between Barack Obama and Israeli leaders, especially [Benjamin Netanyahu](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benyamin_Netanyahou), are less warm than those maintained by his predecessors.116

On July 10, 2009, he met Pope [Benedict XVI](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pape) at the [Vatican](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vatican) on the sidelines of the [G8](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groupe_des_sept_(%C3%A9conomie)) summit. President Obama has made a commitment to him to try to reduce the number of abortions.

On May 1, 2011, at approximately 11:20 p.m. ([Eastern Time](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heure_de_l%27Est)), he announced the [death](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mort_d%27Oussama_ben_Laden), by [U.S. special forces](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forces_arm%C3%A9es_des_%C3%89tats-Unis), of the main leader of the [jihadist network Al-Qaeda](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Djihadisme), [Osama bin Laden](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oussama_ben_Laden)117, considered to be the mastermind of the [attacks of September 11, 2001](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attentats_du_11_septembre_2001). This announcement provoked scenes of jubilation in the [United States](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89tats-Unis), and many positive reactions around the world118. In the hours of extreme tension preceding an assault kept secret and with an uncertain outcome, he performed at the White House correspondents' dinner, a memorable exercise in style where he displayed all his humor119.

During the [First Libyan Civil War](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premi%C3%A8re_guerre_civile_libyenne), he supported the rebels of the [National Transitional Council](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conseil_national_de_transition_(Libye)) and adhered to the [military intervention](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intervention_militaire_de_2011_en_Libye) under the aegis of the [United Nations](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_des_Nations_unies) (UN): Operation [Odyssey Dawn](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Op%C3%A9ration_Odyssey_Dawn), which participated in the overthrow of [Muammar Gaddafi](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mouammar_Kadhafi). . In 2016, he judged that the lack of follow-up after this military operation was "the worst mistake of his presidency", acknowledging that Washington has a share of responsibility for the Libyan "chaos"120,121.

In the context of the [Syrian civil war](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerre_civile_syrienne), it first seems to be engaging in a process leading to an air military intervention in case the regime of [Bashar al-Assad](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bachar_el-Assad) crosses the "red line" it defines in 2012, namely the use of [chemical weapons against the civilian population of rebel areas](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armes_chimiques_pendant_la_guerre_civile_syrienne). To the great surprise of its allies, mainly the France which had already announced joint strikes following the [sarin gas attacks of 21 August 2013](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massacre_de_la_Ghouta) which killed between 1,000 and 2,000 people, it suspended and then cancelled planned retaliatory operations on 31 August. Barack Obama says he is "very proud" of this decision by which he wishes to mark a break with the American interventionist tradition, and refer to the international community for this kind of intervention; however, it is seen as a real betrayal by [François Hollande](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois_Hollande) and considered as an abandonment of Syria to [Vladimir Putin](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_Poutine) by critics of the strategy of the President of the United States.

He delivered a [speech](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discours_du_pr%C3%A9sident_Barack_Obama_au_Caire) at [al-Azhar University](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_al-Azhar) in [Cairo](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Le_Caire) on June 4, 2009, which was seen as representing a major shift in [international relations](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relations_internationales) between the [United States](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89tats-Unis) and Muslims.122 This university is the most important center in the Arab world for the training of [ulema](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oul%C3%A9ma)123. During this speech, in the presence of the Muslim [Brotherhood](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fr%C3%A8res_musulmans) guests of honor against the advice of [Hosni Mubarak](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hosni_Moubarak), President Obama attributed to Islam almost all the major inventions of human history, also presenting the United States as "a great Muslim country"124. He also spoke in favour of not regulating the wearing of the veil: "It is important for Western countries to avoid embarrassing Muslim citizens to practice their religion as they wish, and for example by dictating the clothes that a woman must wear" and added: "Hostility towards a religion must not be concealed in the face of the pretense of liberalism." According to many observers, this criticism of a Western country is aimed at [France](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/France) and its secularism policy.125,126

In October 2010, regarding the awarding [of the Nobel Peace Prize](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prix_Nobel_de_la_paix) to China's [Liu Xiaobo](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liu_Xiaobo), he said:

"The Nobel Committee has chosen an eloquent and courageous spokesperson for the cause of universal values... Over the past thirty years, China has made spectacular progress... This award reminds us that political reform has not kept pace and that human rights must berespected.127 »

In January 2011, receiving [Hu Jintao](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hu_Jintao) on a state visit, Barack Obama addressed the issue of human rights and suggested dialogue [between China and the Dalai Lama](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dialogue_entre_le_gouvernement_tib%C3%A9tain_en_exil_et_la_r%C3%A9publique_populaire_de_Chine_(2002-2010))128.

