



The Chameleon Identity Obama and His Many Political Disguises

Part of the mystique of Barack Obama's presidency has been the inability of pundits, columnists and historians to accurately portray his religion, political philosophy and family history. More like a Robert Ludlum novel, Obama has changed his political and personal complexion so many times that the truth has been deeply shrouded behind a rhetorical curtain of secrecy. As a result his administration bears a striking resemblance to the chameleon in its natural habitat that changes its colors to fit its changing landscape.

Obama's Mystique

The Chameleon is also a fictional character that first appeared in *Marvel Comics' Amazing Spider-Man #1* in 1963. Arguably *Spider-Man's* first super-villain, the *Chameleon* is a master of disguise, and a brilliant impressionist. Coincidentally like his presidential counterpart in his 2010 appearance in *Amazing Spider-Man*, the *Chameleon* lost his special powers, forcing him to rely more on his skills of disguise.

Americans have been trying to fathom the *real* Barack Hussein Obama ever since he entered the national spotlight at the 2004 Democratic National Convention. Even with his impressive victory in 2008, few Americans knew or understood Obama's larger agenda. His opaque proclivities have fostered a cottage industry for writers of all political stripes, pundits, historians and radio talk show hosts. While his vague campaign promises of *Hope and Change* resonated effectively in media sound bites, a solid vetting of his policies was curiously lacking from any debates or media scrutiny.

A clear understanding of his agenda has also been blinded by a hagiography of rock star proportion that was more fitting of a mystic figure than a United States president. At one point the novice president was literally being painted as the anointed savior of humanity. After the 2008 election, global headlines declared that *America has its Messiah* and *Obama will save an ailing world*. Lately to further muddy the waters, Obama has started to receive stinging criticism from the left. With insurmountable problems, such as the staggering national debt, European pressures for global bailouts, nuclear proliferation and terrorism his political habitat threatens to become uninhabitable in the next two years, albeit this could also all be part of his enigmatic political strategy.

Obama's Dreams

Fortunately, Obama's political skin has started to peel back like an onion. Most conservative commentators agree that he has only been pretending to lean towards the political center. Contrary to his political spin, he is not without any visible convictions. While others may appear more radical, Obama postures that he is holding the American center. This is all part of the *Chameleon Identity*.

A small library of books has appeared in the past two years, which have all attempted to capture the truth behind Obama's chameleonic facade. Of the lot, the most provocative book is *The Roots of Obama's Rage* by Dinesh D'Souza. D'Souza's main argument is while Obama is clearly left-of-center, he does things that cannot be easily explained in the ordinary context of political ideology. To D'Souza, Obama is not a traditional progressive, but a dedicated anti-colonialist in the image of his father, Barack Sr. The author defines Obama as essentially an *ideological conduit...living out the script for America and the world that was dreamt up not by Obama but by his father*.

D'Souza argues that Obama's philosophy emanates, not from his own vision, but from the dreams he inherited from his father. Relying heavily on Obama's book, *Dreams from my Father*, D'Souza believes the adolescent Obama yearned so much for his natural father's approval that he dedicated his life to fulfilling Barack Sr.'s dreams. The author aptly concludes that Obama's father's anti-colonial dreams are the linchpin that explains his blatant opposition to American exceptionalism and its capitalistic foundations.

The Corridors of Power

Many conservatives such as David Frum, Andrew Ferguson, and Joseph Lawler strongly disagree with D'Souza's theory. They cannot believe that the *Dreams* of a philandering, inebriated African socialist are behind the Democratic agenda. This criticism underscores D'Souza's quick dismissal of the Marxist roots embedded in Barack, Sr.'s anti-colonialism, which is *Roots* most grievous fault. Too many have ignored the fact that Obama's mentor in Hawaii, Frank Marshall Davis, who had tutored him for eight years, was an official member of the Communist Party of the United States.

Obama's move to Chicago, historically a hotbed of radical politics, also fits this interpretation. It was in the *Windy City* that Obama quickly linked up with the *Chicago circle*, including Bill Ayers and his wife Bernadette Dohrn, who were not *anti-colonialists* but doctrinaire communists. Contrary to what D'Souza thinks, the communists were not Obama's *dupes* but served as his mentors.

