



Welcome to American History

# Module 7: USA and the Multi Polar World

Talk	Title	Time Period	Date of Talk	
51	The Year when the world changed	2000-2001	March 2nd	✓
52	War on Terror US and the world	2001-2009	March 17th	✓
53	From compassion to collapse: Bush Presidency	2001-2009	March 30th	✓
54	The politics of Hope: Obama Presidency	2009-2016	April, 20th	
55	US and the World	2009- 2016	May 18th	
56	Road to MAGA: US culture in the new century	2001-2016	June 1st	


Module 8: MAGA America....ends July 6th

# American History:

Talk 54: “The Politics of Hope”

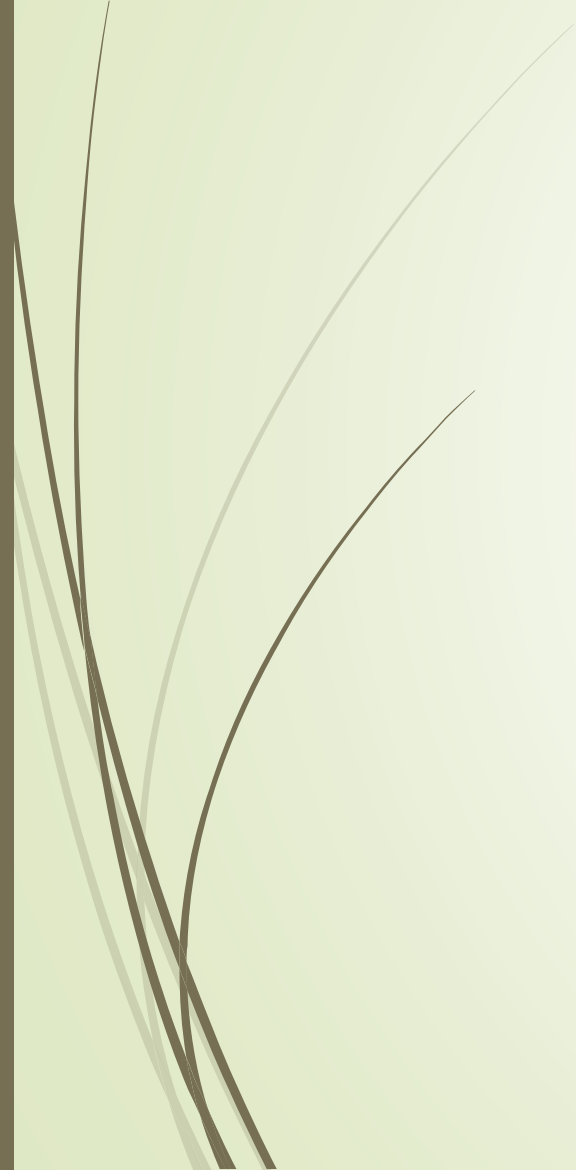
..... The Presidency of Barack Obama

# Overview

- 
- Origins
  - The 2008 Election Campaign
  - Delivering on hope
  - The Great Shellacking
  - White House life Barack and Michelle
  - President without power
  - Obama assessment



# Origins



# Barrack Obama senior (1934-1982)



- From Lou Tribe Kenya
  - Father imprisoned, beaten by British
  - Attends missionary school/ brilliant student
  - Economist Kenyan government
  - Sent to Hawaii to secure BA
- The Itinerant father
  - Marries Anne, Barrack 1961
  - Barrack Jnr born 1961,
  - Barrack/ Anne returns to US with B
  - Barrack snr to Harvard
  - Returns to Kenya/ Works fired for radical views
  - Visits son once 1970
  - Dies in car crash 1982

# Stanley “Anne” Dunham (1952-1995)



Army family

.....travels across USA ,,father to Hawaii  
....Considered “free spirit”. Feminist  
....studies Russian, meets Barrack Snr

Marries Barrack Snr 1961

...moves to Seattle with baby son  
...completes BA Anthropology  
...returns to Hawaii, reunion  
...followed by immediate divorce

Marries Lolo Sonyo Indonesian geologist

...moves with him to Indonesia 1967

# A happy, chaotic Hawaiian early Childhood

Barack as 4 year old in Hawaii



# Barack in Indonesia 1967-1970

Ann and Lolo Sytero with Barrack & Maya  
Indonesia



Ann & Lolo move to Indonesia  
...Lolo works for Oil company  
...she teaches English, daughter Maya

Barrack (age 6-9) elite Catholic private school  
....English Correspondence course  
....Martin Luther King speeches

The Return to Hawaii

....Ann sends B to Hawaii for education 1970  
...looked after by Grandparents

Family reunited...briefly

Ann returns to Hawaii 1972 with daughter  
...divorced Lolo...pursues MA anthropology  
... Returns to Indonesia 1975

Anne...becomes expert micro finance  
Author, lecturer, occasional contact  
....dies of cancer 1995

Barack, Ann, Grandfather, step sister Maya  
.....before her return to Indonesia and career



# The Young Adult

## Barack and High school basketball team



Struggles with  
Mixed race identity  
Average student  
Excels at basketball  
...does not make team

Member "Choom Gang"  
...smokes dope, drinks  
Cocaine "push questions  
of who I was out of my  
mind"

Graduates 1979  
Wins Scholarship  
Occidental College  
LA...diversity policy  
...solid student

Obama and the “Choom Gang”  
.....average student, booze, drugs, girls



Barrack with his grandparents  
....the quiet heroes who saw him through



# From Student to community organizer

## Barrack as Community Organizer

Studies in LA 2 years  
Transfers to Columbia University  
Graduates with BA Political Science

Moves to Chicago 1985  
..first job Community Organiser,  
tenant's rights....long listening sessions  
...housing taxation & investment  
...advised to join church group

Joins United Trinity church...Rev J  
Wright..... Progressive black preacher  
progressive ...becomes Christian



# Religious beliefs

“I'm a Christian by choice. My family didn't—frankly, they weren't folks who went to church every week. And my mother was one of the most spiritual people I knew, but she didn't raise me in the church. So I came to my Christian faith later in life, and it was because the precepts of Jesus Christ spoke to me in terms of the kind of life that I would want to lead—being my brothers' and sisters' keeper, treating others as they would treat me.” ....Remains “Spiritual, occasional church goer

Commits himself to public service....but from position of influence and that requires  
A legal degree from the most prestigious University in USA: Harvard

Accepted based on Columbia/ experience/ diversity.....funds by loans and grants

But first a visit to his roots....in Kenya

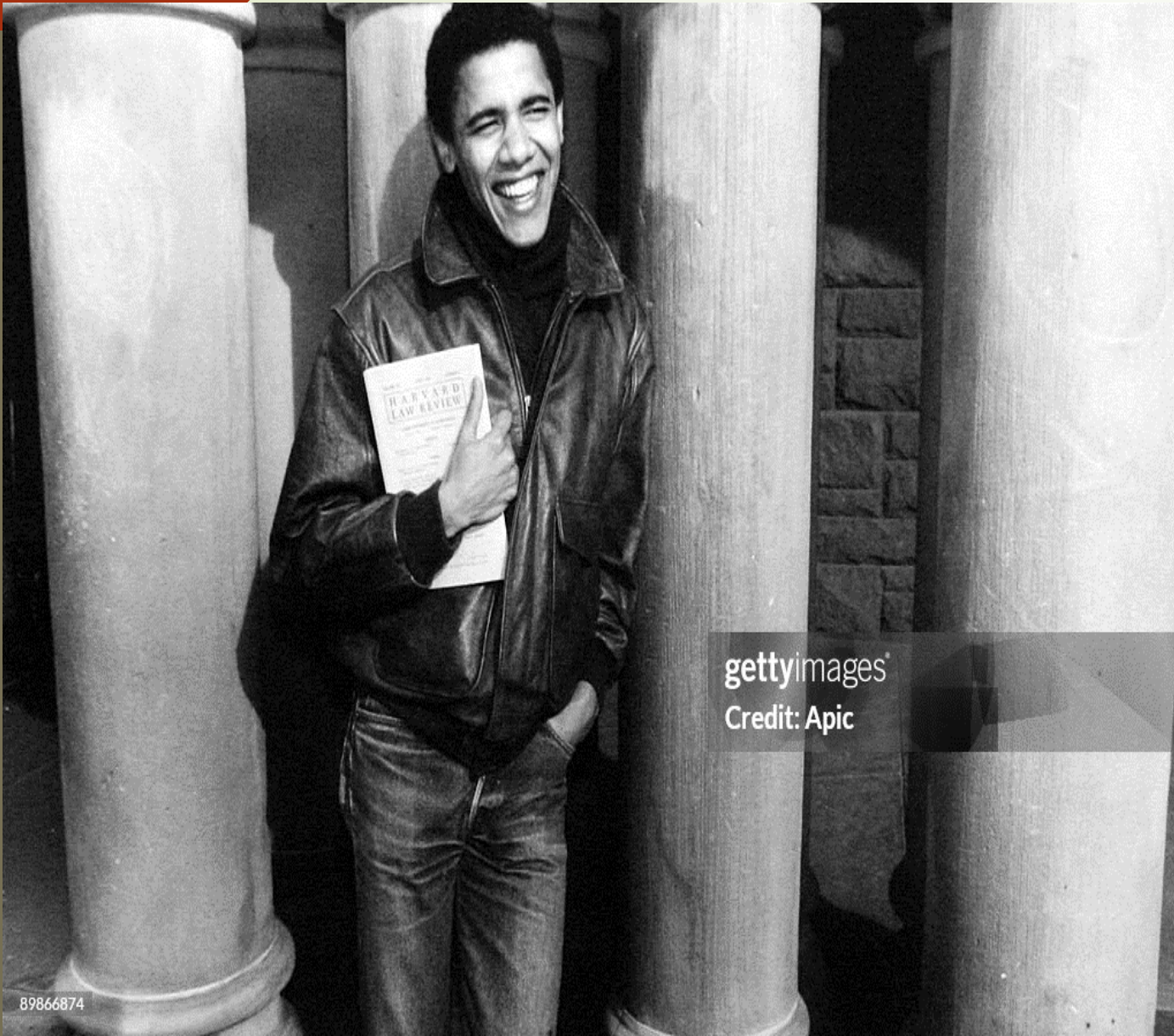
Visit to Kenya “transformational”  
...accepted as family...identifies as “black”  
...shocked by enormous inequality