In 2013, John Camille Pecastaing, a professor at [Johns Hopkins University](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universit%C3%A9_Johns-Hopkins), judged that "the foreign policy of the United States under Obama has become minimalist and reactive. It boils down to the use of killer drones in the fight against terrorism"129. Historian [Perry Anderson](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perry_Anderson) also points out how "drone assassinations, which began under his predecessor, [became] the hallmark of the Nobel Peace Prize" and recalls that during his first term, "Obama ordered such an assassination every four days—a rate more than ten times higher than under President Bush."130

Former astronaut [Charles F. Bolden](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_F._Bolden) was appointed [NASA administrator](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Administrateur_de_la_NASA) in July 2009 and the [Constellation program](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Programme_Constellation) was cancelled. Instead, the Obama administration wants to outsource the transportation of astronauts to the [International Space Station](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Station_spatiale_internationale) to the private sector. After a waltz-hesitation, the [Orion](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orion_(v%C3%A9hicule_spatial)) manned vehicle program was restored, and a long-term goal of manned exploration of asteroids and eventually [Mars](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mars_(plan%C3%A8te)) was given to [NASA](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Aeronautics_and_Space_Administration), using a new giant launch vehicle, the [Space Launch System](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Launch_System). Orion's first mission is scheduled for 2014.

Like [Bill Clinton](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Clinton), Barack Obama radicalized his position as he rose politically. When he was a senator in Illinois, Obama passed a law that made it mandatory for police to film interrogations of defendants facing the death penalty, or face unfilmed confessions canceled. When he ran for U.S. Senator from Illinois, Obama said on television that the [death penalty](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peine_de_mort_aux_%C3%89tats-Unis) was used "too frequently and unconsciously" and recalled that "thirteen death row inmates were released in Illinois on grounds of innocence." He concluded by stating that even if he approved of the death penalty when "the community is justified in expressing the full measure of its indignation", the number of [capital crimes](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crime_capital) had to be reduced.131 During the presidential campaign, Obama also declared that [bin Laden](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oussama_ben_Laden) justified the use of the deathpenalty.132 Finally, on the same day it was rendered, he condemned Supreme Court decision133 which declared the death penalty unconstitutional for persons convicted of rape of a minor without homicide ([John McCain](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_McCain) had just done the same thing in the morning). Once elected, Obama appointed [Eric Holder](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Holder), a personal opponent of the death penalty, as [attorney general](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Procureur_g%C3%A9n%C3%A9ral_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) (a crucial position in the operation of the [federal death penalty](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peine_de_mort_f%C3%A9d%C3%A9rale_des_%C3%89tats-Unis)). At his hearing, Holder declared that he would apply "the law made by Congress." It was with his authorization that the death penalty was sought in federal court as soon as he took office in January 2009.134

He also supports the2nd Amendment on the right [to own firearms](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arme_%C3%A0_feu), but recognizes the usefulness of "common-sense laws in preventing guns from falling into the hands of children or gang members."134

Barack Obama is in favor of abortion rights; he first declared himself in favor of [civil union](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partenariat_enregistr%C3%A9) contracts between people of the same sex (during his 2008 campaign, he is opposed to same-sex marriage 135) then wanted the generalization of the extension of matrimonial rights and benefits to [homosexuals](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homosexualit%C3%A9) until [marriage](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariage_homosexuel), both at the state level and at the federal level136 . Finally, in [May 2012](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mai_2012), he became, in a highly publicized official announcement, the first American President to declare himself in favor of same-sexmarriage.137 [Same-sex marriage](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariage_homosexuel_aux_%C3%89tats-Unis) was finally allowed under his tenure, in a Supreme [Court](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cour_supr%C3%AAme_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) decision on June 26, 2015.

