

The Center Holds: Obama and his Enemies



Barack Obama entered the White House in 2009 with a mandate for change. The country was reeling from the worst recession since the Great Depression, and Obama promised to restore hope and prosperity. He also vowed to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to improve the nation's healthcare system.

Obama's early years in office were marked by significant achievements. He signed the Affordable Care Act into law, which provided health insurance to millions of Americans who had previously been uninsured. He also ended the war in Iraq, and drew down troops in Afghanistan.



The Center Holds: Obama and His Enemies by Jonathan Alter

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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However, Obama also faced significant challenges during his presidency. The economy remained weak, and the unemployment rate stayed high. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan dragged on, and the rise of ISIS created a new threat to the United States.

Despite these challenges, Obama emerged from his presidency as a respected and admired leader. He left office with high approval ratings, and his legacy is likely to be debated for years to come.

Obama's Accomplishments

Obama's accomplishments were many and varied. He signed the Affordable Care Act into law, which provided health insurance to millions of

Americans who had previously been uninsured. He also ended the war in Iraq, and drew down troops in Afghanistan.

In addition to these major achievements, Obama also made progress on a number of other issues. He signed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which was designed to prevent another financial crisis. He also created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which is responsible for protecting consumers from predatory lending practices.

Obama's foreign policy was also marked by a number of successes. He ended the war in Iraq, and drew down troops in Afghanistan. He also negotiated a nuclear deal with Iran, which was designed to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

Obama's Challenges

Despite his accomplishments, Obama also faced significant challenges during his presidency. The economy remained weak, and the unemployment rate stayed high. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan dragged on, and the rise of ISIS created a new threat to the United States.

Obama's economic policies were criticized by both the left and the right. The left argued that Obama did not do enough to help the poor and middle class, while the right argued that Obama's policies were too expensive and would lead to higher taxes.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were also a major challenge for Obama. The war in Iraq ended in 2011, but the war in Afghanistan continued throughout Obama's presidency. The rise of ISIS in 2014 created a new

threat to the United States, and Obama authorized airstrikes against ISIS targets.

Obama's Legacy

Obama left office with high approval ratings, and his legacy is likely to be debated for years to come. His supporters argue that he was a transformative president who made significant progress on a number of important issues. His critics argue that he did not do enough to help the poor and middle class, and that his foreign policy was too interventionist.

It is still too early to say definitively what Obama's legacy will be. However, there is no doubt that he was a consequential president who made a significant impact on the United States and the world.



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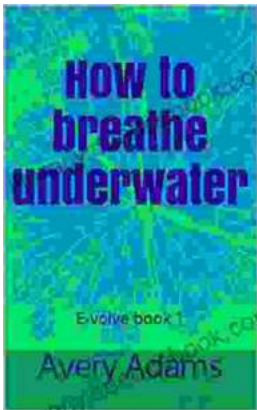
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