



# **The Presidency of Barack Obama: A First Historical Assessment**

*Julian E Zelizer (Editor)*

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**The Presidency of Barack Obama: A First Historical Assessment** Julian E Zelizer (Editor)  
**An original and engaging account of the Obama years from a group of leading political historians**

Barack Obama's election as the first African American president seemed to usher in a new era, and he took office in 2009 with great expectations. But by his second term, Republicans controlled Congress, and, after the 2016 presidential election, Obama's legacy and the health of the Democratic Party itself appeared in doubt. In *The Presidency of Barack Obama*, Julian Zelizer gathers leading American historians to put President Obama and his administration into political and historical context.

These writers offer strikingly original assessments of the big issues that shaped the Obama years, including the conservative backlash, race, the financial crisis, health care, crime, drugs, counterterrorism, Iraq and Afghanistan, the environment, immigration, education, gay rights, and urban policy. Together, these essays suggest that Obama's central paradox is that, despite effective policymaking, he failed to receive credit for his many achievements and wasn't a party builder. Provocatively, they ask why Obama didn't unite Democrats and progressive activists to fight the conservative counter-tide as it grew stronger.

Engaging and deeply informed, *The Presidency of Barack Obama* is a must-read for anyone who wants to better understand Obama and the uncertain aftermath of his presidency.

Contributors include Sarah Coleman, Jacob Dlamini, Gary Gerstle, Risa Goluboff, Meg Jacobs, Peniel Joseph, Michael Kazin, Matthew Lassiter, Kathryn Olmsted, Eric Rauchway, Richard Schragger, Paul Starr, Timothy Stewart-Winter, Thomas Sugrue, Jeremi Suri, Julian Zelizer, and Jonathan Zimmerman.

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**Stvpett says**

This was an excellent set of historical analyses. I would only give the warning that it is a collection of analysis essays by various contributors and therefore does not have a single overarching flow. These essays are full of dense analysis of policy and actions. If that is what you are looking to read then this is an excellent book. This book provides a large amount of information and analysis which act as major food for thought over the legacy of our last President.

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