Main article: [Immigration to the United States](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_aux_%C3%89tats-Unis)

Although he is in favour of strengthening controls at the Mexican border, he defends the regularisation of illegal immigrants already present to whom he envisages granting the110 driving licence. In particular, he considers that without the contribution of immigrant labor, [American agriculture](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture_aux_%C3%89tats-Unis) would go "out of business", signifying concretely its intention to promote family reunification and increase the number of regular immigrants138.

On November 20, 2014, in a televised address from the White House, Barack Obama announced a "deferred action" allowing about 45% of illegal immigrants to remain in the UnitedStates.139 Up to 3.7 million individuals of undocumented parents, or who have legally resided in the country for at least five years, are eligible for [DACA status](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Statut_DACA), which allows them eligibility for a U.S. workpermit.140

Deportations of migrants have risen sharply under President Barack Obama. Between 2009 and 2016, three million people were deported to Mexico, earning the president the nickname "chief expeller" among critics of thepolicy.141

At the economic level, the Obama presidency is above all marked by the [stimulus plan of nearly $ 800 billion](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plan_de_relance_%C3%A9conomique_des_%C3%89tats-Unis_de_2009) launched by the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* of 2009, aimed at dealing with the [subprime crisis](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crise_des_subprimes).

Article détaillé : [*Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patient_Protection_and_Affordable_Care_Act).

During his 2008 election campaign, Obama proposed a major reform of the [US health care system](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protection_sociale_aux_%C3%89tats-Unis) that would allow the creation of "universal health insurance" at the federal level, without imposing mandatory health coverage with the exception ofchildren.113 It was then one of his flagship projects of his campaign. Nevertheless, once elected president, to pass his text, Obama was forced to make concessions to get his bill passed by Congress. On November 7, 2009, almost 11 months after his inauguration and despite a comfortable majority in the [House of Representatives](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chambre_des_repr%C3%A9sentants_des_%C3%89tats-Unis), he narrowly obtained, by 220 votes to 215, the adoption of a text reforming the health system. Only one [Republican](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parti_r%C3%A9publicain_(%C3%89tats-Unis)), [Joseph Cao](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Cao), voted for reform. The [U.S. Senate](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A9nat_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) also passed its own bill on December 24, after lengthy debate and multiple amendments by a vote of 60 to 40. Finally, after many twists and turns, on March 21, 2010, despite unfavorable opinion polls, an aggravated polarization of the political class and American citizens, a presidential popularity at half-mast symbolized by the victory of a Republican in [Massachusetts](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts) to succeed [Ted Kennedy](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Moore_Kennedy) , despite the reluctance of some of the elected Democrats, the text voted by the Senate is adopted as such by the House of Representatives by 219 votes to 212.

Described as historic, the text, which received no opposition votes (a historic first for this type of legislation), guarantees health coverage to 32 million Americans who lack it. However, it falls far short of Barack Obama's election promises because it does not include, in particular, a universal public plan or even public insurance, and will leave 5% of US residents (23 million people) without any health coverage (compared to 15% before the reform)142.

Under the enactment, most Americans will be required to take out insurance by 2014 or facepenalties.143 Grants will be provided by the federal government to help lowest-income families pay their premiums (incomes less than $88,000 peryear.143 Companies with more than 50 employees (SMEs and traders) that do not provide coverage will also have to pay 144 penalties. In addition, the text prohibits insurance companies from refusing to cover people because of their medicalhistory.143 Parents will also be able to protect their children up to the age of 26. Nevertheless, to achieve his goals and pass this law, Barack Obama announced that he would sign an executive order guaranteeing that the reform would not change the restrictions prohibiting the use of federal funds for abortions,145 which he did on March 24, the day after the enactment of Bill146. . Several fixes still need to be adopted by a budget bill by both chambers. The reform is expected to cost $940 billion (€695 billion) over ten years 143. Its financing should be ensured by [taxes](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxe) on high incomes and reductions in health careexpenditure.143

Congress had been debating this issue of health care for nearly a century. Republican President [Theodore Roosevelt](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt) already mentioned it in his platform, but he was defeated in the [1912 U.S. presidential election](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lection_pr%C3%A9sidentielle_am%C3%A9ricaine_de_1912) by Democratic candidate [Woodrow Wilson](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodrow_Wilson). In 1965, Democratic President [Lyndon B. Johnson](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyndon_B._Johnson) signed [Medicare](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicare) and [Medicaid](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicaid) into law for the elderly and the poor, respectively, after winning half of the Republican votes in Congress. Democratic President [Bill Clinton](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Clinton) also tried to pass an ambitious project in 1993, but failed.

