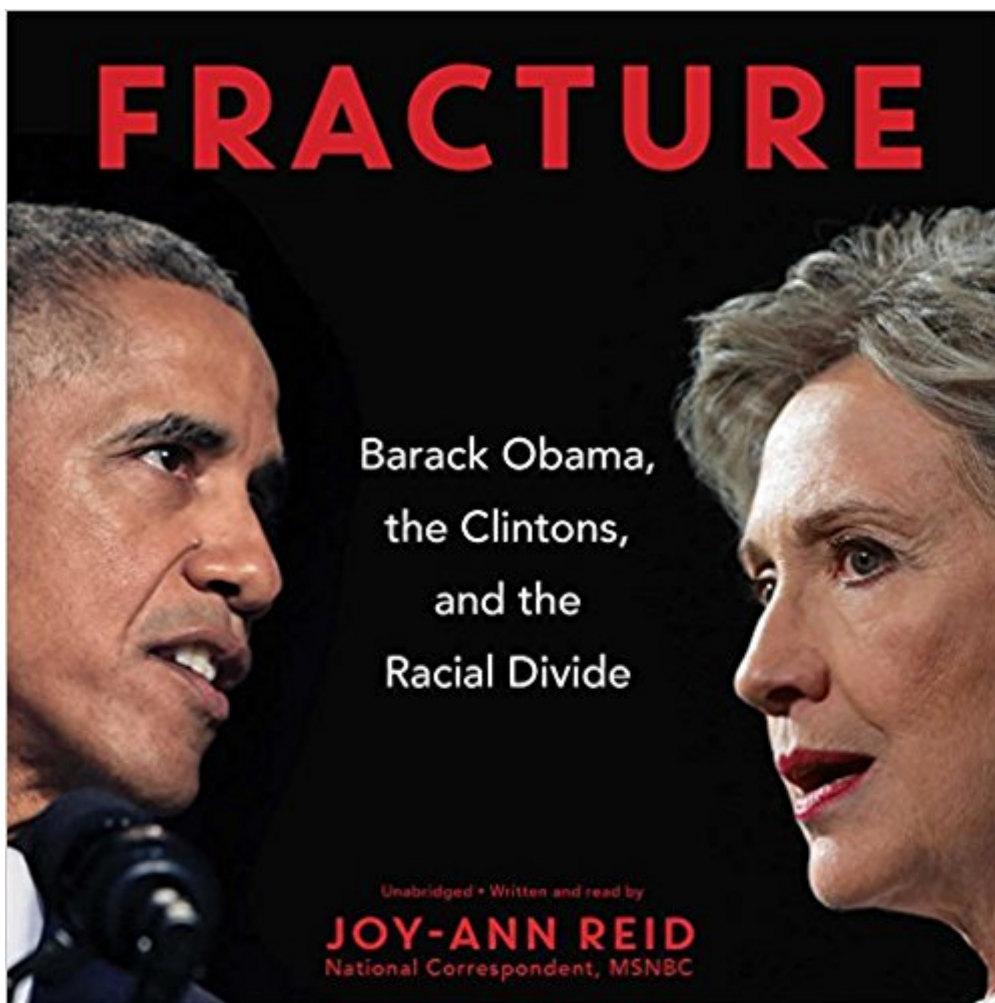


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# Fracture: Obama, The Clintons, And The Democratic Divide



## Synopsis

Journalist Joy-Ann Reid charts the complicated relationship between Barack Obama and the Clintons, showing how Democrats have been caught in a whirl of shifting allegiances to each - and how this ever-changing strategic balance is shaping the party's future. The epic battle between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton for the Democratic party's nomination in 2008 profoundly split the party faithful. The fight was brutal and ugly, sparking a media feeding frenzy. When it was over, Hillary supporters backed Obama, who as president appointed Hillary to the highest position in his cabinet: secretary of state, a role she embraced to wide acclaim. Four years later, former President Bill Clinton appeared on the campaign trail and at the Democratic convention, giving Obama the most powerful and effective endorsement of the re-election. Now, more than two years before the next national election, with speculation about a second Hillary Clinton presidential candidacy running rampant, the questions have already begun: Will Obama people endorse a Clinton campaign? What role will the sitting president play - and will his support even be welcome? Veteran reporter Joy-Ann Reid investigates these questions and more, offering breaking news, fresh insight, and experienced insider analysis, mixed with fascinating behind-the-scenes drama, illuminating one of the most intriguing political relationships in modern history and its importance for the future of America itself.

