



# The Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack Obama

By David Remnick

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## National Bestseller

In this nuanced and complex portrait of Barack Obama, Pulitzer Prize-winner David Remnick offers a thorough, intricate, and riveting account of the unique experiences that shaped our nation's first African American president.

Through extensive on-the-record interviews with friends and teachers, mentors and disparagers, family members and Obama himself, Remnick explores the elite institutions that first exposed Obama to social tensions, and the intellectual currents that contributed to his identity. Using America's racial history as a backdrop for Obama's own story, Remnick further reveals how an initially rootless and confused young man built on the experiences of an earlier generation of black leaders to become one of the central figures of our time.

Masterfully written and eminently readable, *The Bridge* is destined to be a lasting and illuminating work for years to come, by a writer with an unparalleled gift for revealing the historical significance of our present moment.

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## The Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack Obama By David Remnick Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Remnick (Lenin's Tomb), editor of the New Yorker, offers a detailed but lusterless account of Barack Obama's historic ascent. As a piece of "biographical journalism," the book succeeds ably enough and offers familiar commentary on Obama's cosmopolitan childhood with strains of isolation and abandonment straight out of David Copperfield-rootless, fatherless, with a loving but naïve and absent mother, he suffered racial taunts and humiliations at the hands of his schoolmates. We read how Obama's famous composure was hard-won, how he constructed his personality in opposition to his father's grandiose self-regard, his transformation from "Barry" to "Barack," the drug use, the burgeoning racial and political consciousness-rehashing events that the subject himself has covered in his frank memoirs. But for the scope (and size) of the book, Remnick's interest is ultimately limited to a study of Obama's relationship with blackness, and Obama as the student and fulfillment of the civil rights movement-it's a rich vein but impersonal, and in the author's handling, slightly repetitive. Remnick is in deeply respectful court scribe mode, but he does shine in his treatment of more peripheral characters such as Jesse Jackson and Hillary Clinton, both of whom emerge as figures of Shakespearian psychological complexity. A well-researched biography that pulls many trends of Obama-ology under its umbrella but stints on fresh interpretations.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Most reviewers were pleasantly surprised to find that anyone could find anything new to say about the president, since he is one of the most scrutinized people on the planet and has already written two memoirs. But Remnick pulls off *The Bridge*, in part, through innovative and exhaustive research. Several critics remarked how Remnick's reporting expanded their views of the Obama of *Dreams From my Father*; others were grateful for the author's elucidation of the president's crucial years in Chicago. But the book's key trait, and what may even find it some readers among skeptics of the president, is Remnick's nuanced reading of how Obama discovered an identity in the struggles of African American history--before he went on to be a part of that history.

From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Remnick's major contribution to the river of Obama books is a sharply honed work of "biographical journalism" unique in its multiplicity of perspectives, contextual richness, and astute analysis of the president's "political, racial, and sentimental education." A Pulitzer Prize winner and editor of the New Yorker, Remnick draws on hundreds of interviews to convey the challenges Obama faced in the forging of a self and recognition of a calling. In his sensitive portrayal of Obama's mother and incisive coverage of his childhood, Remnick weighs the absence of Obama's Kenyan father and close black relatives and his consequential "hunger for mentors," longing for community, and literature-fueled, do-it-yourself African American identity. Great constellations of little-known history and striking insights coalesce around each locale as Remnick illuminates Obama's experiences in Hawaii, Indonesia, California, Columbia University, Harvard, and Chicago and the evolution of his social conscience. Standout passages explicate Obama's struggles as a community organizer and the crucial influence of Harold Washington, Chicago's first black mayor. Remnick vividly depicts Obama as a novice campaigner, resented state senator, and restless member of Congress; a charismatic man of discipline and brilliance, conviction and conciliation, who connected with exactly the right people to support his visionary, fast-tracked political ascendancy. In his spectacularly encompassing, analytical, and dramatic portrait, Remnick calibrates the deepest reverberations of Obama's transformative journey to the White House. --Donna Seaman

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Noah Cale:**

The book *The Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack Obama* make you feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable a lot more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting strain or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make looking at a book *The Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack Obama* to become your habit, you can get a lot more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You may know everything if you like open up and read a reserve *The Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack Obama*. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science guide or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this reserve?

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#### **Richard Mills:**

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#### **Marie Walsh:**

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