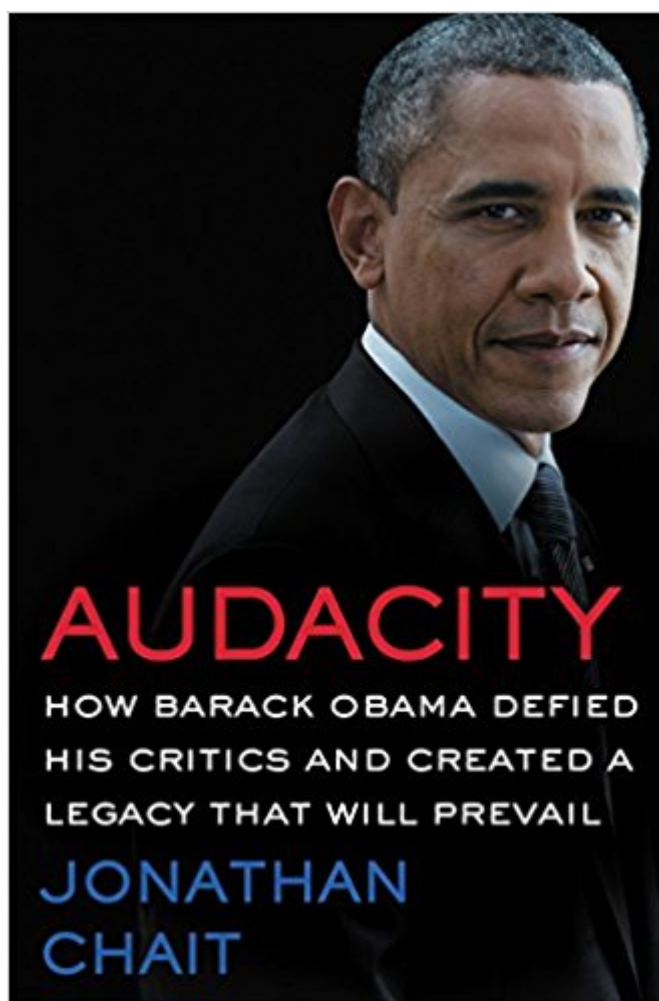


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# Audacity: How Barack Obama Defied His Critics And Created A Legacy That Will Prevail



## Synopsis

New York Times bestseller An unassailable case that, in the eyes of history, Barack Obama will be viewed as one of America's best and most accomplished presidents. Over the course of eight years, Barack Obama amassed an array of historic achievements. His administration saved the American economy from collapse, expanded health insurance to tens of millions who previously could not afford it, negotiated an unprecedented nuclear deal with Iran, helped craft a groundbreaking international climate accord, reined in Wall Street, launched a fundamental overhaul of our education system, and formulated a new vision of racial progress. He has done all of this despite a left that frequently disdained him as a sellout, and a hysterical right that did everything possible to destroy his agenda, even in instances when they actually agreed with what he was doing before Obama was the one doing it. Now, as the page turns to possibly the most dangerous Commander in Chief in our history, Jonathan Chait, one of America's most incisive and meticulous political commentators, digs deep into Obama's record on major policy fronts—the economy, the environment, domestic reform, health care, race, and foreign policy—to demonstrate why history will judge our forty-fourth president as among our greatest. Chait explains why so many observers, from cynical journalists to disheartened Democrats, missed the enormous evidence of progress amidst the smoke screen of extremist propaganda and the confinement of short-term perspective. He also reveals why Obama's accomplishments will last despite the reactionary effort by Donald Trump and the Republicans to extinguish them. And in its resounding defense of Obama's tenure, *Audacity* both makes clear his victories, and what we need to fight for next.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Custom House (January 17, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062426974

ISBN-13: 978-0062426970

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 59 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #98,502 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #108 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Public Affairs & Administration #222 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > United States > Executive Branch

## Customer Reviews

Jonathan Chait's brilliant new book, *Audacity*, upends the conventional wisdom of the Washington commentariat -- and a surprising number of liberals -- that Barack Obama's presidency was little more than eight years of disappointment, setting out a compelling case that he was one of the most successful presidents of modern times. • (The Guardian) • A timely, trenchant and relentlessly argued book presenting the 44th president in terms that he himself would approve. Not only did Obama change America for the better, Chait writes, he also cemented a new policy infrastructure that will resist Trump's efforts to tear it down. • (New York Times Sunday Book Review) • *Audacity*, by Jonathan Chait of New York magazine, one of today's must-read political journalists, documents the scale of Obama's domestic policy, on health care, taxes, finance, climate, civil rights and education. Chait also explains why [Obama's successes] won't simply disappear. | The book is a brave one. • (David Leonhardt, New York Times Op-Ed columnist) • Chait offers a well-organized, clearly written case that will be valuable to future historians in their assessments. • (Kirkus Reviews) • [Chait] lacerates wimpish liberals and the duplicitous cynics on the right. He points out, over and over again, that, ideologically speaking, Obama's policies were largely derived from a liberal Republican tradition. • (Brooklyn Rail) • Chait's command of policy and politics, and his clarity of thought, guarantee that *Audacity* will remain an essential starting point for those assessing the Obama presidency. • (Washington Monthly) • [Chait is] one of the most influential political journalists of our time, the verve with which he pursues his quarries has made him one of our great polemicists. • (New Republic) • *Audacity* is a sturdy defense of the past eight years and an attack on left-wing Americans who moan about Obama's timidity. And in this endeavor it is a rip-roaring success. Chait tells the Obama story with enormous sympathy, but with enough detachment to make it credible. • (The Times (UK))

