

Barbershop Guide To **Barack** Obama



Barber chair reading for
the good people of
Rhythm & Style Hair Studio
in Somerset, New Jersey



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Young Barack and his mother

- ✓ Barack Obama was born in Hawaii on August 4th, 1961.
- ✓ His father was from a small village in Kenya.
- ✓ His mother was from a small town in Kansas.
- ✓ His parents met at the University of Hawaii.
- ✓ Barack grew up with his mother in Hawaii, and for a few years in Indonesia.



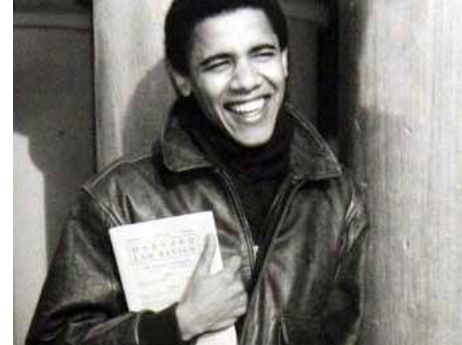
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Recent Columbia University graduates

- ✓ Barack graduated from Columbia University in 1983.
- ✓ He became a community organizer with a church-based group seeking to improve living conditions in poor neighborhoods in 1985
- ✓ Eventually Barack realized truly improving people's lives would take a change in our laws and in our politics.



- ✓ Barack earned his law degree from Harvard in 1991, where he became the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review.
- ✓ He returned to Chicago to practice as a civil rights lawyer and teach constitutional law.

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- ✓ Barack served in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004
- ✓ Was elected to the U.S. Senate in November 2004 with a landslide 70% of the vote. (Wikipedia)

“At their core Americans are a decent people. And there is a sense of hope that people can change this country together.”
- Barack Obama (Larry King Live, October 9, 2006)



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STRENGTHENING AMERICA OVERSEAS



✓ As a member of the Senator Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Obama has fought to strengthen America's position in the world. Reaching across the aisle, Obama has tackled problems such as preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction and stopping the genocide in Darfur

PLAN TO END IRAQ WAR

✓ Before the war in Iraq ever started, Senator Obama said that it was wrong in its conception. In 2002, then Illinois State Senator Obama said Saddam Hussein posed no imminent threat to the United States and that invasion would lead to an occupation of undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequences. Since then, Senator Obama has laid out a plan to bring the war to a responsible end and take our combat troops out of Iraq by March 31, 2008



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CLEANING UP WASHINGTON'S CULTURE OF CORRUPTION

✓ Throughout his political career, Barack Obama has been a leader in fighting for open and honest government. As a U.S. Senator, he has spearheaded the effort to clean up Washington in the wake of the Jack Abramoff scandal. In a politically charged election year, Obama acknowledged that corruption was a problem that plagued both political parties. He subsequently enlisted the help of Republican allies to limit lobbyist influence, shine sunlight into the earmarks process and promote open government.

MEETING AMERICA'S ENERGY NEEDS

✓ Senator Obama has been a leader in the Senate in pushing for a comprehensive national energy policy and has introduced a number of bills to get us closer to the goal of energy interdependence.



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IMPROVING OUR SCHOOLS

✓ We are failing too many of our children in public schools. Right now, six million middle and high school students read at levels significantly below their grade level. Unfortunately, the debate in Washington has been narrowed; either we need to pour more money into the system, or we need to reform it with more tests and standards. Senator Obama has worked on bills that cut through this false choice and recognize that good schools will require both structural reform and resources.

CREATING A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT WORKS

✓ The United States is the wealthiest nation in the world, yet 45 million Americans have no health insurance. Hard – working Americans cannot afford their medical bills, and health-related issues are the number one cause for personal bankruptcy. Promoting affordable, accessible, and high-quality health care is a priority for Senator Obama



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PROTECTING OUR HOMELAND

✓ Five years after 9/11, our country is still unprepared for a terrorist attack. Senator Obama is a member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and has supported efforts to base homeland security spending on risk rather than pork-barrel politics. He has also introduced legislation to strengthen chemical plant and drinking water security and to enhance disaster preparedness.



RECONCILING FAITH AND POLITICS

✓ In June of 2006, Senator Obama delivered what was called the most important speech on religion and politics in 40 years. Speaking before an evangelical audience, Senator Obama candidly discussed his own religious conversion and doubts, and the need for a deeper, more substantive discussion about the role of faith in American life.

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✓ Michelle was born on January 17, 1964 on Chicago's South Side and graduated from Whitney M. Young Magnet High School in Chicago's West Loop.



Princeton University students

✓ Michelle graduated from Princeton University in 1985 with a B.A. in sociology and a minor in African American studies.

✓ Michelle continued her education at Harvard Law School where she earned her degree in 1988.

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- ✓ Michelle met Barack while working as an associate in the Chicago branch of Sidley and Austin.
- ✓ She left the corporate law world in 1991 to pursue a career in public service, serving as an assistant to the mayor and then as the assistant commissioner of planning and development for the City of Chicago.



“Barack didn’t pledge riches, only a life that would be interesting. On that promise he delivered.”

–Michelle Obama

Sunday Times Magazine, November 5, 2006

- ✓ In 1993, Michelle became the founding executive director of Public Allies, a leadership training program that received AmeriCorps National Service funding and helped young adults develop skills for future careers in the public sector.
- ✓ Michelle Obama currently serves as vice president of community and external affairs at the University of Chicago Hospitals, where she also manages the Hospitals’ business diversity program.

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“This is our time and I’m grateful to be a part of it.”
-Barack Obama

Democratic Fundraiser in Manchester, New Hampshire



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The 2008 election will be his first time voting...



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