

HIDDEN IN FULL VIEW – THE RACIAL OBSESSIONS OF THE ‘POST-RACIAL’ PRESIDENT

ROBERT HENDERSON *relishes a revealing study of Barack Obama's life and character*

Steve Sailer is that great rarity in modern America, a white intellectual who publicly confronts political correctness. Most courageously, he is willing to be forthright even when dealing with the subject which intimidates educated American whites more than any other, namely, race. This latter attribute allowed him to perform a task in *America's Half-Blood Prince* which should have been undertaken by the American mainstream media and Obama's political opponents long before the late presidential election was concluded.

That task was the dissection of Obama's pathological obsession with race as evidenced by his own writings, primarily *Dreams From My Father (DFMF)*, and the crashing discord between this Obama and the one put before the American people in 2008. Sailer does this tellingly whilst marvelling at the sociological phenomenon which caused the entire American political and media

mainstream to ignore this central aspect of the new president's mentality.

Sailer hits the nail on the head with his opening sentence: "The fundamental irony of Sen. Barack Obama's Presidential candidacy is that no nominee in living memory has been so misunderstood by the press and public, and yet no other candidate has ever written so intimately or eloquently (or, to be frank, endlessly) about his "deepest commitments". (Bear in mind throughout that Sailer wrote the book before Obama became president.)

The deepest Obama commitment of all as Sailer sees it is to his race (or more correctly to half of his racial heritage):

"Obama's primal need for team triumph explains much about his life, both its dramatic political ascent and its pervasive racialism. To Obama, the black race was always his team, and he would do anything to see them win." (p92)

As someone who has trudged wearily through Obama's *DFMF* and

The Audacity of Hope (AOH) in minute detail¹, I can vouch that this goes to the heart of the Obama phenomenon. His act as the post-racial unifying candidate during the presidential election is comically implausible when compared with the personality who emerges from *DFMF*, which is that of a deeply neurotic, very insecure person who is forever agonising about his place in the racial and cultural hierarchy – his perpetual question is ‘Am I black enough?’ – and who displays a disturbing pathological paranoia about whites.

The irony of Obama’s post-racial stance is that unless you can believe that he has miraculously undergone a Damascene conversion in the past few years – and his retention of the bombastic anti-white Jeremiah Wright as his pastor until he became a political embarrassment suggests otherwise – he is the exact opposite of colour-blind. Sailer sums up neatly Obama’s mentality in *DFMF*:

“Obama’s worldview is simplistically black and white. In *Dreams’* conceptual framework, there are three races: Black, White, and Miscellaneous. Despite all the years Obama spends in Indonesia and in heavily Asian Hawaii, Asians just don’t play much of a role in Obama’s turbulent emotions” (p210).

Sailer judges *AOH* to be nothing more than a routine campaign book designed to portray the new Oprah-style Obama designed to appeal to white voters

and which hides his true self. That is underselling it on the racial obsession front. Obama certainly tones down his racial *angst* in *AOH* although he has a whole chapter devoted to racial issues, but post-racial Obama still lets the old Obama surface from time to time:

“I can recite the usual litany of petty slights that during my forty-five years have been directed my way: security guards tailing me as I shop in department stores, white couples who toss me their car keys as I stand outside a restaurant waiting for the valet, police cars pulling me over for no apparent reason. I know what it’s like to have people tell me I can’t do something because of my color, and I know the bitter swill of swallowed-back anger.” (*AOH*, p233).

Such passages reinforce the view that Obama is still essentially the character portrayed in *DFMF*. It is worth adding that Obama was 33 when he wrote *DFMF*, so his views there were not those of a callow youth but of a mature man and consequently much less susceptible to change. (The best way to judge Obama’s views on race is to imagine a white politician making equivalent statements about blacks.) Even Obama’s much lauded (by the mainstream media) “A More Perfect Union” speech which he made after the storm blew up over Jeremiah Wright is more of the same because it concentrates on America’s slave-owning past and brings black victimhood up to the present day with:

“We do not need to recite here the history of racial injustice in this country. But we do need to remind ourselves that so many of the disparities that exist in the African-American community today can be directly traced to inequalities passed on from an earlier generation that suffered under the brutal legacy of slavery and Jim Crow.”

The book’s title derives from what Sailer views as Obama’s portrayal of himself as representing post-racial America being akin to a dynastic marriage, the joined partners in Obama’s case being black and white:

“Obama launched himself on the national stage at the 2004 convention by devoting the first 380 words of his speech to detailing the two stocks, black and white, from which he was crossbred. He implied that, like the mutual heir to a dynastic merger of yore – think of England’s King Henry VIII, offspring of the Lancaster-York marriage that ended the War of the Roses – he is the one we’ve been waiting for to end the War of the Races.” (p31)

Obama repeated the message in his “A More Perfect Union” speech: “I am the son of a black man from Kenya and a white woman from Kansas”.