It is not much of a stretch to see Obama's introduction to Marxism and its more amenable sister, socialism, as an outgrowth of his anti-colonial predilections. In his recent book, *Radical-in-Chief*, author Stanley Kurtz has laboriously reconstructed Obama's early involvement with socialism, from his secretive days at Occidental College in California through his two years at Columbia University in New York City that provides substance where D'Souza offers mere speculative ornamentation.

Kurtz makes the formidable argument that Obama's *formative* years gave him the direction and the contacts with whom he has maintained steady relationships right up to the White House's *corridors of power*. In *Dreams* Obama openly admitted that he was friendly with several Marxist professors at Occidental and it is common knowledge that New York's Columbia University has historically been a den of Marxist sentiment since the early 20th century. Kurtz believes Obama was attracted to socialism because it *combines demands for racial redress with a universal program of wealth redistribution*.

Socialist Incubator

Although socialism's roots date back to at least the French Revolution, its major impact was not felt until the mid 19th Century, when *utopian dreamers* envisioned a class-free society in which everyone shared equally in the materialistic essentials of wealth. While their utopian shackles on American freedom have always been a hard sell in America, they did not actively engage the central government with its agenda. They would leave that for the progressives in the early 20th century.

It is within this latter historical tradition that Obama developed his core beliefs. According to Kurtz a seminal experience was Obama's attendance at the 1983 and 1984 Socialist Scholars Conference (SSC) held in New York's Cooper Union. Kurtz's research uncovered several socialist connections for Obama with groups like ACORN, the Black Theology Project, the Midwest Academy, the New American Movement, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and the Chicago Annenberg Challenge.

Obama's college socialism led to his extensive alliances with the most influential stealth-socialist community organizers in America. Obama has seemingly adopted the socialist program of his mentors, seeking to combine comprehensive government regulation of private businesses into a *new socialist paradigm* that will inevitably transform capitalism into a Scandinavian-like welfare state. While individual wealth will be redirected away from local communities and businesses, ultimate power will inescapably shift toward government and away from the private sector.

With his *pattern of deception*, Obama has tricked America into believing that he was a post-ideological pragmatist. As he went from community organizing to Harvard Law and then back to Chicago, Kurtz shows that his one constant was his continued alliance with the same socialist circles that he had first encountered at the SSC in 1984.

Gateways to Understanding

Chicago has long served as Obama's *political incubator*. His political advancement has greatly depended upon the backing, support, and work of Chicago's socialist community. Like many other partners in his political world, Bill Ayers wants to see the United States transformed into a socialist state. Obama claims Ayers is *just a guy who lives in my neighborhood*. In truth theirs has been an extended partnership that can be described as a *revolutionary anarcho-communist...intent on overthrowing the government*.

To Ayers, revolution and community organization were *two sides of the same coin*. Community organizers galvanized white working-class youth to follow the country's internal colony of angry inner-city blacks into the cultural fray. In his memoirs, *Fugitive Days*, Ayers wrote that *working class youth can never be won to a movement that is soft and overly cerebral...when they see us raising questions of power and contending for control, they will join us in droves*.

The Reverend Jeremiah Wright is another gateway to understanding Obama. Contrary to his statements before the election, Obama was *quite knowledgeable of James Cone's Black Theology and Black Power*. Devised to enrage black men, Cone's racial ideas were personified by the Reverend Wright's pulpit rants. As Kurtz points out, it was at the Socialist Scholars Conference in 1984 that Obama was first exposed to both Black Liberation Theology and community organizing. At that moment he decided to embark on a new career path of community organizing.

Cone believed that *authentic* Christianity fully identified with the poor and the oppressed and must replace the false Christianity of the *white-devil oppressors*. According to Cone, the singular goal of black intellectuals was to *aid in the destruction of America as he knows it*. With Wright as a conduit, Cone's ideas motivated Obama to use his community organizing skills to establish a coalition of blacks, whites, and Hispanics to redefine America in a more socialist way.