.....even put to work



# Obama at Harvard 1988-1990



Exceptional student

First Black President

Harvard Law Review

...national attention

...no preference black writers

Graduates 1990: Constitutional Law

Returns to Chicago

...lecturer Univ Chicago

...writes book/ works at law firm

...”mentored” by Michelle Robinson

# The happy couple 1992



A life long partnership begins



# Michelle Obama (1964....)

Michelle official portrait 2013



- Born Chicago, ancestors mixed race
  - ...father mechanic, mother store clerk
  - ....loving intact family, father MS sufferer
  - ...diligent student, kept out of trouble
  - .. Princeton University (financial aid + loans)

“I can be both brilliant and black”

- ...Harvard Law school...graduates

Joins NY Law Firm...property and media law  
...mentor to Barack/ ...”opposites attract”

Married 1992...continues law career.  
...2 daughters (after in vitro treatment)  
...prime earner of family till B President

# The Young politician

State Senator at fund raiser 1998



➤ Professional career 1992- 1995

.....Community organiser

.....University lecturer

...African American vote registration drive

Writes “Dreams from my father”

...introspective, well written, being mixed race

Illinois State Senator 1996-2002

....civil rights, ...Health care reforms

...end racial profiling/ predatory loans

...popular influential, ambitious. bi-partisan

Runs for seat in House of representative

.....loses by 30% margin....

# Senator Obama 2005-2008

Senator Barack Obama 1996



- Senator election campaign 2004
  - Ambitious for national office
  - Democrat incumbent retires..tries again
  - Campaigns as “post racial” candidate
  - Bi-partisan, wins conservatives & black
  - Opposes Iraq war/ wins 70% vote
- Senator career...brief, unspectacular
  - Legislation funding disarmament
  - Financial transparency
  - supports Bush “Guest Worker” idea
  - Popular, works with Republicans

Breakthrough moment

...Key Note Speaker 2006 Dem Convention

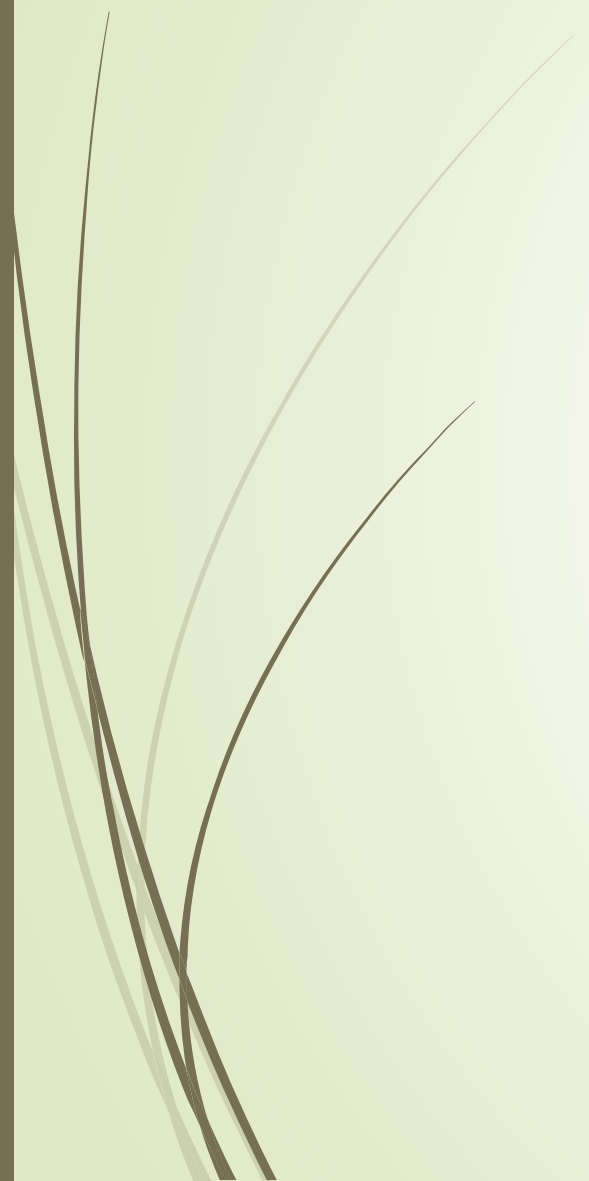
....nominating John Kerry ...seen as “Rising Star”

Announces decision to run for  
President February 2008

One of 8 candidates, unknown  
....Hillary Clinton win forgone conclusion



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Credit: Jemal Countess



# 2008 Presidential Election

# State of the USA 2008

- GW Bush Presidency discredited and cannot run for 3<sup>rd</sup> term
  - “Forever wars” in Iraq and Afghanistan: no WMD
  - Hurricane Katrina response
  - Economy cooling rapidly as house prices fall, foreclosures rise
  - Approval rating sinks to 22%
- Open race for both Democratic and Republican parties

Democratic Party Heir Apparent: Hilary Clinton

# Hillary Clinton

Hillary Democratic Party  
Nomination



Highly educated successful lawyer  
..intellectual....children's rights

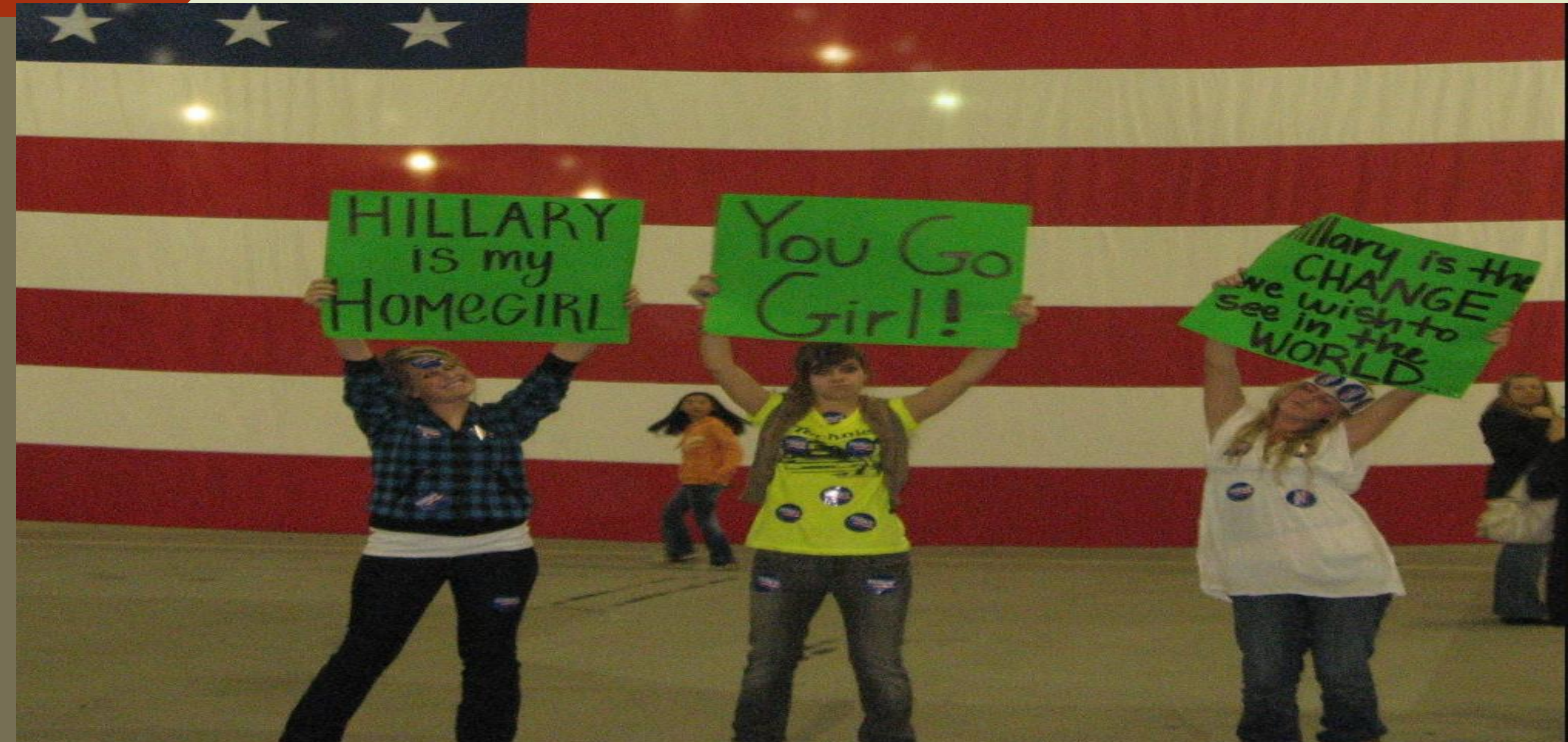
First Lady with Bill Clinton 1993-2001  
....defends husband throughout  
....highly rated 1<sup>st</sup> lady

