

# Unit 4

## Barack Obama 巴拉克·歐巴馬



### 人物速覽

- 第 44 任美國總統
- 1961 年生於夏威夷火奴魯魯 (Honolulu, Hawaii)
- 美國首位非裔美籍總統
- 《哈佛法律評論》首位非裔美籍社長
- 2009 年諾貝爾和平獎得主

① **Barack Obama** was born into a mixed race family. His mother was a white American woman, and his father was an exchange student from Kenya in Africa. They met when they were in college, and got married. Two years after Obama's birth, they divorced, and Obama's father returned to Kenya. Obama's mother then married again, this time to a man from Indonesia. After some time, the family moved to Indonesia where Obama spent his early childhood. At the age of 10, he returned to Hawaii where he was brought up by his grandparents.

② When he graduated from high school, he went to Columbia University in New York, where he studied political science and international relations. After he graduated, he went to Chicago where he worked as a community officer in the poor neighbourhoods of the city, helping disadvantaged<sup>1</sup> people to get jobs, education and housing. After three years of this, he went to Harvard Law School. He wanted to become a lawyer so that he could help more people. At Harvard, he was elected the first African American president of the *Harvard Law Review*, a very famous journal.<sup>2</sup> This made him famous all over America.

③ After graduating from Harvard Law School, he returned to Chicago, where, for many years, he was actively involved in local politics helping the poor in Chicago, especially among the African American community. During this time, he met his wife Michelle, who was also working in local politics and civil rights. He was elected to the Illinois Senate<sup>3</sup> as a member

### W O R D L I S T

1. disadvantaged [ˌdɪsədˈvæntɪdʒd] *adj.* 因貧窮而處於困境的
- ★ 2. journal [ˈdʒɜːnl] *n.* (雜誌等) 定期刊物
3. senate [ˈsɛnɪt] *n.* 參議院

of the Democratic Party<sup>4</sup> in 1996, and he focused on civil rights, health care and education issues. During his days as a state legislator, he worked with Republican Party<sup>5</sup> legislators on bipartisan<sup>6</sup> issues such as voting reform, civil rights and the death penalty.<sup>7</sup>

④ In 2004 Obama was elected to the US Senate, as a senator<sup>8</sup> for Illinois State. He won the largest number of votes in the state's history, and became the rising star of the Democratic Party. As senator he focused on issues such as voting reform, weapons control and government transparency.<sup>9</sup>

⑤ In 2008, Barack Obama decided to run for president as the Democratic Party candidate. First he had to win the nomination<sup>10</sup> for president from the Democratic Party. This was difficult and took a long time because the other popular candidate was Hillary Clinton, wife of former President Bill Clinton. The campaign<sup>11</sup> was long and hard, but Obama beat Clinton to get the nomination. Then Obama had to beat the Republican Party candidate, John McCain.

⑥ Barack Obama's campaign was the first campaign to use the internet to raise money and get support. His message was a message of hope

## W O R D L I S T

4. Democratic Party [ˌdɛməˈkrætɪk ˌpɑːrtɪ] *n.* 民主黨
5. Republican Party [rɪˈpʌblɪkən ˌpɑːrtɪ] *n.* 共和黨
6. bipartisan [baɪˈpɑːrtəzən] *adj.* 兩黨的
- ★ 7. death penalty [ˈdeθ ˌpenɪltɪ] *n.* 死刑
8. senator [ˈsenətə] *n.* 參議員

and a new beginning for the nation and the world. He beat John McCain and was sworn in<sup>12</sup> as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. He made Hillary Clinton, his former rival, his Secretary of State. In 2009 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on nuclear arms reduction.

### 譯文

❶ 巴拉克·歐巴馬出身混血家庭。母親是白種美國女性，父親則是來自非洲肯亞的交換學生。他們相識於大學時期。在歐巴馬出生兩年後，他們離了婚，歐巴馬的父親也回到了肯亞。後來歐巴馬的母親再婚，這次嫁給了一位來自印尼的男子。經過一段時日，舉家搬遷至印尼，歐巴馬早期的童年就是在那裡度過。他在 10 歲的時候回到夏威夷，並由外祖父母撫養長大。

❷ 高中畢業後，他到紐約就讀哥倫比亞大學，讀的是政治學和國際關係。畢業後，他去了芝加哥，並在該市的貧民區擔任社區幹事，協助弱勢民衆謀職、求學與住宿。做了三年後，他到哈佛法學院就讀。他想要成為律師，如此才能幫助更多的人。在哈佛的時候，他獲選為《哈佛法律評論》首位非裔美籍社長，這是一本非常有名的刊物，使他的名聲傳遍了美國。

❸ 從哈佛法學院畢業後，他回到芝加哥，並長年積極參與地方政治，以協助

9. government transparency [ˈgʌvənmənt trænspəˈreɪnsɪ] *n.* 政府施政透明化

10. nomination [ˌnɒmɪˈneɪʃən] *n.* 提名；任命

★ 11. campaign [kæmˈpeɪn] *n.* (選舉等) 活動

12. swear in [ˈswɛr ɪn] *ph.* 使……宣誓

芝加哥的貧民，尤其是在非裔美籍的社區。在這個時候，他認識了他太太蜜雪兒，她也在為地方政治與民權而努力。他在 1996 年代表民主黨獲選為伊利諾州的參議員，並全力投入民權、醫療保健與教育等議題。在擔任州議員期間，他曾與共和黨的議員聯手處理兩黨議題，諸如選制改革、民權和死刑等。

4 2004 年，歐巴馬代表伊利諾州獲選為美國參議員。他贏得了該州有史以來最多的選票，並成為民主黨的明日之星。在擔任參議員期間，他全力投入選制改革、武器管制和政府施政透明化等議題。

5 2008 年，巴拉克·歐巴馬決定參選總統，並成為民主黨的候選人。首先他必須贏得民主黨的總統提名。這並非易事，而且耗費了很長時日，因為另一位聲勢看好的候選人是希拉蕊·柯林頓，也就是前總統比爾·柯林頓的夫人。競選活動既漫長又辛苦，但歐巴馬打敗了柯林頓並獲得提名。歐巴馬接著必須擊敗的是共和黨候選人約翰·麥肯。

6 巴拉克·歐巴馬的競選首次使用了網際網路來募款及爭取支持。他所傳達的訊息既是希望，也是國家和世界的新起點。他打敗了約翰·麥肯，並宣誓就職，成為美國第 44 任總統。他還任命先前的對手希拉蕊·柯林頓為國務卿。2009 年，他因在削減核武上的努力而獲頒諾貝爾和平獎。