Upon the promulgation of the law by Barack Obama on March 23, 2009, the attorneys general (then fourteen) states of the United States declared that they were implementing a federal judicial procedure to challenge the constitutionality of the new law for violating statesovereignty.147 while the [legislatures](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%C3%A9gislature_d%27%C3%89tat_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) of 37 states began debates aimed at adopting a derogatory status so as not to have to apply the reform. 148. Then, on March 24, after the adoption in the Senate of two amendments tabled by the Republicans concerning procedural defects, the conciliation law, adopted by the House of Representatives to implement the new law and which provides in particular for an extension of federal subsidies, increased state aid to the [Medicaid](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicaid) program , a broadening of the tax base and a reform of the student loans program, must be sent back to the House for a revote, delaying the implementation of Bill149.

The conciliation law was in turn adopted by the Senate on 25 March 2010150. Reform then became one of the main themes of the [2010 midterm election campaign](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lections_l%C3%A9gislatives_am%C3%A9ricaines_de_2010), with Republicans promising to repeal or modify it.

During his election campaign, Barack Obama also advocated raising the [minimum wage](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salaire_minimum) to be indexed to inflation,151 massive tax cuts for the [middle class](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classe_moyenne) (for those earning less than $250,000 a year),152 the use [of the tax credit](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cr%C3%A9dit_d%27imp%C3%B4t) to help the poorest households, and promised to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (the  [NAFTA](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accord_de_libre-%C3%A9change_nord-am%C3%A9ricain)). In the context of the [subprime crisis](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crise_des_subprimes) and the weight of credit, he declared that he wanted to protect American citizens against the abuse of loans of all kinds and announced a ten-year plan for major public works, financed by the withdrawal of combat forces from Iraq110.

Following his inauguration, President Barack Obama cancelled industrial programs deemed too expensive, unbudgeted or with ambition diverted from their purpose: this was notably the case of the Constellation program (cancelled on February 1, 2010) or the [European radar shield project](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_missile_defense#Opposition)canceled on September 18, 2009 in order to obtain the Kremlin's support for the request to stop Iran's [nuclear program](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Programme_nucl%C3%A9aire_de_l%27Iran)153 .

Since March 2009, the [Environmental Protection Agency](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_Protection_Agency) (EPA) has been able to regulate any economic activity that produces [carbon dioxide](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dioxyde_de_carbone), on the grounds that above a certain undefined threshold, it constitutes a major pollutant, qualified as a "social injustice"154. Thus, 20% of thermal power plants in operation in January 2009 had to cease their activities; to fight against [global warming](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%A9chauffement_climatique), Barack Obama proposes to increase the price of electricity, to invest in [biofuels](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biocarburant), [alternative energies](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89nergie_propre) 113,155 and declares himself in favor of the establishment of a [CO2](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dioxyde_de_carbone) market obliging polluting companies to buy a "right to pollute" from non-polluting companies110 . Subsidies are distributed to wind and [photovoltaic](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89nergie_solaire_photovolta%C3%AFque) companies, companies that produce very little electricity and are structurally loss-making;156,157 at the same time, the construction of a pipeline to bring oil from [Alberta](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberta)  in Canada was discontinued at the request of the EPA, and U.S. subsurface exploration ceased in April 2009. Like his former Republican opponent in the 2008 presidential election, [John McCain](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_McCain), he is also in favor of the development of [nuclear energy](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89nergie_nucl%C3%A9aire) as a solution to climate problems, but his position on the subject became ambivalent during the 158 election campaign. On June 1, 2009, [Secretary of Energy Steven Chu](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secr%C3%A9taire_%C3%A0_l%27%C3%89nergie_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) announced a $256 million fund to improve the [energy efficiency](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Efficacit%C3%A9_%C3%A9nerg%C3%A9tique_(%C3%A9conomie)) of major [industries in the United](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrie_aux_%C3%89tats-Unis)States.159