Alinskyesque Strategies

Before Obama ever arrived in Chicago, Marxist Saul Alinsky had already provided the infrastructure where the future president could learn the ropes of radical community organizing. The underlying principle of Alinskyesque organizational leadership is to avoid ideological labels. Kurtz reminds his readers that Alinsky taught his disciples to consciously disguise their socialist views by presenting themselves as *pragmatic problem solvers*. This is in a nutshell the *Chameleon Identity* that has served Obama so well throughout his political career.

Alinskyesque philosophy also consists in polarizing the country along class lines. For community organizers polarization is not just a tactic, it is part of the strategy to turn the non-producers against the producers. One way to accomplish this is to identify an *enemy* in the local community that the organizers can rally against. Alinsky's *enemies* are usually the bankers, merchants, and insurance companies. Once the have-nots start to act as unified class, they will naturally gravitate to socialism.

According to columnist Terence Jeffrey, since his inauguration Obama, the class warrior, has laced his rhetoric *with a steady diet of Marxism especially class conflict*. He believes *American exceptionalism* is outdated, and with it, *John Wayne* thinking and *the old right-wing...individualistic bootstrap myth*, it is founded on. Collective organizational action must replace such *archaic thinking*.

A New Socialist Direction

Obama's defenders readily point out that the president is not intent in nationalizing American corporations, factories, or other large businesses, such as the socialist dictators in Cuba and Venezuela. The truth is that Obama's strategy represents a new direction in socialism. Socialist theorists want to use groups, such as ACORN to combine various community groups into a national movement that would *democratize control of major social, economic and political institutions*. Dreier first helped to develop this idea through another radical organization, the New Party.

The New Party was founded in Chicago in 1993. Obama first ran for office with their endorsement. Their avowed purpose was to create a new kind of *hybrid socialism* that would look like the normal *incrementalism* but was more radical than the progressives in the Democratic Party. This hybrid is clearly visible in *ObamaCare* where, the *public option* was a first step in getting the socialist single-payer system into law.

A perfect demonstration of this New Socialism in action was in 1994 when ACORN successfully lobbied to extend the reach of the Community Reinvestment Act to non-banks, such as insurance companies. This strategy effectively combined with other monetary policies to cause the meltdown of the financial structure in 2009. America's financial collapse set the stage for the most elaborate wealth redistribution in history since the New Deal. Obama's socialism is not focused on nationalization but plans to achieve its ends through a stealth combination of the president's executive regulatory powers and the designation of power to community groups like ACORN to *create popular and democratic control over the economy*.

30 Pieces of Silver

Obama's controversial commencement address at Notre Dame University in May of 2009 was geared to siphon off Catholics from their faith. Notre Dame president, the Rev. John I. Jenkins' invitation was in direct violation of a document published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that prohibited Catholic institutions from honoring or providing a platform for politicians whose positions are diametrically opposed to Catholic moral teaching on abortion and the *culture of life*.

It also appears that Father Jenkins has signed on to Obama's secular agenda that includes the establishment of global institutions in direct competition with the Roman Catholic Church. He is a board member of the socialist Millennium Promise, which is dedicated to fulfillment of the U.N.'s *Millennium Development Goals*. For its trouble in the wake of his visit, Notre Dame received \$30 million in the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) funds, according to The Wanderer. This is probably the modern equivalent of *30 Pieces of Silver*.

Byron York of the National Review, links Obama with Jerry Kellman, an *apostle of Saul Alinsky* in Chicago. Kellman ran the Calumet Community Religious Conference created by several local Catholic churches. For many years the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops gave large sums of Catholic-donated dollars to the Saul Alinsky-style ACORN, which has been instrumental in solidifying the socialist concept of *social justice* within the Church.

All these pieces fit. With all the turmoil that has characterized his two years in office, Obama is having a harder time maintaining his *Chameleon Identity*. His recent *compromise* on the Bush tax cut extensions should be interpreted as a pragmatic attempt to restore his damaged disguise, not as a sign of any change in philosophy or conviction.