Senator for New York  
...votes for invasion Afghanistan & Iraq  
...admits "got it wrong" on Iraq  
...opposes Bush tax cuts  
...co authors Child Protection Internet  
(fails due to Republican "free speech")

Author children's book "It takes a village  
And other lessons children teach us"

Democrat Front runner till February 200

Hilary first American woman candidate for Presidency  
..... widespread support and respect



# Obama for President!

Barrack and Michelle announcing decision to run



- Enters race February 2008
- ....first Black to run for President
- ....unknown to most Americans
- ... 2 years national experience

Obama election strategy

- ....focus on young, minorities
- ...adopts post racial approach
- ...mass internet small donations
- ... "all state" strategy (proportional
- ...message: Change/ Hope

Hilary

- ...focus on women/ older delegates
- .. Relies on large donors
- ...Large states only
- ...message...Experience

# Obama campaign Opening statement

“It was a creed written into the founding documents that declared the destiny of a nation: Yes we can.

It was whispered by slaves and abolitionists as they blazed a trail toward freedom through the darkest of nights: Yes we can.

It was sung by immigrants as they struck out from distant shores and pioneers who pushed westward against an unforgiving wilderness: Yes we can.

It was the call of workers who organized; women who reached for the ballot; a President who chose the moon as our new frontier; and a King who took us to the mountaintop and pointed the way to the Promised Land: Yes we can.

Yes we can to justice and equality.

Yes we can to opportunity and prosperity.

Yes we can heal this nation.

Yes we can repair this world.

Yes we can.”

# Change beats “Experience”

Hillary endorsing Obama for President June 2008



Competition intense

- ....Hillary fights tenaciously
- ....wins CA, NY, Florida, Texas
- ....Obama accumulates
- ....high % votes everywhere

Obama position overwhelming

Hilary bows out June 2008  
....majority Dem voters 53%  
...by loses delegate count  
1,800 vs 2,300

Obama picks Joe Biden as VP running mate

....Joe Biden 6 term (36 years) Senator

...provides “experience” ...connects White working class



# Republican nomination

John McCain and Sarah Palin




Republican nomination campaign  
...short (winner take all elections)  
...many candidates  
...focus on foreign policy

John McCain winner  
....Vietnam war hero  
...fighter pilot prisoner 5 years  
...20 years Senator, respected,

Picks Sarah Palin Alaska Gov as V  
...."Culture war warrior "guns/prayer  
....Outspoken...publicity seeker  
...target women voters,

# The Campaign...prior to September

- 
- Democrats: Obama
    - Change and Hope...exit Iraq, reverse Bush tax cuts
    - Universal Health Care
    - Economic reform to Wall Street
    - Develop alternatives to fossil fuels
    - Job Creation
  
  - Republicans: McCain
    - Experience and Leadership
    - War on terrorism....win war in Iraq
    - Limited government/
    - “Drill baby drill”