In the absence of a 60-vote majority in the Senate, consideration of the energy bill, passed by the House of Representatives in 2009, was adjourned on 22 July 2010, making its adoption unlikely. This setback, which does not translate into law the [commitments made in Copenhagen](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conf%C3%A9rence_de_Copenhague_de_2009_sur_les_changements_climatiques), weakens the position of the American executive in the upcoming internationalnegotiations.160

On October 9, 2009, Barack Obama received the [Nobel Peace Prize](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prix_Nobel_de_la_paix)161, causing surprise and disbelief in the world, even though he was only entering his tenth month in office. The Nobel committee justifies its decision by referring to "the extraordinary efforts of the President of the United States in favor of strengthening international diplomacy and cooperation among peoples". This decision is often described as political and partisan, rewarding words and good intentions more than concreteactions.162,163,164,165 Obama becomes the fourth president of the United States and the third in office to receive the award after [Woodrow Wilson](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodrow_Wilson), [Theodore Roosevelt](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt) and [Jimmy Carter](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_Carter).

Ten days before receiving the Nobel Prize, the President of the United States decided, with the agreement of the Senate, to send 30,000 American soldiers to continue the [war in Afghanistan of 2001](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerre_d%27Afghanistan_(2001-2014))166. This triggered a strong controversy forcing the "war president", a nickname he received and which he does not reject167, to go and get his Nobel Prize discreetly168. Only 19% of Americans think their president deserved the Nobel PeacePrize.168 Moreover, Barack Obama's administration is the one that has sold the most armaments since World War II according to a US Congressionalreport169.

While during his 2008 election campaign, he declared that he wanted to end the war, the [*New York Times*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_York_Times) points out that he is at the end of his second term, in November 2016, the only president of the United States to have served "two full terms at the head of a country at war"170 in different theaters of operations (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Cameroon and Uganda).171

**2012 presidential election**

Main article: [2012 United States presidential election](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lection_pr%C3%A9sidentielle_am%C3%A9ricaine_de_2012)

On April 4, 2011, Barack Obama announced that he was running for a second presidential term in a video posted on his website entitled "*It Begins With Us*"172,173,174. As incumbent, he has no opponent for the 175 [Democratic Party](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parti_d%C3%A9mocrate_(%C3%89tats-Unis)) primaries. On April 3, 2012, he assembled the 2,778 delegates from his party he needed to be nominated, and at the Democratic convention in [Charlotte, North Carolina](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte_(Caroline_du_Nord)), former President [Bill Clinton](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Clinton) formally nominated Obama and [Joe Biden](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Biden) in the general election for the positions of President and VicePresident.176 The Republicans nominated [Mitt Romney](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitt_Romney) at the Republican convention held in [Tampa](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tampa), [Florida](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floride), on August 28, 2012; he chose [Paul Ryan](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Ryan) as his running mate.

During the campaign, four televised debates were held, on October 3, October 11 (debate between Biden and Ryan for vice presidency), October 16 and October22.177,178 Mitt Romney is generally better than the incumbent president in the first debate and Obama's campaign is considered to be running out of steam, so much so that several polls indicate a possible victory for his Republican opponent179. But at the end of October, [Hurricane Sandy](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ouragan_Sandy)halted Romney's rise and allowed Obama to highlight his role as head ofstate.180

On Tuesday, November 6, 2012, the day of the national election, Obama obtained 332 electors, exceeding the 270 necessary for his re-election181,182,183. With 51% of the popular vote, he became the first president since [Franklin D. Roosevelt](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin_Delano_Roosevelt) to win two consecutive elections with a majority at the national level, having obtained 61% of the [electoral](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coll%C3%A8ge_%C3%A9lectoral_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) votes (332 against 206 for his rival), 51% of the 129 million votes cast (for about 200 million registered voters out of 300 million inhabitants in the United States) — a lead of about 4.7 million votes over his opponent — and winning 26 States against 24 to [Mitt Romney](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitt_Romney). Obama nevertheless lost 3,583,000 votes and 2 percentage points compared to 2008, and won with a large majority among youth, women and minorities184,185,186.

