

Obama Was 'Quite Religious In Islam'

Contemporaries, records dispute campaign claim that he was never 'practicing Muslim'

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By Aaron Klein
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Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: During our Wednesday night studies we have been going verse-by-verse through the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel was a prophet to the nation of Israel during the years (605-586 BC) God was bringing judgment on the Jewish nation because of their idolatry, immorality and corruption. God used the pagan nation of Babylon (Iraq) as his instrument of discipline against His chosen people. This discipline ultimately led to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple on temple mount. Nearly all of the surviving Jews were then taken captive to Babylon where they stayed for several decades.

What is so amazing about this history is that the Jews were first humbled by Nebuchadnezzar (King of Babylon) in 605 BC; but instead of repenting and turning toward God, the Jews instead increased their worship of Babylonian idols/gods (Ezekiel 8). America was humbled by Islam on Sept 11, 2001, but instead of repenting and turning back to our Judea/Christian roots, we have opened the door to Islam (and other false religions) even further. The first Mosque in America was built in 1934, now there are more than twelve-hundred, most of which have been established in the last twenty years. News items like these from WorldnetDaily warn us that Barack Obama may be a closet Muslim. The Obama campaign is denying it. Time will tell what the truth is, but if this country is under the discipline of God, it wouldn't surprise me if history repeats itself and we are judged by Islam, maybe in the form of a new president who reveals his true colors as soon as he takes office.

JERUSALEM – Was Sen. Barack Obama a Muslim? Did he ever practice Islam?



The presidential candidate officially rejects the claims, but the issue of Obama's personal faith has re-emerged amid conflicting accounts of his enrollment as a Muslim during elementary school in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Widely distributed reports have noted in January 1968, Obama was registered as a Muslim at Jakarta's Roman Catholic Franciscus Assisi Primary School under the name Barry Soetoro. He was listed as an Indonesian citizen

whose stepfather, listed on school documents as "L Soetoro Ma," worked for the topography department of the Indonesian Army.

Catholic schools in Indonesia routinely accept non-Catholic students, but exempt them from studying religion. Obama's school documents, though, wrongly list him as being Indonesian.

After attending the Assisi Primary School, Obama was enrolled – also as a Muslim, according to documents – in the Besuki Primary School, a public school in Jakarta.

The Loatze blog [run by an American expatriate in Southeast Asia who visited the Besuki school, noted](#), "All Indonesian students are required to study religion at school and a young 'Barry Soetoro' being a Muslim would have been required to study Islam daily in school. He would have been taught to read and write Arabic, to recite his prayers properly, to read and recite from the Quran and to study the laws of Islam."

Indeed, the Israel Insider online magazine [points out in Obama's autobiography, "Dreams From My Father," he acknowledges](#) studying the Quran and describes the public school as "a Muslim school."

"In the Muslim school, the teacher wrote to tell mother I made faces during Quranic studies," wrote Obama.

The Indonesian media have been flooded with accounts of Obama's childhood Islamic studies, some describing him as a religious Muslim .

Speaking to the country's Kaltim Post, Tine Hahiyary, who was principal of

Obama's school while he was enrolled there, said she recalls he studied the Quran in Arabic.

"At that time, I was not Barry's teacher but he is still in my memory" claimed Tine, who is 80 years old. The Kaltim Post says Obama's teacher, named Hendri, died.

"I remember that he studied 'mengaji (recitation of the Quran)," Tine said, according to an English translation by Loatze.

Mengaji, or the act of reading the Quran with its correct Arabic punctuation, is usually taught to more religious pupils and is not known as a secular study.

Also, Loatze documented the Indonesian daily Banjarmasin Post [caught up with Rony Amir, an Obama classmate and Muslim, who describe Obama as "previously quite religious in Islam."](#)

"We previously often asked him to the prayer room close to the house. If he was wearing a sarong (waist fabric worn for religious or casual occasions) he looked funny," Amir said.

The Los Angeles Times, which sent a reporter to Jakarta, quoted Zulfan Adi, who identified himself as among Obama's closest childhood friends, stating the presidential candidate prayed in a mosque, something Obama's campaign claimed he never did.