The post-racial/dynastic marriage guise undoubtedly had its effect, not least because of the complicity of the mainstream media and politicians in supporting the idea, but it was far

from being a general success because a majority of the whites who voted did not vote for Obama in the presidential election, voting 55% for McCain and 43% for Obama. Obama may have fooled many of the white electorate for most of the time but he was not able to fool even a majority of those motivated to vote. He simply persuaded enough whites to vote for him get him elected with the massively disproportionate help of ethnic minorities, viz:

Black American: 4% McCain and 95% Obama

Hispanics: 31% McCain and 66% Obama

Asians: 35% McCain and 62% Obama

Jews: 22% McCain and 77% Obama²

Sailer brings out well Obama’s controlling tendency, shown most clearly in his common practice of depicting himself and his relations with others dishonestly in his writings and speeches and in the efforts which have been made to stop nosy media folk poking around in his past.

In his two books, Obama adopts the very odd practice of presenting detailed conversations from all periods of his life, including his young childhood, as if they had been taken down verbatim. The implausibility of this alone makes the reader cautious about their veracity. Not only that, but Obama admits in the introduction to *DFMF* that the characters’ names have been changed and some characters conflated. The reader is right to be cautious. Sailer catalogues a number

of instances where there is good evidence that Obama has fabricated his past.

Obama's Hawaiian schoolmates remember him not as the sullen rebellious teenager of *DFMF* but as "a cheerful, popular boy" (p118). The supposedly plum job in a "consulting house to international corporations" Obama claimed he worked for before becoming a community organiser turns out to be that of a "copy editor at a scruffy, low-paying newsletter shop (p136) and

"at least two individuals upon whom Obama based the characters 'Ray' and 'Rafiq' claim that the author distorted their own ethnic views, making them appear more racist than they were" (p117).

Obama also portrayed both as black when the main inspiration for "Ray" was half black, half Japanese, apparently not black enough for Obama's purposes.

Such details hint that Obama was determined to write his life story as he wanted it to be, not as it was. He also massages the record by acts of omission such as failing to record Asian racism towards him – Sailer records the regular racism he experienced as a child in Indonesia (p53) and the behaviour of the mother of a Pakistani he roomed with while at university in New York (p130). Sailer attributes this, I think rightly, to Obama's black-and-white world view in which only whites can be racist.

Sailer explains adroitly how Obama managed to avoid the mainstream media and his white opponents treating

him as they would have treated a white candidate:

"The New Obama is the candidate who is half-white when whites think about voting for him. Yet, he remains all black, and thus off-limits to polite public skepticism, when anyone tries to get up the courage to criticize him more harshly than by merely saying he is inexperienced."

The potency of this mentality can be seen in the failure of McCain to use Obama's own past against him and his preventing other Republicans from doing so. McCain's response to a local Republican ad which had the bad taste to denounce Jeremiah Wright was "There's no place for that kind of campaigning, the American people don't want it, period" (p189).

There is a great deal more in Sailer's book, including the background to Obama's family and the racial politics of East Africa. In particular, in describing Obama's life it provides a primer on the immense edifice that has been built on affirmative action and Obama's place within it. Sailer goes into some detail on how affirmative action has benefited both Obama and his wife. To take just one (to me) astonishing fact about Obama's career, Sailer points out that the supposedly supremely bright Constitutional Law specialist

"has never published under his own name in any academic journal, not even when he was president of the *Harvard Law Review*. (Yet, the U. of Chicago

Law School offered him a tenured professorship after the frustration of his political hopes in 2000.)” (p113).

If the book has a weakness it is the author’s tendency to build intellectual castles in the air to explain Obama’s motivation and development. For example, Sailer explains Obama’s obsession with the multicultural creed by attributing this to his parents:

“The terrible irony of Barack Obama’s life is that he was taught the new multiculturalist ideology by his parents, who were so representative of the egotistical Save the World Sixties People who now preside over our Education-Media Industrial Complex. There was never a truer believer in this propaganda than young Barack. Yet, what he truly wanted deep down, even though he could never quite admit it to himself, was for his parents to stop saving the world, come home, and just be his mom and dad” (p96).

I find this implausible. The father could have had little effect simply because he was absent, while the mother, as Sailer notes, apart from being absent for long periods, was held in no little contempt by Obama. Obama’s account of his mother is of a Margaret Mead-type anthropological naif who constantly fed him with anti-American and pro-black propaganda. Even if true, and we have already seen that Obama’s veracity is uncertain, it is difficult to see why someone Obama did not respect at best and was angry with for deserting him at worst should have

such a profound and lasting effect on him. A much more likely response would be rejection of the mother’s views. Add the testimony of his schoolmates already given that he was not the sullen, unhappy, rebellious boy depicted in *DFMF* and it is a reasonable guess that Obama’s resentment was something which developed in late adolescence or early adulthood, not during the four years in Indonesia which Sailer views as seminal. As for why it developed, I suspect that the banal truth is that it simply seemed a more exciting way of living to the young Obama than following a middle class career path.

But this is a small quibble. This is a book which is essential reading for those wanting to understand Obama. It does not really matter why Obama is what he is but what he is – and that is what the book indubitably tells you, probably better than anything else available. ♦

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NOTES

1. My article “The character of Barack Obama in his own words” is published by *American Renaissance* in three parts. See www.amren.com
2. These figures are taken from Gordon Rayner, “Power of the white voter is fading”, *Daily Telegraph*, 6 November 2008

**AMERICA’S HALF-BLOOD PRINCE:
BARACK OBAMA’S “STORY OF
RACE AND INHERITANCE”**

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