

BARACK OBAMA: THE MAKING OF A BLACK MAN

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OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING 1-19-2022

THE CREOLIZATION OF BARACK OBAMA



- Persons of African descent in the western hemisphere, historically, are a hybrid people of mixed African and European descent. The term, Creole, specifically denoting a person of European and African descent, especially in the Caribbean, can be applied generally to hybrid people elsewhere in the Americas. The one-drop rule, derived out from African slavery in the Americas, however, classified such persons as black. Moreover, those of mixed background, eligible to “pass,” either physically or culturally, explored whether to discover, identify, and/or embrace blackness as that person’s full identity.

LECTURE OUTLINE



- THE ELUSIVE PRESENCE OF BARACK OBAMA, SR.-AFRICAN HERITAGE
- THE PARENTAL IMPRINT OF STANLEY ANN DUNHAM-INTERNATIONALIST SENSIBILITIES
- THE PILLAR OF MICHELLE ROBINSON-THE ANCHOR OF RACIAL CONSCIOUSNESS

BARACK OBAMA, SR. (1934-1982)



- Born in Kenya in the Luo tribe; matriculated at the University of Hawaii and earned the M.A. in economics at Harvard University; returned to Kenya and entered government service, after working as an economist in a private firm. With the declaration of independence of Kenya in 1963 from British rule, Obama aided in the construction of a new post colonial nation.

STANLEY ANN DUNHAM (1942-1995)



- Stanley Ann Dunham earned the Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Hawaii; worked for the Ford Foundation in Indonesia; published SURVIVING AGAINST THE ODDS: VILLAGE INDUSTRY IN INDONESIA. She was crucial in molding her son, born in 1961, in his cosmopolitan experiences, internationalist sensibilities, and expansive religious perspectives.

MICHELLE ROBINSON (OBAMA)



- Born in Chicago and raised among relatives on both sides of her family who migrated to the Windy City from South Carolina on her father's side (Fraiser Robinson) and North Carolina on her mother's side (Marian Shields). Fraiser Robinson was a World War II veteran and later a Chicago municipal worker and Democratic Party ward official. She experienced raw racism at Princeton University where her roommate and her mother objected to Michelle Robinson as a roommate.

A BLACK YOUTH AFFIRMED HIS BLACKNESS BY TOUCHING THE HAIR OF PRESIDENT OBAMA



- This black youth, notwithstanding the blended identities of President Obama, saw himself in the first black president. The sameness of their hair signified a common affirmation and discovery of blackness for both the child and the adult as they encountered each other in the Oval Office of the White House.