"We prayed but not really seriously, just following actions done by older people in the mosque. But as kids, we loved to meet our friends and went to the mosque together and played," said Adi.

Obama's official campaign site has a page titled "Obama has never been a Muslim, and is a committed Christian." [The page states, "Obama never prayed in a mosque. He has never been a Muslim, was not raised a Muslim, and is a committed Christian who attends the United Church of Christ."](#)

But the campaign changed its tune when it issued a slightly different statement to the Times stating Obama "has never been a practicing Muslim."

An article last month by the Chicago Tribune seems to dispute Adi's statements to the L.A. Times. The Tribune catches up with Obama's declared childhood friend, who now describes himself as only knowing Obama for a few months in 1970 when his family moved to the neighborhood. Adi said he was unsure about his recollections of Obama

But the Tribune found Obama did attend mosque.

"Interviews with dozens of former classmates, teachers, neighbors and friends show that Obama was not a regular practicing Muslim when he was in Indonesia," [states the Tribune article](#).

It quotes the presidential candidate's former neighbors and 3rd grade teacher recalling Obama "occasionally followed his stepfather to the mosque for Friday prayers."

Daniel Pipes, director of the Middle East Forum, notes [the Tribune article](#) – cited by liberal blogs as refuting claims Obama is Muslim – actually implies Obama was an irregularly practicing Muslim and twice confirms Obama attended mosque services.

In a free-ranging interview with the New York Times, Obama described the Muslim call to prayer as "one of the prettiest sounds on Earth at sunset."

The Times' Nicholas Kristof wrote Obama recited, "with a first-class [Arabic] accent," the opening lines of the Muslim call to prayer.

Israel Insider's Reuven Koret notes the first few lines state:

"Allah is Supreme! Allah is Supreme!
Allah is Supreme! Allah is Supreme!
I witness that there is no god but Allah
I witness that there is no god but Allah
I witness that Muhammad is his prophet... "

Some attention also has been paid to Obama's paternal side of the family. His father, described in some reports as an atheist, polygamist and alcoholic, was buried in Kenya as a Muslim. Obama Sr., also named Barack Obama, had three sons with another woman who reportedly all are Muslim.

Obama's brother Roy is described as a practicing Muslim.

Writing in a chapter of his book describing his 1992 wedding, the presidential candidate stated: "The person who made me proudest of all was Roy. Actually, now we call him Abongo, his Luo name, for two years ago he decided to reassert his African heritage. He converted to Islam, and has sworn off pork and tobacco and alcohol."

Still, Obama says he was raised by his Christian mother and repeatedly has labeled as "smears" several reports attempting to paint him as a Muslim.

"Let's make clear what the facts are: I am a Christian. I have been sworn in with a Bible. I pledge allegiance [to the American flag] and lead the pledge of allegiance sometimes in the United States Senate when I'm presiding," he

told the UK's Times Online earlier this year.

Flashback: Obama Slammed American 'Bootstrap Myth' Entered politics to advance true calling – building 'collective institutions'

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When [Barack Obama](#) decided to enter politics in 1995, he saw it as a means to advance his true calling – mobilizing "collective action" to build "collective institutions" – and disparaged the "right wing" ideal of fostering reform through personal initiative as the "old individualistic bootstrap myth."

The [Dec. 8, 1995, interview by the Chicago Reader](#) came shortly after his participation in Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan's "Million Man March" in Washington, D.C., which Obama said reinforced his reason for becoming a politician.

"What I saw was a powerful demonstration of an impulse and need for African-American men to come together to recognize each other and affirm our rightful place in the society," he said in the interview article, titled, "What makes Obama run?"

The Democratic senator's controversial pastor and spiritual mentor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright Jr., traveled with Farrakhan to Libya in 1984 to meet with dictator Moammar Gadhafi. Last year, Wright's Trumpet Newsmagazine gave Farrakhan the Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. Trumpeter Award, because the Nation of Islam leader "truly epitomized greatness."

Obama, as he began campaigning for the Illinois state Senate in 1995, said he primarily was running for office to fill a political and moral vacuum.

