



# THE OBAMA LEGACY

## SYNOPSIS

Obama's presidency has suffered the fiercest opposition any administration has had and yet Mr. Obama has managed to lead the country to financial recovery, end the senseless war in Iraq, implement universal health-care, put an end to Iran's nuclear ambitions and re-open diplomatic relations with Cuba all the while remake US standing in the world. But his Republican opponents believe he is the worst president the country has had.

This book outlines the major accomplishments of his presidency.

MIKE DUCHEINE

# Quotes

When the truth reaches the mass, it becomes impossible to govern by deception. (Mike Ducheine)

Anyone can go to school to learn to read, to become very good at solving math problems or to even become excellent at writing proses but no one can become educated by going to school. (My mother)

Ignorance is the most effective tool of destruction but naivete is an offspring which must be aborted. (Mike Ducheine)

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## DEDICATION

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This book is dedicated exclusively  
to my wife for her unrelenting  
support, her incredible patience,  
her unlimited understanding and her  
immeasurable and infinite love

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His Presidency According to FACTS

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## Introduction

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This book was written, edited and published entirely by Mike Ducheine; my objective is to provide some context into Obama presidency. Since his inauguration in 2008, the president had not received any support from any Republican Legislator in Washington. This was unprecedented.

Although it is common practice that party affiliation determines the level of support (how much or how little) a president would receive from the Legislators of the opposing party, it is however extremely unusual that a sitting president would have so little cooperation from the Representatives of the opposing Party.

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While it seems obvious by most analysis that the main factor was the president's race, it is worth noting that the President had also adopted a "non-mingling" approach vis-à-vis the GOP Lawmakers in Washington.

Be it by design or simply because of the environment the Republicans had created, the president style was also a factor in the final outcome of the relation. It probably would not have mattered anyway; in fact, from the very beginning, the Republican Legislators drew a line in the sand; they were very forthcoming in their agenda, to deny the president a second term, hardly a good way to jumpstart a new relationship.

Everything Republicans in Washington had done was to challenge the president not just in political sense;

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they had questioned his citizenship, they had attacked his patriotism; they had questioned his motives, his love for the country. As such, anyone can easily conclude that Mr. Obama had held the office of the presidency under extremely challenging circumstances.

This book is an attempt to provide a factual account of Obama' presidency by discussing a few of his accomplishments and failures.

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## The Meaning of Obama

If you were to come from another planet and visited Earth between January 2009 and the year 2016 and the first broadcast station you tune in to on your visit to the planet is Fox Opinion, - *known and referred to by most as Fox News* - the word Obama, the expression Barack Obama (and any derivation) would have probably meant "complete failure", "utmost evil", "despicable organism" or simply "irritating parasite". According to Fox Opinion, Obama presidency has been a disaster, much, much worse than that of George W. Bush, the 43<sup>rd</sup> president of the United States.

Seriously!

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If there was anything remotely good or positive which had happened under the Obama administration, it must have been inevitable; something which would have happened anyway, irrespective of the occupant in the Oval Office. In other words, according to Fox Opinion, if it was bad, Obama was responsible; if it was good, Obama could not claim credit because it was probably a fluke, an anomaly. But Fox Opinion failed short to point out that "Evil King Obama" had managed to seduce a whole nation, well, most of the nation (the world even) to accept him as commander-in-chief of the most powerful nation on earth, the United States of America. Hosts at Fox implied that Obama had managed not just to be elected but also to be re-elected despite being a foreigner.

God forbid!

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The GOP mouthpiece (Fox Opinion) may have been on to something but a few details its hosts might have overlooked are discussed below in order to provide a more complete picture regarding the extent of the failure of the Obama presidency (*or his accomplishments if one doesn't work at Fox*).

### **On the Spotlight**

Whenever an important issue such as terrorism arose, one was certain to hear many different views and opinions on how best to handle the aftermath of a tragedy such as the Brussels' airport attacks (<http://bbc.in/2eboq8b>) on March 22, 2016.

