



# The Best "Worst President": What the Right Gets Wrong About Barack Obama

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**Political analyst and Democratic campaign veteran Mark Hannah and renowned New Yorker illustrator Bob Staake give Barack Obama the victory lap he deserves in this compendium that takes the president's critics head-on and celebrates the president's many underappreciated triumphs.**

Barack Obama's election in 2008 was a watershed moment in American history that inspired supporters on the Left—and fired up enemies on the Right. Elected in the midst of multiple crises—a Wall Street meltdown that imperiled the global economy and American troops entangled in two foreign wars—Barack Obama's presidency promised, from the start, to be one of the most consequential presidencies in modern American history.

Although he stabilized the economy and restored America's prestige on the global stage, President Obama has been denied the credit he deserves, receiving instead acidic commentary from political opponents such as former Vice President Dick Cheney, who declared that Obama was "the worst president in [his] lifetime"—an accusation that reflects the politics of resentment and recrimination that has come to characterize the president's critics.

In *The Best Worst President*, Mark Hannah and renowned New Yorker illustrator Bob Staake swiftly and systematically debunk conservative lies and disinformation meant to negate the president's accomplishments and damage his reputation—baseless charges too often left unchallenged by the national media. *The Best Worst President* is a whip-smart take-down of these half-truths and hypocrisies, each refuted in a smart, witty, fact-based style. Hannah and Staake not only defend the president but showcase his administration's most surprising and underappreciated triumphs—making clear he truly is the best "worst president" our nation has ever known.

## The Best "Worst President": What the Right Gets Wrong About Barack Obama Details

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## From Reader Review The Best "Worst President": What the Right Gets Wrong About Barack Obama for online ebook

### Tikri /Letitia says

Having heard many of "The Charge" accusations, it was quite balancing to read "The Reality" explanations. Although both seemed somewhat exaggerated, it was good to read this. Received as a Goodreads Giveaway.

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### Jake says

A few reviews complain about his "bias" that he's clearly just trying to "vindicate" Obama, but it's not like he's trying to hide that, he admits it in the introduction. In fact he admits it in the title. Obama's opponents claim he's the "Worst President" and Hannah believes he was the best. So yes, he's biased. Get over it. I do not consider myself liberal at all, but I do consider myself open minded, and I was largely impressed with the book. I think most accusations about Obama are exaggerated or people looking for problems more than pointing out reality. I think Hannah glossed over a few things (drone warfare), but for the most part did a good job of pointing out what he accomplished despite massive opposition. I would want to see a rebuttal piece before I decide if I'm actually an Obama fan or not, but I think anyone who reads this with an open mind would probably decide Obama was a better President than given credit for.

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### Ardys says

I found this helpful to try to understand what the complaints were about Obama. Because I approved of Obama's handling of foreign and domestic affairs I could never quite grasp what the Critics were complaining about. It provided a very clear picture of how his opposition thought about things. I feel better able to discuss events of that presidency. I'm still very pleased with his presidency--the author reviews issue by issue. I miss Obama, a President I could be proud of.

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### Ed Timek says

Haven't read it yet, but needed to balance the 1 star rating someone else gave it.

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### Nancy says

I won this in a Goodreads giveaway. It is too bad that this is not required reading for everyone. The author cut through the blatant lies told by the right leaning pundits with clear facts.

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## Charles Dupre says

### Very Appropriate Title

As a supporter of Obama I felt I knew his positives and negatives. I haven't shifted one way or another but the discussion of the chosen topics helped validate and clarify what I understood and what I thought I understood and helped in my lack of understanding. I am glad I read this book in the last months of Obama's presidency.

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## Bruce says

I love this book, mainly because I love (and now very much missed Obama).

I learn a lot from this book, and a lot of these I didn't really have much of the background and I was listening and wasn't paying my full attention, so I was lost in many of the topics.

Regardless, I had fun listening to this book and would recommend to anyone who is a fan of Obama or simply wants to get their facts straight!

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## Jeanne says

*The Best "Worst President": What the Right Gets Wrong about Barack Obama* was written by Mark Hannah, political analyst, writer, and campaigner, and illustrated by Bob Staake, author and illustrator. *The Best Worst* is well- and thoughtfully written – and decidedly liberal in its analysis.

Hannah's responses are well-documented and argued, occasionally admitting Obama's shortcomings. On the other hand, he is also clear about the ways that the Republicans have failed to support the initiatives that they later claim they want and that Obama's denied them (including diplomatic security in Benghazi). It's easier to believe that Republican statements and actions are politically-motivated attacks rather than just the product of different worldviews. Where is the moral courage? The integrity?

Although the larger purpose of *The Best "Worst President"* is to respond to conservative stories about Obama's presidency, the larger story (more interesting to me) is to consider how such ludicrous tales were spun:

It fit the narrative of a lawless and vindictive president who wanted to punish or disable his political enemies. (pp. 23-24)

In trying to tell an enticing story, facts yield to fantasy and details defer to drama. (p. 24)

The portrayal of Barack Obama as an “outsider” or a “stranger” fits into the conservative fantasy that someone so liberal, so wonky, and so cosmopolitan just couldn't represent America. (p. 67)

Conservatives interpret his skillful use of the English language not as a reflection of clear thinking and passionate advocacy but rather as some kind of verbal sorcery. In this account,

plain language reveals while lofty oratory conceals (p. 74)

America might seem more divided amid the Ferguson protests and #BlackLivesMatter movements "because we're more aware of our racial shortcomings . . . [but] when it comes to race relations, America is better than it's ever been" (p. 83)

Republican manners have been poor (Democrats haven't been perfect either), but I hope that I am more honest when responding to DJT and other presidents I never would have voted for. Would I perceive their actions negatively if Obama had performed them?