Interviewer Hank de Zutter wrote that Obama was "tired of seeing the moral fervor of black folks whipped up – at the speaker's rostrum and from the pulpit – and then allowed to dissipate because there's no agenda, no concrete program for change."

Obama has refused to ["disown" Wright after a self-described "firestorm" erupted last month](#) when video excerpts of the pastor's fervent anti-America and anti-white declarations from the pulpit were broadcast by Fox News and others.

[In a January 2006 sermon](#), Wright called America the "No. 1 killer in the world" and blamed the country for launching the AIDS virus to maintain affluence at the expense of the Third World. The pastor reportedly said in a sermon just after 9/11, "The government lied about inventing the HIV virus as a means of genocide against people of color." [In a 2003 sermon](#), Wright encouraged blacks to "damn America" in God's name and blamed the U.S. for provoking the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks by dropping nuclear weapons on Japan in World War II and supporting Israel since 1947.

No John Wayne

Obama emphasized in the 1995 interview that black churches are "going it alone," with pastors thinking only about how to build their churches. They have community-service programs, he said, such as food pantries, but "until they come together to build something bigger than an effective church all the community-service programs, all the food pantries they start will barely take care of even a fraction of the community's problems."

"In America," Obama said, "we have this strong bias toward individual action. You know, we idolize the John Wayne hero who comes in to correct things with both guns blazing. But individual actions, individual dreams, are not sufficient. We must unite in collective action, build collective institutions and organizations."

Obama pondered what it would be like if a politician were to "see his job as that of an organizer, as part teacher and part advocate, one who does not sell voters short but who educates them about the real choices before them"

Obama said the "right wing, the Christian right" has done a better job of forming grass-roots activist organizations "than the left or progressive forces have."

"But it's always easier to organize around intolerance, narrow-mindedness and false nostalgia," he said. "And they also have hijacked the higher moral ground with this language of family values and moral responsibility."

Looking back at Obama's high school years at the prestigious Punahou School in Hawaii, the Chicago publication noted "he encountered race and class prejudice that would darken his politics even more. At first embarrassed by his race and African name, he soon bonded with the few other African-American students."

He quickly learned that integration was a one-way street, with blacks expected to assimilate into a white world that never gave ground. He participated in bitter bull sessions with his buddies on the theme of "how white folks will do you."

The Chicago Reader said Obama had to reconcile those sentiments with the loving support he had at home from his white mother and grandparents and, quoting Obama, dismissed much of his buddies' analysis as "the same sloppy thinking" used by racist whites.

But he found the racism of whites to be "particularly stubborn and obnoxious," the Reader's de Zutter wrote.

'Mean, cruel times'

In the interview, Obama addressed the "unemployment catastrophe" among black youth, and declared any solution "must arise from us working creatively within a multicultural, interdependent and international economy."

While he praised Farrakhan's "Million Man March," he said organizers lacked "a positive agenda, a coherent agenda for change."

"Any African-Americans who are only talking about racism as a barrier to our success are seriously misled if they don't also come to grips with the larger economic forces that are creating economic insecurity for all workers – whites, Latinos, and Asians," he said. "We must deal with the forces that are depressing wages, lopping off people's benefits right and left, and creating an earnings gap between CEOs and the lowest-paid worker that has risen in the last 20 years from a ratio of 10 to 1 to one of better than 100 to 1."

Clarifying, Obama said he didn't mean to suggest "that the need to look inward emphasized by the march isn't important and that these African-American tribal affinities aren't legitimate."

"These are mean, cruel times, exemplified by a 'lock 'em up, take no prisoners' mentality that dominates the Republican-led Congress," he said. "Historically, African-Americans have turned inward and towards black nationalism whenever they have a sense, as we do now, that the mainstream has rebuffed us, and that white Americans couldn't care less about the profound problems African-Americans are facing."

"But cursing out white folks is not going to get the job done," he continued. "Anti-Semitic and anti-Asian statements are not going to lift us up. We've got some hard nuts-and-bolts organizing and planning to do. We've got communities to build."