While his socialist exposure has quelled most of the Messiah talk, there is one Biblical similarity remaining. Like a *Democratic Samson*, Obama seems intent on bringing the pillars of capitalism down upon the American people with his leveling policies of fiscal irresponsibility and redistributive welfare spending, replacing them with his one-size fits all socialism. His mask is now off for all Americans to see. They must never fall for his deceptions again.



William A. Borst, Ph.D. can be contacted at BBPROF@sbcglobal.net.

The Mindszenty Report is published monthly by the
Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation,
7800 Bonhomme Ave.
P. O. Box 11321
St. Louis, MO 63105
Phone 314-727-6279 Fax 314-727-5897
Subscription rate: \$20.00/year, \$36.00/two years.
Outside the U.S.A. \$28.00

The Mindszenty Report is not copyrighted, and
subscribers are invited to have it printed in
their local newspapers.
Contributions to the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation
are tax deductible as allowed by law.
Eleanor Schlafly, *Publisher*
William A. Borst, Ph.D., *Feature Editor*
e-mail: info@mindszenty.org
web site: www.mindszenty.org

2011 Chicago Conference



The Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation once again will host a one-day Conference in Chicago! You, your family and friends are invited to attend this conference on **FAITH, FAMILY, FREEDOM**

Chicago, IL – Saturday, April 30, 2011
Drury Lane Oakbrook Terrace, IL
8:00 a.m.—3:15 p.m.

Speakers:

Robert R. Reilly
Senior Fellow, American Foreign Policy Council.
Columnist for many top newspapers & periodicals.
His new book on Islamist Crisis is a “must-read.”

Lila Rose
A Student Activist who at age 15 dedicated herself to a culture of life and the end of abortion!

Chicago Conference Leaders:

Reverend Edmund F. McCaffrey, Ph.D.
Spiritual Director
Dorie Gruss
Chairman Emeritus
Kevin Haney
Chairman
Mary Ambuul
Co-Chairman
Victoria Nelson
Registrar
Don Ludwin
Information (773) 229-0375

This will be a great program of information, motivation, spiritual support and an opportunity to meet with old friends and meet new ones! Mark your calendar now! Hope to see you in the Windy City! More details later!

2011 Freedom Award



L-R: Dr. William A. Borst, Eleanor Schlafly, CMF President, John Shields, CMF Bd. Chrm.

Happy New Year

PRAYERFUL THANKS to each CMFer who offered prayers, greetings and gave donations to the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation during the recent Christmas season.

We are grateful! We ask God to send you and yours many graces, good health, and happiness in the New Year. CMF will confidently persevere in its apostolate of defending our Faith, Family life and Freedom, following the example of our saintly patron Cardinal Mindszenty.

March for Life

Every January pro-lifers descend upon Washington DC to March for Life. The marchers are a diverse, cheerful crowd and the preponderance of young people has always been evident. The March is scheduled for Monday, January 24, 2011.

Mindszenty Report Reprints

THE FIRST COMING: THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS A look at the historical and religious background of Christ-Mass, citing the cultural "war on Christmas" and the beautiful role of Mary as Mother of the Son of God. Ask for 12/10

THE APPLE AND THE CRESCENT: THE GROUND ZERO MOSQUE AND THE MUSLIM MIND The resurgence of Islam, Obama's overtures to Muslims, a mosque site in New York City are meticulously detailed in this Report. Ask for 11/10

WOULD-BE KINGS: OBAMA AND THE DIVINE RIGHT OF OFFICE Obama and his fellow elitists consider themselves the "best and the brightest." They are radically changing the perception of equality, plundering the Constitution and want a vise-like control on American citizens. Ask for 10/10

1 copy	\$.50	100 copies	\$20.00
20 copies	\$5.00	500 copies	\$85.00
50 copies	\$11.00	1000 copies	\$160.00

On December 15, 2010, the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation presented the CMF Freedom Award to William A. Borst, Ph.D., writer-editor of the monthly Mindszenty Report.

The Award was given for his dedication to the lifetime principles of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, as illustrated by Dr. Borst's 25 years of active participation in the Pro-Life movement.

Married since 1966, Judy and Bill have three grown children and three grandchildren.