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The opinions were usually framed according to the political party the individuals belonged to. In other words, you'd be hard pressed to hear any objective analysis of those types of situation. Each party wanted to discuss these topics in such a way to score political points, especially in an election cycle such as the 2016 presidential election season we were in (*at the time of the writing of this book*) even if it meant that the country would not benefit from their arguments. So, it should not surprise anyone to hear many different views, opinions and commentaries regarding not only the Brussel's terrorist attacks but also how president Obama handled or reacted to the tragedies.

That's where I come in. As I mentioned frequently in *The People Branch* blog (<http://peoplebranch.org>), I have no allegiance

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to any political party or candidate which frees me to be more or less objective in all matter politics. This is not to say one would agree with everything I write about; this is not to imply that I am 100% bias free. Far from it! I am still human, you know. However, because I am not in a race to please one party or the other, one candidate or another, one group or another, I can be more objective than most.

Having said that, I will take a look at how Republicans and Democrats have judged Obama vis-à-vis his legacy in general and the tragedies of terrorism in particular which have thus far claimed the lives of hundreds and injured thousands here and abroad during his eight years in office.

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I will also look at the devastation of terrorist actions (here and abroad), their aftermath and Obama's reactions through three different prisms, the Republican's, the Democrat's and the Objective's (*which is neither Republican nor Democrat*). Let's get to it.

## OBAMA GRADE

Despite the praise that Obama might have repaired US image abroad, the discussion on US foreign policy under his administration cannot be complete without taking a more in-depth look at his accomplishment on the international stage vis-à-vis several countries and more specifically in regards to events in those countries.

Foreign Policy is one aspect of the presidency which offers the most flexibility to any president. Contrary to domestic issues which require a great deal of negotiations and compromises with the Legislators in Washington, especially those of the opposing political party, the president is more or less free to enter into agreement with other

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countries, negotiate deals (arms, commerce) and even go to war without the restrictive hands of the opposition. As such, both success and failure of a president are fully under his control. How did Obama do in foreign policy? Mr. Obama got a C+ overall for his initiatives towards repairing US image abroad, re-establishing trust among US allies and opening the door for further alliances with countries which are still considered non-allies or enemies.

Although I previously outlined Obama's foreign policy, here I will take a more in-depth look at the most important events which took place across the globe and how the US under Obama has fared.

## **Gas found – fabricated or planted**

When it was revealed that the rumors regarding use of gas by the Syrian army on civilians were true,



it was great news here in the United States for Obama's critics as well as foes; they all reveled at the idea that the president was pushed to a corner which would force him to make

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good on his word, mainly to go to war with Syria. After all, he alone was responsible to have drawn a line in the sand. But Obama was not going to let his critics dictate his move in regards to the situation in Syria. His aversion for "senseless or dumb" war had been a guiding principle for his administration whenever the specter of war emerged. So, it was not at all surprising to watch Obama looking for alternative to going to war with Syria despite the revelation that the line he drew had been crossed. In hindsight, it was a very smart move to have avoided going to war over the alleged use of gas by the Syrian army.

According to "France Diplomatie", a French publication, the rumors of gas used by the Syrian army on civilians were bogus as reported on BBC. According to the publication, the use

of chlorine gas by the Syrian army helicopters would have caused tens of thousands of victims in a matter of a few hours, something which clearly didn't happened. The publication didn't refute the existence of the gas but questioned whether it was ever used by the Assad' regime as widely and indiscriminately reported in the US news media. "France Diplomatie" questioned whether the very detection of the gas on the battlefield could even be attributed to Assad.

The differing opinion on the matter clearly outlines the difficulty the International agency - *United Nations (UN)* - had to dispel rumors and confirm any allegation. Similar scenarios were present before the US invasion of Iraq; elements in the opposition to the Saddam regime purposely fed the US government with