Over the course of eight years, Barack Obama amassed an array of historic achievements. His administration saved the American economy from collapse, expanded health insurance to tens of millions who previously could not afford it, negotiated an unprecedented nuclear deal with Iran, helped craft a groundbreaking international climate accord, reined in Wall Street, launched a fundamental overhaul of our education system, and formulated a new vision of racial progress. He

has done all of this despite a left that frequently disdained him as a sellout, and a hysterical right that did everything possible to destroy his agenda, even in instances when they actually agreed with what he was doing before Obama was the one doing it. Now, as the page turns to possibly the most dangerous commander in chief in our history, Jonathan Chait, one of America's most incisive and meticulous political commentators, digs deep into Obama's record on major policy fronts—the economy, the environment, domestic reform, health care, race, and foreign policy—to demonstrate why history will judge our forty-fourth president as among our greatest. Chait explains why so many observers, from cynical journalists to disheartened Democrats, missed the enormous evidence of progress amidst the smoke screen of extremist propaganda and the confinement of short-term perspective. He also reveals why Obama's accomplishments will last despite the reactionary effort by Donald Trump and the Republicans to extinguish them. And in its resounding defense of Obama's tenure, *Audacity* both makes clear his victories, and what we need to fight for next.

It is hard to find any book about any presidential figure that is fair and balanced, unless you are looking at presidents that are long dead. The author, while clearly a believer in Obama, didn't pull any punches and described where and when Obama made mistakes. And there were mistakes made through his presidency—times when he should have ridden something harder through Congress and times when he just didn't follow through. The author looks at a number of aspects of the Obama presidency, but starts with race relations and how that affected both of his elections and how it created tension with certain groups as soon as he was elected. It is sad, but racism is still very much alive in today's society. From then on he looks at the legislative agenda and just exactly what Obama got accomplished in his 2 terms. Just a short sample reads like this: Stabilizing and repairing the worst economy since the Great Depression. Passing a huge stimulus program that produced jobs and improved infrastructure. Brought the auto industry back from the brink of collapse along with the other companies that supply them. Reformed the healthcare system. Wall St reforms that protect consumers. Drastically cut the unemployment rate. Expanded the use of alternative energy forms. And this is only a partial list of Obama's accomplishments. The book is an excellent read and I highly recommend it to anyone—particularly those who don't believe Obama accomplished much. It will open your eyes to just how busy he was. One reason I think people are unaware of his accomplishments is because he didn't go about bragging about them (unlike today, where the President has to prove he can sign his name every time he signs something). An excellent read and a great early book on President Obama's legacy.

Good read!

This was a pretty good read, especially for this soon after the Obama presidency. All claims are well-supported by public facts and Chait's arguments are logical.

Well worth reading. Arrived in good condition.

J. Chait has very lively and thoughtful style.

Awesome read

What an insightful and well written book. The author writes fairly and openly and backs up how points with a great deal of examples and actual situations. An unbiased and very interesting read for anyone interested in learning more about a man and his presidency no matter what political affiliation you may categorize yourself. A fair inside look at one author's examination of Obama's presidency, his person, and the multiple topics he covers.

Yes, Jonathan Chait writes about the Obama presidency and his successes. But he also writes about Obama's failures. Whether the successes are failures may be a matter of debate, but Chait gives a balanced account for his reasoning. Setting politics aside, for me, there are two reasons everyone should read this book. The first is admittedly about exactly what Obama accomplished in eight years as President. Even I, as a fan, was not aware of all the things Obama was able to do, some of which, as Chait states, will prevail. I do disagree with the author in that some of what he feels will last, may not under the current political state. The second reason is more important, in my mind at least. Chait pulls back the curtain on just how bogged down our political system is and how party lines have made progress virtually impossible. I know Democrats and Republicans are at odds but to see just how bad it has become is truly sad. Chait shows how division is not new but how wide the gap has become. It wasn't that long ago that if a proposal was good for the country, a compromise could be reached between parties to see it implemented. Now, regardless of the benefit of an idea, if it is put forward by one party, the other is automatically against it. This applies to both sides. The Republicans acted this way under Obama, and now the Democrats are doing the same thing. This is a book that hopefully will make people

think, discuss, and act. This one gets four stars.

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