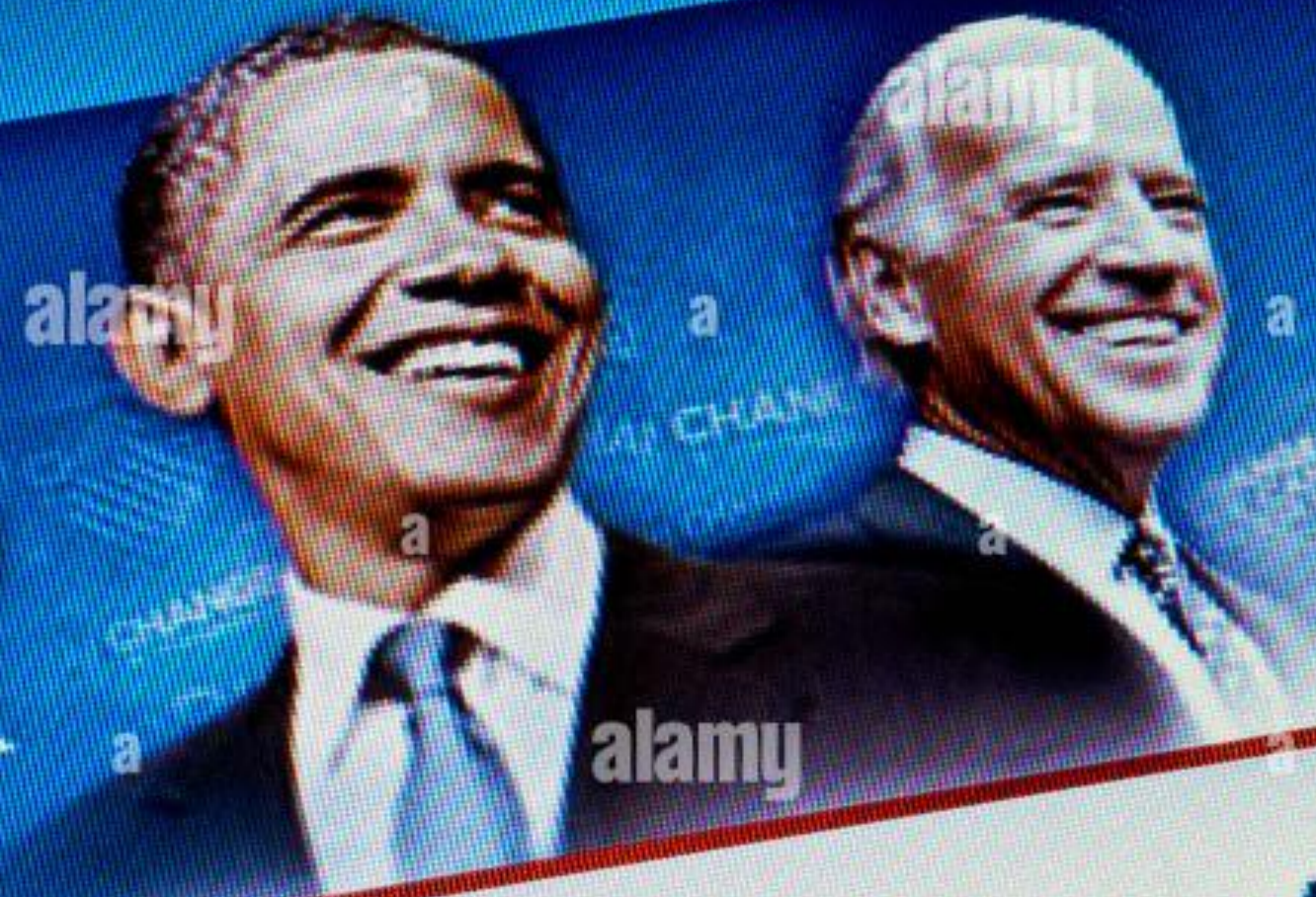
Race issue not mentioned

Barack Obama and Joe Biden: The Change We Need

alamy



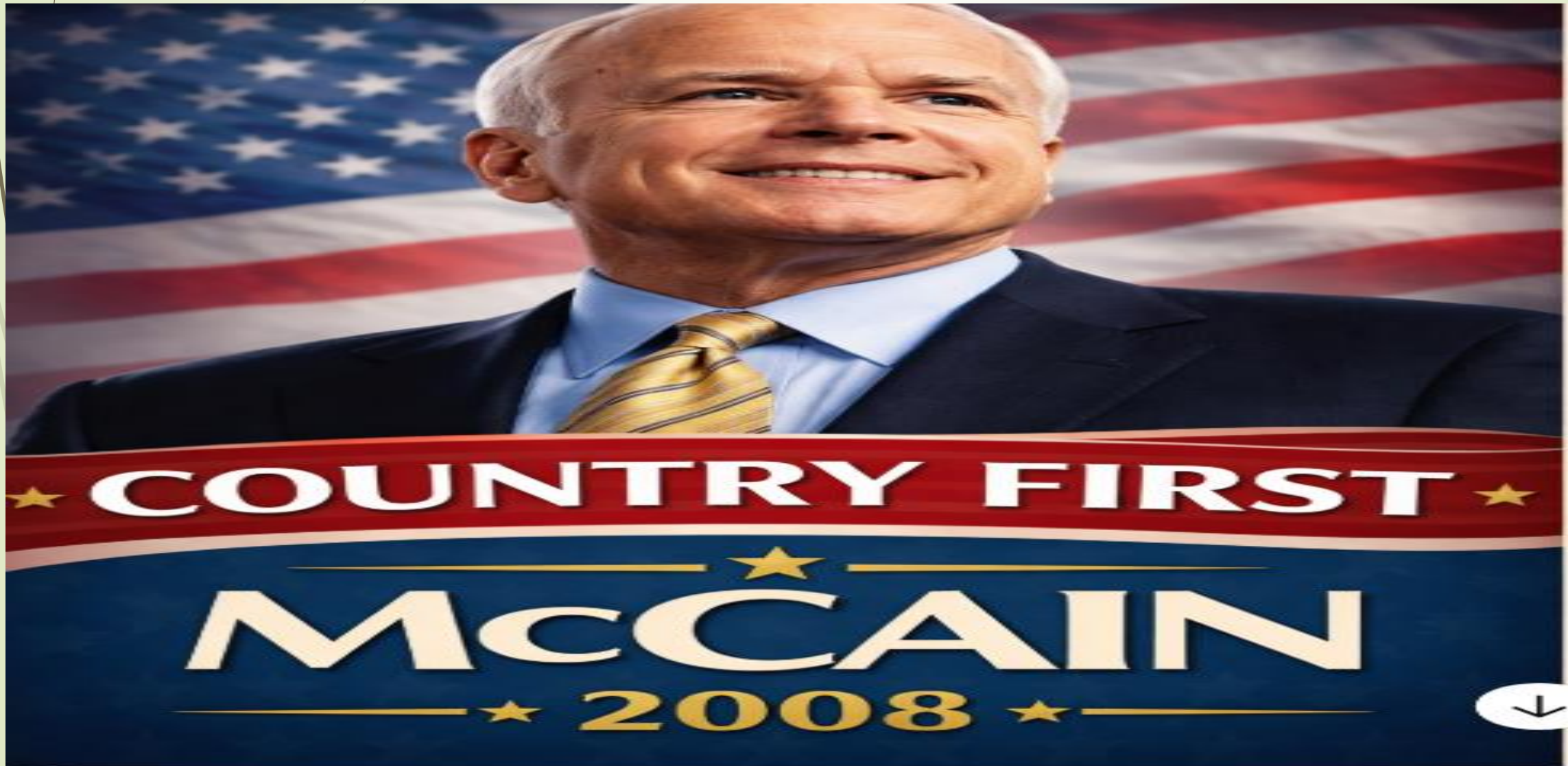
OBAMA  
BIDEN



MEDIA



John McCain: patriotic, conservative,  
...out of touch....and old



TIME FOR  
A REAL  
HERO

**MCCAIN**  
JOHNMcCAIN.COM



# The contrast: Obama “The Yes We Can” ...politics of Hope







alamy

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**CHANGE  
WE NEED**  
WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM

WOMEN

Obama

Retains 90% support Black community  
.....but Obama runs on "one America platform"



# “Race issue emerges”

Reverend J Wright



- ▶ Obama & Black vote
  - .... Multi-racial candidate
  - ....avoid fuelling race issue
- ▶ Reverend Wright
  - ....20 year relationship with Obamas
  - ....married, baptise daughters
- ▶ The Speech
  - ....race central issue in US History
  - ....”Goddam America” for persecution
- ▶ Obama response quick, brutal
  - ....”outraged by speech”...cuts ties

# The elitist Issue

- Obama Change message appeal to college educated, middle class

....his analysis:

“You go into these small towns in Pennsylvania and, like a lot of small towns in the Midwest, the jobs have been gone now for 25 years and nothing’s replaced them... and each successive administration has said that somehow these communities are going to regenerate, and they have not.

And it’s not surprising then that they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy toward people who aren’t like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations.”

- Strong anti- Obama backlash in “Red States” .....Fuels the “Culture War

**Sarah Palin....attack “hockey mom”**

# The Palin Factor



John McCain 72 years old  
....Palin an alternative?

Initial boost in McCain polls  
....appeals to evangelicals  
....celebrity talk show circuit  
....youth enthusiasm, "hockey mom"  
....pictures hunting,

Then....the press investigate  
.....husband arrested DIY  
....daughter pregnant  
....£150,000 wardrobe  
....catastrophic interviews

Republican surge reverses...  
...more serious issues emerge

# Financial Crash September 2008

## ➤ The Crash

- Building from 2007 as unemployment rises,
- Stock market drops 10% after Lehman Brothers
- GW Bush effectively nationalises the banking system

## ➤ Bush Administration response

- Abandons “Limited Government” philosophy
- Nationalises banking system (\$800BN investment in banks)
- No change to deregulation or regressive tax policies

Economy becomes sole issue to voters

Bush proposes \$800BN Bank bail-out plan....to avoid total collapse

# Financial Crash & Bailout Impact on Election

## Obama

“This is a final verdict on eight years of failed economic policies promoted by George Bush, supported by Senator McCain—policies that said that we should give more to the wealthy and hope that prosperity trickles down... a culture of greed and irresponsibility has taken root in Washington and on Wall Street... **people on Wall Street have been living high on the hog** while ordinary Americans have been struggling.”

Accepts potential need for bail-out ...as long as reckless behaviour not rewarded

➔ McCain...bail out Government “over-reach” & Un-American

.....demands stop to campaign & summit meeting with President

GWB convenes emergency cross party meeting both candidates

.....wants/ needs unity to prevent financial collapse

# September White House emergency meeting

John McCain

GW Bush

Barack Obama

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Credit: Mark Wilson.....

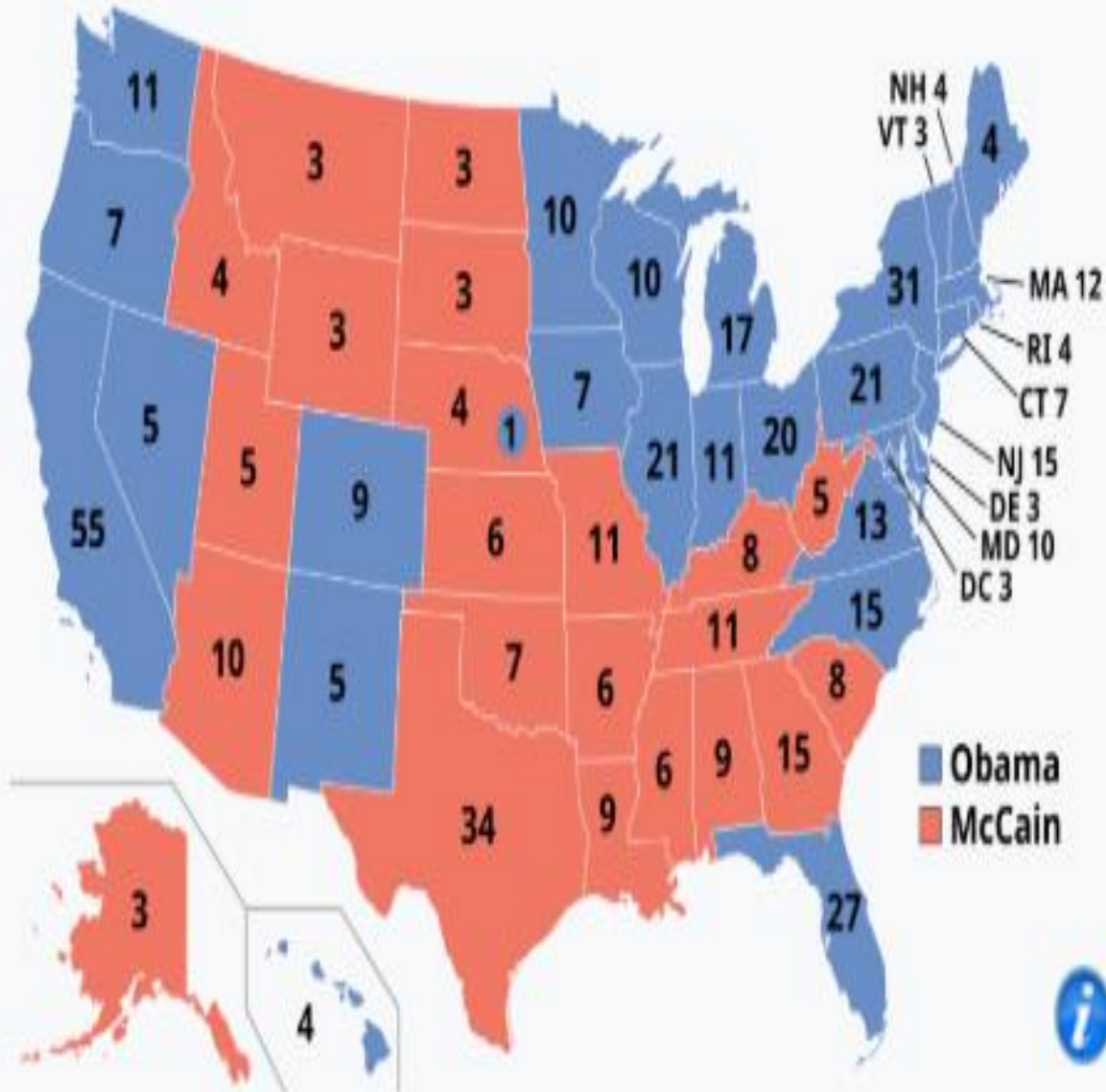
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- Bush sets out situation
- John McCain explains his plan
  - ....more tax cuts for wealthy
  - ....Bush ridicules: inadequate
  - ....McCain relents
- Obama
  - ....listens, and offers support
  - .... Stabilising economy priority