On the night of his victory, he addressed his supporters in Chicago and declared: "Today you voted for action, not for politics. You elected us to focus on your jobs, not ours. And in the coming weeks and months, I look forward to working with the leaders of both parties."187 Barack Obama is officially [inaugurated](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seconde_investiture_de_Barack_Obama) for a second term by taking the oath first at the [White House](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maison-Blanche) on January 20, 2013, then at the foot of the [Capitol](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitole_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) in public on January 21.

**Second presidential term**

The first year of Obama's second term is marked by a series of controversies that affect his image and authority: the [Benghazi tragedy](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attaque_de_Benghazi_de_2012), the failure of the gun control law, the eavesdropping of the [National Security Agency](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Security_Agency) (NSA), the excessive use of [killer drones](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drone_de_combat)against Islamist suspects around the world, its hesitations on the question of [military intervention in Syria](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerre_civile_syrienne#Risque_d'internationalisation_du_conflit)188,189. If the president denounces the systematic "obstructionism" of Republican elected officials, determined to discredit the implementation of his reform of the health system as well as the massive legalization of illegal immigrants from Latin America, they criticize the attitude of their Democratic colleagues as well as the authoritarianism and distance of the head of state. In order to reverse the trend, Obama announced several reforms in favor of the middle class, called "[Grand Bargain](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Grand_bargain_(United_States,_2011)&action=edit&redlink=1)" and inspired by Roosevelt's New Deal, such as the reduction of business taxes and hiring incentives; to do this, he multiplied the trips to the states of the country, but with mixed success 190 . He had to face the mistrust of his own majority, many Democrats having notably supported a text tabled in the House of Representatives to limit the prerogatives of the NSA and having opposed the appointment of the economist [Lawrence Summers](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_Summers) at the head of the [Federal Reserve of the United States](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%A9serve_f%C3%A9d%C3%A9rale_des_%C3%89tats-Unis), which the head of state had to give up188.

The blocking of the representatives of the Republican Party on the federal budget of the [United States](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budget_f%C3%A9d%C3%A9ral_des_%C3%89tats-Unis), which they want to obtain the abandonment of the [*Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patient_Protection_and_Affordable_Care_Act), means that, for the 18th time in its history and the first time since 1996191,192, the US federal administration must resort to a [*lockout*](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lock-out) (" shutdown") on October 1, 2013193 . On October 17, an agreement was finally reached between the Democrats and Republicans that ended the *shutdown* while raising the debt ceiling. So *Obamacare* has not been changed. But the agreement only extends until January 15, 2014 for the federal budget, and February 7 for the authorization given to the Treasury to borrow on the markets (debt ceiling)194. In December 2013, the Obama administration finally backpedaled on its health reform because of numerous dysfunctions, postponing for millions of Americans by one year the obligation to subscribe to a health insurance policy195.

Wishing at the beginning of his mandate to resume (*reset*) Russian-American relations and rally Moscow to the anti-Chinese cause, Obama nevertheless had to deal with [Congress](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congr%C3%A8s_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) and the federal agencies ([CIA](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Intelligence_Agency), [Pentagon](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentagone_(%C3%89tats-Unis))) who supported the containment of Russia and direct control over neighboring states ([Baltic countries](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pays_baltes), [Ukraine](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine), [Georgia](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%A9orgie_(pays))) through NATO196 . The [Snowden affair](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%A9v%C3%A9lations_d%27Edward_Snowden) and the [2014 Ukrainian revolution](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%A9volution_ukrainienne_de_2014) are souring these relations, with Russia accusing US agencies of having played a triggering role in these events. When the eastern regions of the country revolted against the central government, [Vladimir Putin](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_Poutine) was accused of encouraging a [pro-Russian uprising](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guerre_du_Donbass), which led Barack Obama to initiate his policy of economic sanctions imposed on Russia 196, while the first diplomatic crisis between Ukraine and Russia over Crimea dates back to May 5, 1992. or immediately after the break-up of the USSR in December 1991, and seven years before his first term as head of the Russian Federation in 1999. This crisis made it possible above all to revive NATO196.