If I were to have served as editor for this book, I would have suggested several things: (a) add figures and tables making Hannah's points (I'm a geek this way), (b) find a conservative writer to rebut Hannah's responses, and (c) remove Staake's cartoons, which to my mind, set the wrong tone for this book.

I'd also like to see a version of this book for DJT. How would a thoughtful Republican respond to my concerns about his behavior?

Could they?

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## **Susan says**

Yes, the point of the book is to increase Obama's approval rating.

Mark Hannah, a Democratic political analyst, presents Conservatives' claims about Obama, including that he's a dictator, a socialist, a "health care usurper," and a "bungler of foreign policy."

Then Hannah presents well-documented information that explains / defends / denies.

A hidden purpose is to increase readers' understanding of the process of governing and of the situations that shape our society.

After reading this book, I understand much more about executives orders, the auto industry bailout, and the US relationships with North Korean, Cuba, and terrorists. Almost every section offered a revelation, because I'm not at all knowledgeable about current events.

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## **Read Ng says**

I don't follow politics as closely as I should. I would imagine that the majority audience for this book would be liberal and the conservatives would just skip it as "it must be hogwash" based upon the title alone. But if you want to be an informed voter, you need to understand all sides of the argument, so get researching. This book was easy and quick to read. Just enough details to make you want to more.

I liked this book, not because I believed everything written, but because I gave me reason to question both

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sides of the debate. Granted the author is biased and can cherry pick his responses to the benefit of his personal feelings, but we all have our personal biases, that's what makes us all unique and makes me argue with you why I'm right and you're wrong. But more importantly, I can change my mind if you present me with the facts. I make fact driven decisions and don't go off with all of those "truths" I read on the internet, because "it was on the internet" or because some celebrity endorses that candidate or cause. Use some common sense. Be your own person.

The biggest thing I got from this reading is the degree of partisanship driving both political parties. I am one for compromise. I don't believe everything my political party says or endorses. I am more of a middle of the road person. And I have enough common sense to know that some people will say just about anything to justify their political beliefs.

This book came out just in time for me to reflect upon as the US Presidential election draws near. It was a GoodReads and you should open your mind, read this, research and read other facts, and vote in this election and all elections.

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### **Brian McCue says**

Mark Hannah takes apart all of the charges levelled at President Obama and researches the facts behind them. This book is good for arguing with your crazy republican relatives who say Obama is a Muslim / Socialist / Dictator, but then again, they probably won't be looking for evidence or facts anywho.

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### **Deborah Tills says**

Whole Obama episode so sad...Who was this guy? Manchurian Candidate for sure...Sad for him and now he just slips into history....No platform, no family, no background, no lifsource to fall back on, etc. The guy that is from Hawaii and Illinois, yet speaks with a bold southern accent (only when speaking to blue-collar folks); never ends. Attempt to make Obama look like a smart choice, somehow. Save your \$, don't buy this book.

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### **Jean says**

Curiosity drove me to read this book and I am glad I did. Hannah lists all the claims against Obama and then systematically gives the facts. The author stated that so much rhetoric is available about Obama in all types of media forums and that most of it is negative and some even farfetched such as Obama is a Muslim secret al-Qaeda operative. An example from the book is Obama is a dictator; the author's rebuttal is Obama has used executive privilege less than any other President since Grover Cleveland who left office in 1897.

The book is well written and is a good review of the Obama Presidency. The author reviews the arguments and the reality of the Obama years. The author is a political consultant and has written many books. I am sure this will be one of those books that people will either love or hate. Some of the information used in rebuttal I already was aware of but much of it I was not.

I read this as an audiobook downloaded from Audible. Kaleo Griffith does a good job narrating the book. Griffith is a film and TV actor as well as a voice over artist. He is an Audiofile Earphone Award winning

audiobook narrator.

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## **Matt says**

Difficult to get through. The author's bias aside, the evidence to support Obama was typically weak, relying, sometimes, on Obama's statements as proof. Other arguments made are easily refuted by the facts. The author's use of quotes from 2016 GOP presidential candidates makes the book feel like a thinly veiling attack on Republicans, rather than a genuine defense of Obama. The only accurate argument made in the book was when the author said the Seth Rogen movie "The Interview" was mediocre.

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## **Eleni Palmos says**

The hardcover feels amazing in my hands. The size, paper quality, and hardcover make the physical experience of reading this book sheer pleasure. It was published to last in your personal or school library.

And the inside matches the outside. This is a political book, a retrospective on President Obama's time in office but written in an alert and entertaining style. It is split into three separate parts with a list of topics within: the man (think of an allegation like "socialist"); the country (think of an issue like "climate change"); and, the world (think of a crisis like "Benghazi"). Each topic opens with an allegation followed by a refutation. The author, Mark Hannah, shares some insider knowledge and excellent turns of phrase.

In "Country: The Planet Healer," there is subsection on the Keystone XL Pipeline. It begins with the allegation that the President bowed under pressure from environmental groups and vetoed a project that would bring work to the United States. The sum total of permanent jobs that would have come were 35 - at the cost of processing a filthy type of oil that spews greenhouse gases; invoking eminent domain to take land away from citizens; and, keeping gas prices the same. Hannah analyzes the issue in three pages of generous and easy to read detail.

The illustrations are done in a classic political style and are awesome. My favorite has Uncle Sam ill in a hospital bed and hooked up to a machine that President Obama is about to pull the plug on.

Quote of the Day: In "Country: The Economy Destroyer: Job-Killing Tax Hikes" --- "Unless you want your grandfather driving for Uber too."

(Disclosure: I worked with Mark Hannah years ago in a University setting. I purchased "The Best 'Worst' President" on my own and have read it cover to cover. Some sections twice. Yes, 'Country' was my favorite.)

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