# The final month

- ▶ “Joe the Plumber” Incident
  - ▶ Obama on campaign meets the people: tax cuts for low income/rises for rich
  - ▶ Meet Samuel Joe Wurzelberger....tax increase to impact his plumbing business
  - ▶ Obama response on need to “Spread the wealth around”
  - ▶ McCain labels Obama as socialist
- ▶ McCain and his houses
  - ▶ Claims close to working man
  - ▶ Asked how many houses he owns
  - ▶ “Can’t answer that, you will have to check with my staff”
  - ▶ Revealed as more elitist than Obama (answer 7 homes wealth \$100m+)

# 2008 Presidential Results



- Obama wins 365 vs 163, 53% vs 47%..same % votes as in 2008
- Most expensive election. Ever
  - Obama \$780m, McCain \$346m
  - Obama 50% campaign donors less than \$200, 25% McCain
- Culture wars
  - Obama, young, minority, college educated
  - McCain. Over 45, white males, no college
- Democrats hold Congress
  - Senate gain 7 seats ...”58 vs 40 + 2 Ind .....”Supermajority =60
  - House gain 21 seats...257 vs 178

# The victorious happy family



gettyimages®  
Credit: STAN HONDA

# Jubilant supporters



# Integrated celebrations



Inauguration Day Jan 20. 2009  
...largest crowd ever 1.8m (Trump 2017 800K)



gettyimages  
Credit: U.S. Air Force

# Taking the oath



# Inauguration Speech

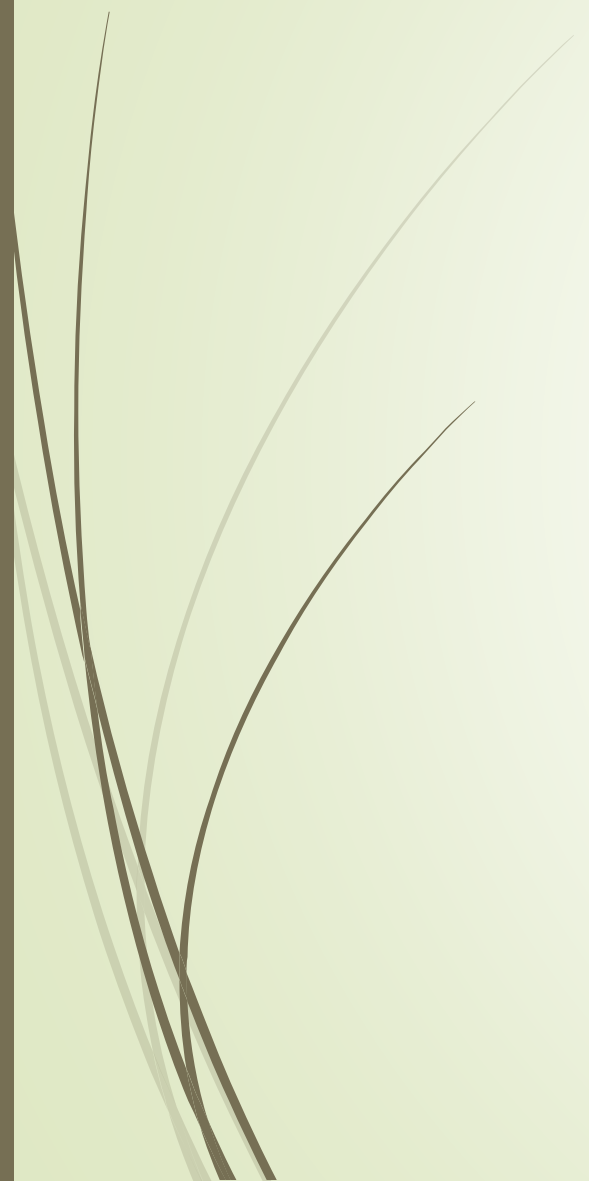
- Acknowledges economic crisis
- New era of responsibility
- Unity...no red or blue states/ black or white...all Americans
- Engage with world via diplomacy not force
- Return to core values of rule of law, democracy
- Shared destiny with future secured by hard work

**Bright new future ahead: YES WE CAN**



.....The next 8 years

“Yes we can” vs “No you can’t”



# Intermission

# Challenges

## ➔ Bush Legacy

- ➔ Financial crisis averted, but real economy in deep recession
- ➔ Wars continuing in Iraq and Afghanistan....no way out
- ➔ Deficit and Government debt increasing
  
- ➔ The problem of expectations
  - ➔ Black community euphoric...expecting major change
  - ➔ White community...suspicious...waiting for race issue to emerge
  - ➔ Toxic underlying politics and “culture wars”

Confronting largest economic crisis since 1930's

# The Obama Administration ...most diverse in US history by sex/ race



# The Obama Administration

## ...2 years national experience

- ▶ “Team of Rivals” includes people who opposed him
  - ▶ Hilary Clinton Secretary of State and primary opponent
  - ▶ Robert Gates, Secretary of Defence under Bush and Republican
- ▶ Most diverse in US History: half from ethnic minorities. One third women
  - ▶ First black Attorney General (Eric Holder)
  - ▶ First Hispanic/ Asian
- ▶ Emphasis on experience and credentials rather than “loyalty”
  - ▶ Tim Geittner as Secretary of Treasury (Assistant to Hank Paulson)

Objective: Government of USA to represent ALL Americans

# Obama Administration Agenda

- Stabilise and Recover Economy...avoid Depression
- Reform Health Care
- Reform Wall Street to prevent another collapse
- End “forever wars” and rebuild US world image (Talk 55)
- Reduce energy dependency/ Reform Education

Democrats control Congress..”Supermajority”

# American Recovery and Stimulus Act 2009

- \$800BN stimulus package to economy
  - Tax cuts to increase income...targeting low income
  - Aid to states, Investment in roads and bridges, expansion of Medicare
  - Includes \$30BN help to refinance loans, reduce foreclosures
- Auto Industry bailout
  - Government takes over General Motors
  - Chrysler sold to Fiat
- Impact
  - Slow impact
  - Unemployment rises to 10%, house repossessions 1 million per year

# The Bonuses and Bailouts Issue

## ➤ Bail-outs

- Bush Administration Government \$800BN Bail- Outs Banks
- Obama \$700Bn Stimulus package
- Minimal support for home repossessions

## ➤ Bonuses

- Goldman Sacs \$5BN pay-out to employees, CEO earns \$17m
- Morgan Chase \$10BN bonus to employees, CEO \$12m

## ➤ Obama response

- Allows bonuses ...absence of regulations/ complex/ “too big to fail”
- Priority the economy....full relief to housing loss. Another \$1Trillion problem!

Triggers toxic Conservative Reaction

# Santinelli Rant February 2009

...on proposals to aid foreclosures

“The government is promoting bad behavior... Why don't you put up a website to have people vote on the Internet as a referendum to see if we really want to subsidize the losers' mortgages...“How many of you people want to pay for your neighbor's mortgage that has an extra bathroom and can't pay their bills?”

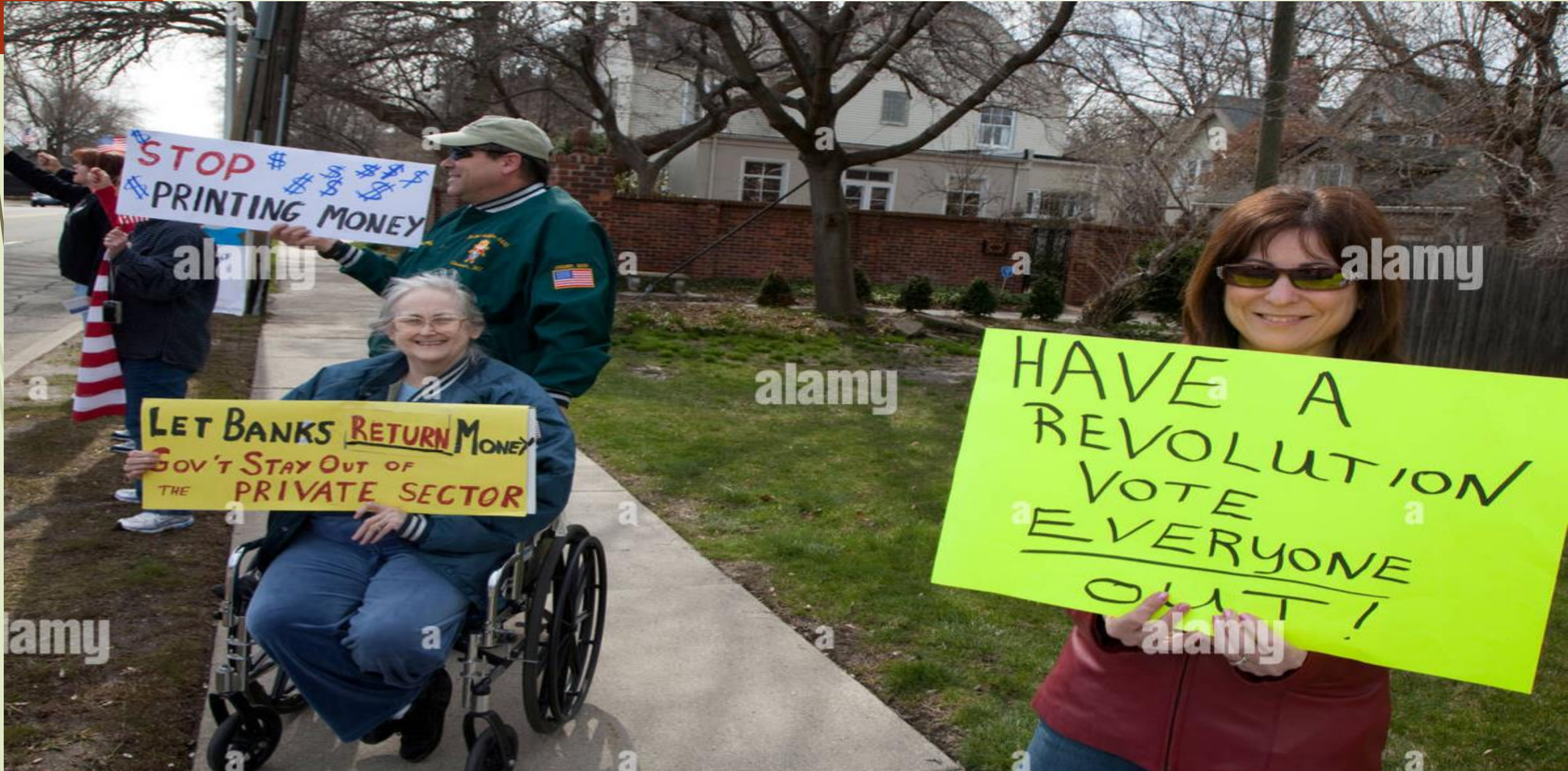
..President Obama, are you listening? We're thinking of having a Chicago Tea Party in July... All you capitalists that want to show up to Lake Michigan, I'm gonna start organizing.”