Despite this new hotbed of tension, the President of the United States remains determined to continue his "diplomatic pivot" towards Asia, but must reassure his allies (Japan, South Korea), also plagued by territorial disputes, but with China. Sheila Smith, an expert at the [Council on Foreign Relations](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_on_Foreign_Relations), notes that "although the Obama administration says that there is no equation between [Crimea](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crim%C3%A9e) and the [Senkaku Islands](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%8Eles_Senkaku), each ally is very sensitive on the issue of American firmness"197. In July 2015, he managed to conclude negotiations with Iran198 in a positive manner. This agreement damages relations with Israel already disrupted by the tense ties between [Benjamin Netanyahu](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benyamin_Netanyahou) and Obama 196 and those with [Saudi Arabia](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabie_saoudite) which, because of the energy self-sufficiency made possible by [unconventional hydrocarbons](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrocarbure_non_conventionnel), loses its role as a privileged interlocutor of the United States in the region196. Following the [migration crisis suffered by Europe in 2015](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crise_migratoire_en_Europe), he announced that the United States would grant asylum to 10,000 Syrians to relieve overwhelmed countries, such as [Hungary](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hongrie) or [Croatia](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatie). In 2016, he clearly expressed his opposition to [Brexit](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/D%C3%A9bats_sur_le_retrait_du_Royaume-Uni_de_l%27Union_europ%C3%A9enne), highlighting the security consequences and negative effects for the [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partenariat_transatlantique_de_commerce_et_d%27investissement)199.

After the [shooting at Umpqua Community College](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fusillade_de_l%27Umpqua_Community_College) in Oregon in September 2015, Obama strengthened his position in favor of legislation for better gun control. At the beginning of 2016, thanks to the strong economy found by the United States, the unemployment rate close to full employment, the validation of its social security system to protect Americans against the costs of hospital care, the legalization of same-sex marriage throughout the United States (Obergefell [v. Hodges](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obergefell_v._Hodges) decision of the [Supreme Court of the United States](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cour_supr%C3%AAme_des_%C3%89tats-Unis) ) as well as gaining the power to negotiate his free trade law with the rest of the world, Barack Obama regained strong popularity in the United States200,201. As of July 2016, his level of popularity exceeds 51% of favorable opinions 202, up to 60% during the last days of his mandate.

**After the White House**

In addition to the million dollars in annual pensions and allowances granted by the [Former Presidents Act](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Former_Presidents_Act), the Obama couple benefits from income related to conferences, tours, books, films and podcasts203.

Since January 2017, the Obama couple has been living in [Washington, D.C.](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_(district_de_Columbia)) so that their youngest daughter Sasha can finish high school. For this purpose, they rent for $ 22,000 monthly a luxurious villa of 760 m2 built in 1928 and estimated at more than 5 million euros, with no less than eight bathrooms, nine bedrooms, two kitchens, a library, a gym, an entertainment room, a wine cellar, as well as a large courtyard that can accommodate up toten 204 vehicles.

**Paid Lecture Series**

After his departure from the White House, Barack Obama gave several lectures for [Wall Street](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Stock_Exchange) actors, including August 2017 at the private bank [Northern Trust](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Trust), from which he received $ 400,000; this attracted criticism from Democrat [Bernie Sanders](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernie_Sanders); a few weeks later, he received the same amount for his intervention at a meeting of the [Cantor Fitzgerald](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cantor_Fitzgerald)Bank 205,206.

**Publication of books**

Two months after leaving the [White](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maison-Blanche) House, Barack and Michelle Obama signed a contract worth more than $60 million to publish two books of memoirs (one each) with [Penguin Random House](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penguin_Random_House)207. They announced, however, that they would donate a majority of the sum to charity.

**Fondation Obama**

In April 2017, he gave a lecture at the University of Chicago on the sidelines of a discussion on civic engagement and met with students. He wants to prepare the next generation of leaders208.

