

## Barack Obama (born 1961)

Haoyu WANG TER 2

Barack Obama was born in 1961 in Hawaii to an American mother and a Kenyan father. Growing up in a multicultural environment influenced his interest in dialogue and compromise. After studying law at Harvard University, he worked as a community organizer in Chicago, where he saw social inequality up close. This experience shaped his belief that democracy should protect ordinary people, but it also made him aware of how slow and complex political change can be.

In 2008, Obama was elected President of the United States, becoming the first Black president in American history. His election was seen as a strong symbol of progress and inclusion. As president, he defended democratic values such as freedom of speech, voting rights, and equality before the law. However, his presidency also faced strong opposition and political division. Many critics felt that he relied too much on compromise, while others believed he did not go far enough on issues like racial inequality or economic reform.

Obama introduced major reforms, especially in healthcare, with the Affordable Care Act. This law helped millions of Americans gain health insurance, but it was also controversial and criticized for its cost and complexity. In foreign policy, Obama supported diplomacy, but he also authorized military actions and drone strikes, which raised ethical questions. Today, he is remembered as a good leader, admired for his respect for democratic principles, but also debated for the limits and contradictions of his presidency.



### Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack\\_Obama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama)

<https://www.obamalibrary.gov/obamas/president-barack-obama>