# “Tea Party Demonstrations” .....decentralised mass movement



# “Revolution Spreads”: ...Conflation bailouts/Stimulus





# Obama Response

- Intellectual, fails to address Tea Party Movement
- Press Conferences...long complex answers
- Determines to “do the right thing”, dismisses opposition as ignorant
- Moves onto to second priority “Health Care Reform”

# An introduction to US Health Costs

## Medical Costs

- Day in Hospital: average \$4,000 per day/ ICU \$10,000 per day
- Doctor appointment: Regular appointment \$300
- Ambulance trip 10 miles: basic \$900, emergency \$1,000- \$2,500
- Prescription \$1,400 annual costs: insulin \$1,000 per month
- Insurance: covers 80% most costs/ ceilings/ no pre-existing conditions
- Emergencies always treated.....debts always recovered

65% US bankruptcies caused by health care costs

# US Health Industry

1960's ...\$26BN industry..,5% GDP

- Introduction Medicare & Medicaid
- Most doctors independent/ minimal government involvement

➤ 1980's \$75BN industry 10% GDP

- Expansion private insurance/ Hospital incorporation/ new technology

➤ 2000's \$2TN industry 16% GDP ( Vs 7% UK)

- Aging population/ new treatment/ increase 'for profit' hospitals

Powerful political force: lobbyists, campaign donors, Media

# Obama Health Care Strategy

- Avoid mistakes from past: avoid comprehensive reform (Clinton Plan)
- Work **within** industry....delegate details to Congress/private industry
- Target 40 million Americans without insurance (15% population)
- Reduce costs by requiring competition

“Don’t let the perfect” be the enemy of the good

The Result: a solution complex and hard to explain

# Affordable Care Plan (Obamacare) 2009

.....reform not a “revolution”

- Individual Mandate....(repealed 2019 by Trump)
  - Requires most Americans to buy health insurance
  - Employers required to adopt, offer all employees
- Expand Medicaid: Previously restricted to children, indigent, mother
- Created Health Marketplaces...to encourage competition'
- Outlawed “pre-existing” condition/ Free preventative care services

Introduced February 2009....long hard fight

# Koch Brothers

Charles (1935...)



David (1935-2019)



Sons of Fred Koch  
...largest US conglomerate  
...privately held company  
...committed to secrecy  
...worth (2026) \$200 Bn

Committed to "libertarian" cause  
...limited government  
...individual responsibility  
...markets drive best solutions

Consider Obama  
"biggest threat to American  
Democracy since 1930's

Fund anti Obama campaigns  
...Media campaign

 TASTES  
LIKE  
SOCIALISM!

4 TRILLION  
TIMES  
NO!

RESTORE  
THE  
REP

STOP  
TAKING  
AMERICAN



# Affordable Care...Republicans relabel "Obamacare" ...Individual mandate= Socialism!



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Credit: Bill Clark

THAT  
GOVERNMENT  
IS BEST  
WHICH  
GOVERNS  
LEAST.

THOMAS PAINE

HEY CONGRESS!  
YOU SEEM TO  
HAVE FORGOTTEN -  
IT'S MY  
MONEY!

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Credit: Joe Sohm/Visions of America

OBAMA  
A BIGGER  
THREAT THAN  
AL QAEDA



# Anti Obama Care demonstrations



# Obama perseveres

- Popularity drops from 70% to 50%
- Unified Democratic party....led by Nancy Pelosi...House Speaker
- Unified Republican opposition
  - Government involved in healthcare...Socialism
  - Re-label ACA as “Obamacare” (50% approve ACA, 40% Obamacare)
  - Heavy lobbying hospitals & insurers/ Media ownership..
- Obama Response
  - Abandons original plan for Government run insurance plan
  - Drives through Congress...use of “Super Majority”
  - Zero support from Republicans

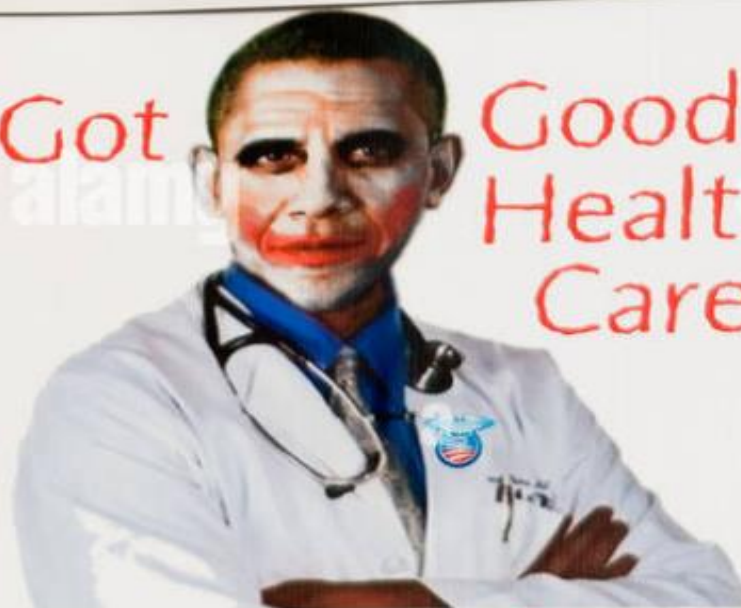
ACA Approved March 2010...after 1 year debate



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Got Good  
Health  
Care?



Let me cure that for you.



**STOP**  
Obamunism

  
COME AND TAKE IT

**CONGRESS**  
**IS AMERICA'S**  
**#1 ENEMY**

**NO FOR**  
**FEDERAL**  
**OUT of our**  
**HEALTHCARE**

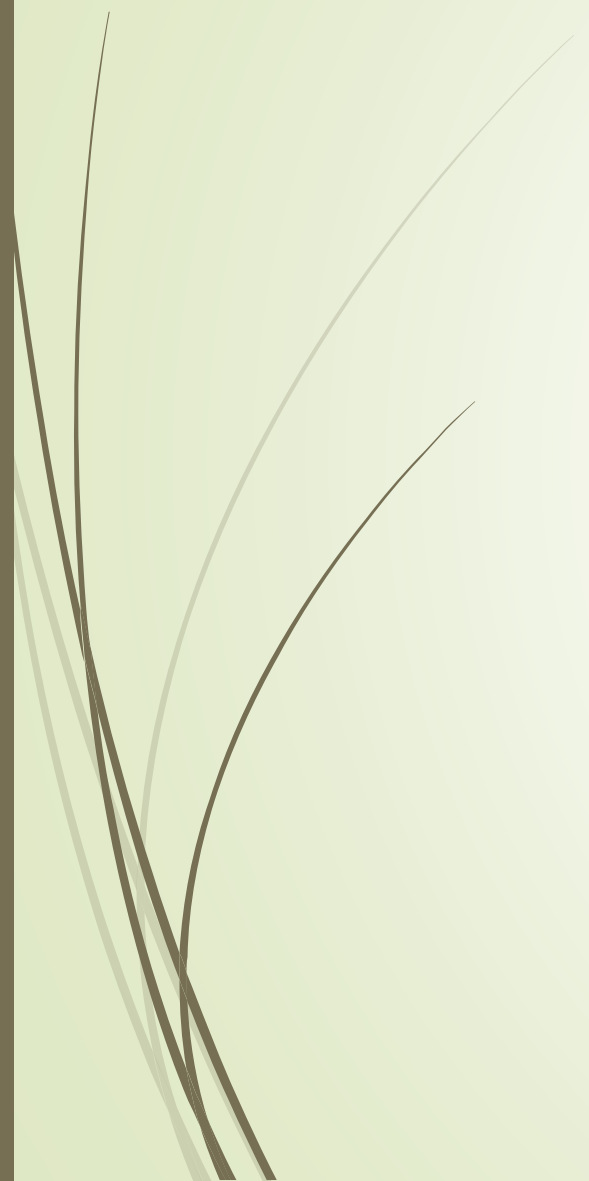
**GO**  
**HEA**

# Other (domestic) Achievements 2009-2011

## Wall Street Reform: Dodd Frank Act

- ▶ Consumer Protection Agency ...financial instruments
- ▶ Regulate Bank investment/ Expand regulation to CDOs and SWAPs
  