**Positions**

On May 4, 2017, four days before the second round [of the 2017 French presidential election](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89lection_pr%C3%A9sidentielle_fran%C3%A7aise_de_2017) where two candidates are running, Barack Obama, after declaring that he does not intend to be personally involved in non-American elections, supports the candidate of [En Marche](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_R%C3%A9publique_en_marche), [Emmanuel Macron](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_Macron), praising his ability "to appeal to the hopes of the population and not to its fears"209 . The former president of the United States stressed that "the success of France matters to the whole world" and concluded his speech with a "On the move!" followed by a "Long live the France!" 210.

His intervention in the French presidential campaign is part of a project that Barack Obama wants to lead through his foundation: to give a second wind to progressive values, in the United States and around the world, to resist the rise of populist movements210. But Macron's campaign team is making a mistake by translating the "liberal values" evoked by Barack Obama as "liberal values", where it should have read "progressive values", the word "liberal" not having the same meaning at all on both sides of the Atlantic211.

In March 2018, he gave his support in a letter to survivors of the [Parkland](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fusillade_de_Parkland) shooting who were fighting for tougher gun laws in the United States, having himself failed to reform it following the [Sandy Hook](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuerie_de_l%27%C3%A9cole_primaire_Sandy_Hook) shooting in late 2012.212

**Other elements and personality**

A personality attached to his [African-American](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afro-Am%C3%A9ricains) roots, he has eclectic cultural tastes 213 ; he is an avid reader, writing his most important books and speeches himself, Barack Obama owes much of his political rise to his oratory skills and [charisma](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charisme)214,215,216. Although mixed-race, Obama is described as Black (in accordance with the old principle of [the one drop of blood rule](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%A8gle_de_l%27unique_goutte_de_sang)), and defines himself as Black217,218.

In their 2007 tax return, the Obama couple entered $4.2 million, largely from [the copyrights](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Droit_d%27auteur) of Barack Obama's books.

The Obama couple reported adjusted gross income of $2,656,902 (about €2 million) in April 2009 for their 2008 returns. In 2008, they paid $855,323 (about €647,000) in federal [taxes](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imp%C3%B4t) and $77,883 (about €59,000) to the State of Illinois and donated $172,050 to 37 charities.219

Barack Obama is an avid [basketball](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basket-ball) fan, which he continued to practice almost every morning during his election campaign, including on Election Day. He promised the installation of a suitable room in the [White House](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maison-Blanche). During the presidential campaign, he made a lot of laughs under the cameras. during a clumsy attempt at [bowling](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bowling), a very popular sport in the United States. Once in the White House, he will also play [golf](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golf) with Vice President Biden on the green of the garden of the official residence[.](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aide:Pr%C3%A9ciser_un_fait) 220.

Barack Obama happens to be the fifth [left-handed](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaucherie) president in thirty years, after Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, George H. Bush and Bill Clinton. As he told photographers when signing his first official documents as president: "I'm left-handed, you'll have to make221."

A very "connected" president, Barack Obama is a fan of [social networks](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/R%C3%A9seau_social)and new forms of communication222. Several observers have judged that social networks had a significant impact during his two elections in 2008 and 2012223,224,225,226. With more than 55 million followers227, he is the only politician whose [Twitter](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twitter) account appears among the 10 most influential [microblogging](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microblog) site. Obama regularly stages himself in videos, as in his latest campaign with [BuzzFeed](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/BuzzFeed) seen by millions of people in a few hours: "Things Everybody Does But Doesn't Talk About, Featuring President Obama"228.

The fortune of the Obama couple is estimated in 2020 between 40 and 135 million dollars. The couple owns an eight-million-dollar home in [Washington](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_(district_de_Columbia)) and another for $12 million on [Martha's Vineyard](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha%27s_Vineyard) Island in [Massachusetts](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts), in addition to their Chicago229 home.

His great interest in the environment is shown by his upcoming participation in the narration of five episodes for "Our Great National Parks". The new [Netflix](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netflix) documentary series will be released on April 13, [2022](safari-reader://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avril_2022). It will highlight the world's230 most beautiful national parks.

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**Foreword**

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