- ▶ Appoints 2 (Democrat leaning ) Supreme Court Judges
  
- ▶ Repeals Clinton “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”....non discrimination to gays in military
  
- ▶ Reforms “No Child Left Behind” with “Race to the top”: rewards vs punishments

Opinion polls ominous.....will lose control of Congress 2010



# The “Shellacking”

# 2010 Mid Term Elections

- Widespread opposition to “Obamacare”
  - But not ACA (?). ....Labelled as “Socialism” ...”Culture Wars”
- Tea Party Movement :anti Government
  - Resentment vs ‘Banker Bailouts ( passed by Bush Administration)
  - 2 million homes repossessed....no compensation
- Economy still in recession
  - Unemployment remains at 9%
  - Impact stimulus package slow

# USA goes “Red”

US Mid Term Elections 2010

Republicans take House  
....gain 63 seats  
...all time record

Democrats “hold” Senate  
...lose 7 seats  
...lose “Supermajority”

Obama loses power  
...due to Filibuster



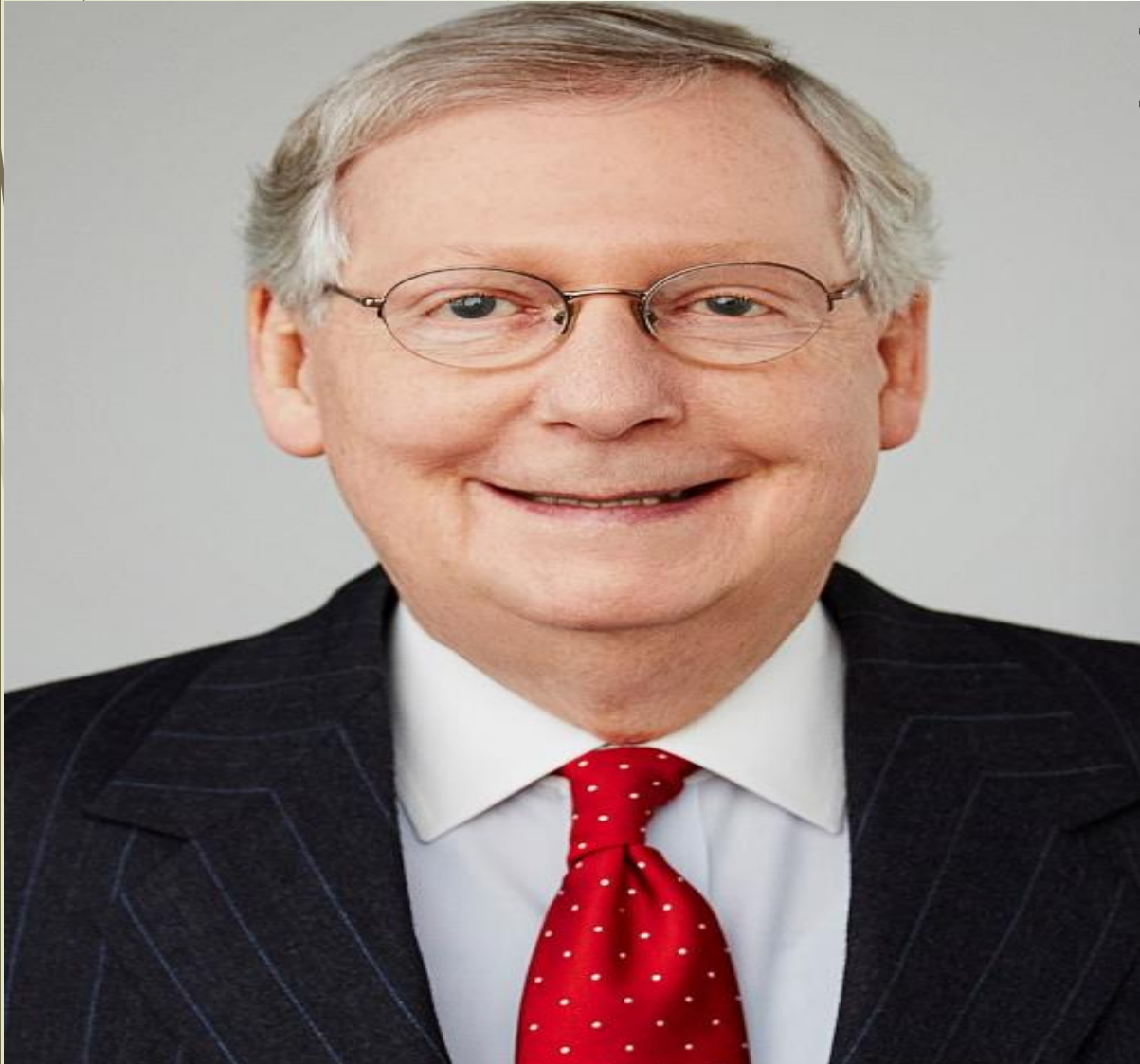
# A Brief History of the “Filibuster”

## “Filibuster” and “Cloture”

- Filibuster (Dutch pirate) ...ability to talk as long as possible to delay vote
- “Cloture” ....vote to end filibuster
- US Constitution....not mentioned...decisions by majority 1789-1917
- Introduction of Filibuster
  - 1917 Bill to arm ships...Senate votes Cloture rule 4/5 Senators
  - 1960's used to delay Civil Rights
  - 1975 Rule Change to 2/3....60 Senators to vote cloture...exempt Budget Bills
- Implications: Congress can block President...unless 60 Senators support

# Mitch McConnell (1942.....)

Mitch McConnell 2010



Army Family...Alabama

....polio victim...nearly bankrupted family

...partial paralysis upper leg

....1 month army...law school..Judge

Senator Kentucky 1985-2021

....initially progressive...then move right

...committed to power, destruction Obama

"the single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president...if [Obama is] willing to meet us halfway on some of the biggest issues, it's not inappropriate for us to do business with him."<sup>6</sup>

Blocks all Obama initiatives 2010-2016



White House life Barrack and Michelle

# The Obamas 2011



# Michelle as First Lady

- Advisor and confidante to Barrack
- Promotes social issues
  - Health and nutrition/ Child Obesity
  - Military families
  - Women empowerment
- Represent the Office
  - Modernises office...First Lady as public leader
  - Expands accessibility and inclusivity
  - Global representative

# Going to the Ball



# Michelle in India



# Obama White House family life

- ▶ Work “downstairs” family upstairs
- ▶ Strict routine
  - ▶ Barrack dinner at 6 30
  - ▶ Set bed time...Barrack to
  - ▶ Tight security
- ▶ Accessible / informal collaborative environment
- ▶ Zero scandals

# Enter "Bo" Portuguese Water Dog



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Credit: The White House



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Credit: Win McNamee



## Barrack about Michelle

“My wife has been my closest friend, my closest advisor. And ... she's not somebody who looks to the limelight, or even is wild about me being in politics. And that's a good reality check on me. When I go home, she wants me to be a good father and a good husband. And everything else is secondary to that.”

## Michelle about Barrack

And in the end, after all that's happened these past 19 months, the Barack Obama I know today is the same man I fell in love with 19 years ago. He's the same man who drove me and our new baby daughter home from the hospital 10 years ago this summer, inching along at a snail's pace, peering anxiously at us in the rear-view mirror, feeling the whole weight of her future in his hands, determined to give her everything he'd struggled so hard for himself, determined to give her what he never had: the affirming embrace of a father's love.



# The President without power

# Presidency 2010-2012

- Mitch McConnell's blocks legislation threatening “filibuster”
  - Transport and Housing
  - Election campaign disclosure
- Obama resorts to “Executive Orders”
  - Limited to adapting existing laws
  - Expire end of Presidency
  - Subject to delay by courts
- Focus on International Affairs (Talk 55)

At risk “one term Presidency” :  
.....win 2012 Presidential Election

# Mitch Romney (1947----



Obama/ Biden...renominated Democrats  
....no opposition

Republicans....fight Progressives vs “Popul

Winner Mitch Romney  
...first Mormon candidate  
...successful business consultant (BCG/ fou  
...worth \$300m

Governor Massachusetts 2003-2007  
...introduces “Romney care”  
...progressive, inclusive

Last “Conservative” Republican (till 2026)

# 2012 Election

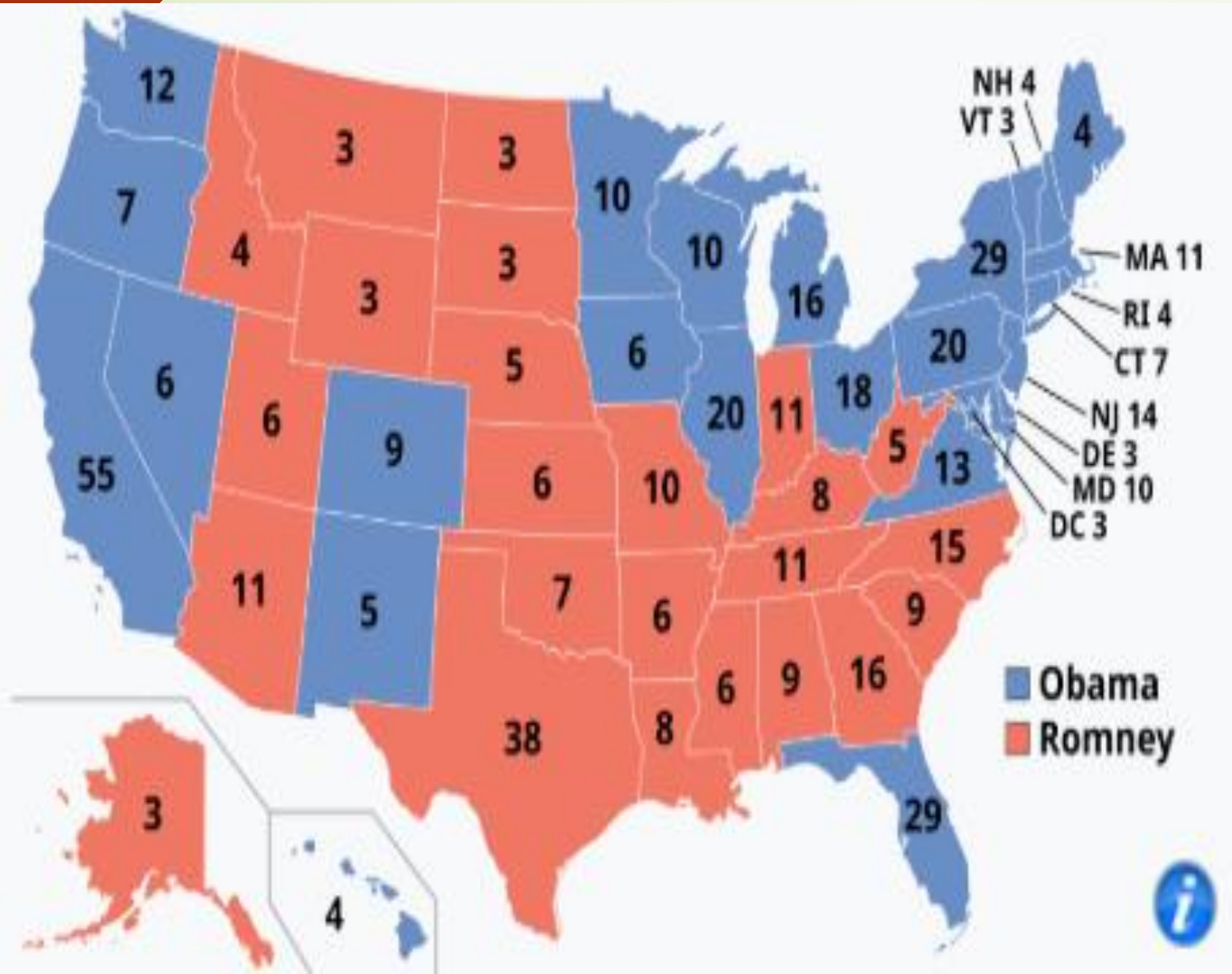
## Romney

- Aloof.....accused of “asset stripping”, employers first
- States 47% population never pay tax and will always vote for Democrats ... ““And so my job is not to worry about those people. I'll never convince them that they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives.
- Identifies Russia as #1 enemy....US focus on terrorists...Russia seen as “colleague”

## Obama

- Economy improving....unemployment falls to stimulus taking effect
- Retains coalition of minorities and young
- Bin Laden finally killed 2011
- “Forever wars” seem to be ending: Iraq no US combat troops, Afghanistan surge “successful” ....Talk 55

# 2012 Presidential election results



Obama wins 51% v 47% v  
332 vs 206 delegates

Republicans gain South  
...."Red States"

Congress...minimal change  
....Dems + 2 Senate+ 8 H

McConnell block in  
Senate (filibuster)  
continues

# Obama Second Term (2012-2016)

- Focus on Foreign affairs (Iran, Cuba, Iraq)....talk
- Major initiatives blocked by McConnell
  - Gun Law Reform (despite Sandy Hook massacre)...Talk 56
  - Environment legislation (Paris Accords)
  - Criminal justice reforms
- Use of Executive Orders
  - Immigration Reforms (children of illegal immigrants (DACA\_
  - Approve Same Sex marriage, protections for LGBTQ

Increasing “Race” Populist movements disrupt politics

# Re-emergence of race issues

USA violent country

- 1,000 citizens killed by police per year, 100 police killed
- 25% victims black, 12% population
- 30% crimes committed by young black men
- Amplification by social media....videos and smart phone
  - Florida Teenager killed by “neighborhood watch”...lost...killer not guilty
  - New York Drunk man killed by police, choke hold ...captured on video
  - Ferguson ..18 year old alleged shoplifter killed by police, body left in street

Protest movement grows spontaneously...demonstrations across USA

# Ferguson Missouri riot August 2014 ....no deaths, 20 arrests....amplified by Media



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Credit: Scott Olson

**BLACK LIVES  
MATTER.**

gettyimages®  
Credit: LEON NEAL

# Obama Response & Impact

Obama “a President who happened to be black, not black President

## ➤ Response

- Grievances understandable/ role of police difficult
- Protests acceptable / Rioting unacceptable
- Commissions inquiry into Ferguson

## ➤ Impact

- Identifies systematic racism within certain police forces
- Increase in “awareness training” to 20,000 US police forces
- Shootings and demonstrations continue 2015/ 2016
- Tarnished end of Obama Presidency.....media amplifies

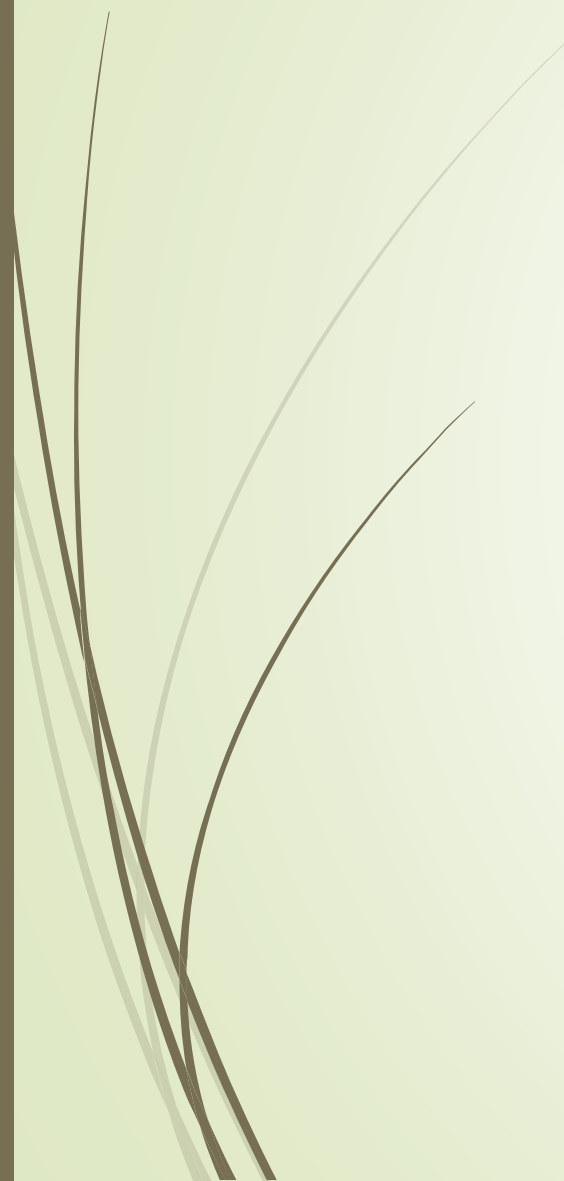
Race issues in US to be covered in talk 55. US Culture 2000-2016

# Obama end game

- Loses Control of House 2014 mid terms: Both Senate & House lost
- Resist relentless attacks on ACA (Obamacare)
  - Republican attempts to defund
  - Offset by rise in ACA popularity from 40% to 55% by 2016
- Unable to run third term
- Supports Hilary Clinton as his successor...confident of victory



# Obama Assessment



# A Good , but not Great President

## Achievements

- 20 million Americans secured Health Insurance, countless lives saved
- Millions of jobs and homes saved
- Triggered drive to Green Economy, energy independence (“fracking”)
- Restored global trust in USA Global agreements put in place

## Failures

- Not transformation....retained existing Health and Banking systems
- Poor expectations management....promised redemption, delivered amelioration
- Failed to communicate complex plans to mass public

Triumph of “non racial ”politics ....showed what America could be

Greatest failing of all: ....failure to build lasting coalition to face what was about to come



gettyimages®  
Credit: Christopher Gregory



Next Talk : US and World 2008-2016: Obama Diplomacy

.....May 18<sup>th</sup> Sanctuary 10:00 AM