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## Customer Reviews

"MSNBC correspondent Reid, a press aide to Barack Obama's Florida campaign in 2008, charts the split in the Democratic Party owing to the rivalry between Obama and Hillary Clinton and considers

how it might affect the 2016 presidential elections.” --Library Journal

Barack Obama’s speech on the Edmund Pettus Bridge to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery marches should have represented the culmination of Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream of racial unity. Yet, in *Fracture*, MSNBC national correspondent Joy-Ann Reid shows that, despite the progress we have made, we are still a nation divided—as seen recently in headline-making tragedies such as the killing of Trayvon Martin and the uprisings in Ferguson and Baltimore. With President Obama’s election, Americans expected an open dialogue about race but instead discovered the irony of an African American president who seemed hamstrung when addressing racial matters, leaving many of his supporters disillusioned and his political enemies sharpening their knives. To understand why that is so, Reid examines the complicated relationship between Barack Obama and Bill and Hillary Clinton, and how their varied approaches to the race issue parallel the challenges facing the Democratic party itself: the disparate parts of its base and the whirl of shifting allegiances among its power players—and how this shapes the party and its hopes of retaining the White House. *Fracture* traces the party’s makeup and character regarding race from the civil rights days to the Obama presidency. Filled with key political players such as Shirley Chisholm, Jesse Jackson, John Lewis, and Al Sharpton, it provides historical context while addressing questions arising as we head into the next national election: Will Hillary Clinton’s campaign represent an embrace of Obama’s legacy or a repudiation of it? How is Hillary Clinton’s stand on race both similar to and different from Obama’s, or from her husband’s? How do minorities view Mrs. Clinton, and will they line up in huge numbers to support her—and what will happen if they don’t? Veteran reporter Joy-Ann Reid investigates these questions and more, offering breaking news, fresh insight, and experienced insider analysis, mixed with fascinating behind-the-scenes drama, to illuminate three of the most important figures in modern political history, and how race can affect the crucial 2016 election and the future of America itself. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Joy Ann Reid’s wise, clear voice gives us a balanced, honest and fair account of the troubling issue of race for the Democratic party. It’s a topic I thought I knew about, but this riveting book illuminated so much more for me. If we are ever to overcome our racial divide, we must first understand it. Bravo to Ms. Reid for this unflinching, stellar read on an essential American subject.

A journalistic walk down Democratic Party history. Joy Ann Reid does a fantastic job of chronicling

the transformation of the party from white southern conservatives to what we know it as today, the party of liberal multi-ethnics seen by many as the party of big government. She starts with 1964 and the LBJ years and takes us right up to 2015 and President Obama. This book covers a lot of the same area as Dyson's "The Black Presidency," often citing many of the same speeches and comments from Obama's time in office. The difference is Joy shows you how the democrats arrived at a point that the election of a Black president was possible. She is succinct in her plain prose making this a really approachable and breezy read. She refrains from injecting her own opinion and writes from the perspective of the reporter that she is. The book offers a keen insight into the game of politics, how an ally can quickly turn into a foe if the wrong words are said, or the need to appeal to a certain constituency is necessary. Joy Ann Reid makes quite a presentation in this book by delineating the need for not only shrewd advisors but courage, calculation and skill on the part of the political principals. Once you have read the book, you will possibly view politics in a different way, knowing full well that things are not always as they seem. There are some great moments in the book, most may be familiar as headlines, but her journalistic bona fides allows for more depth. An excellent production well worth the money.

If you are not a reader, the message here is clear: no matter how many times the Democratic Party has abandoned African Americans in the last 50 plus years, the D's are our party. Stay home at your own peril. But, if you are a reader, a person who wants to know things, a student of history, this book is so valuable. It refreshes your knowledge and reminds you of things you either forgot or never really knew in detail.

Joy's book is a wealth of information on the political figures, leaders and talking heads (political pundits we vote for and listen to everyday. Joy gives us the skinny/back story, if you will, offering insight into these individuals' motivations as well as their ulterior motives in some cases. Joy's book illuminates some of the foolery and incentive behind some of the historical situations and decisions that have affected and still affecting people's lives - in particular Bill Clinton's signature on bills such as: the FDR-ERA separation of banking and investment which opened the doors for wall street's worst abuse; the crime bill and how it essentially lead to mass incarceration (vis-à-vis, the New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander) which invoked the Black Lives Matter movement to protest police abuse; the so-called welfare reform bill

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) ; and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Joy also elucidates how, after Clinton soundly defeated Robert Dole in 1996 for his second term, he was buoyed by a growing economy and accelerating job growth. Joy reports on, under Clinton's watch: the expansion of federal housing and Head Start programs, earned income tax credits for the poor as well as tax credits for businesses to hire the underemployed; and 20% hike in minimum wage. Joy sheds light on Rev. Jesse Jackson and his successful grass root efforts to bring more African Americans to the polls that led to the revamping and changing the structure of the Democratic Party. This generation of newly minted African American voters nominated Bill Clinton into office and also allowed Obama small-state victories leading to his two wins. The book reveals interesting facts in reference to: Clinton's tumultuous relationship with Rev. Jackson and Rev. Sharpton; Kanye West Debacle (George B. don't care about Black people); Lani Guinier and former President Clinton's relationship even before he threw her under the bus; Rev. Al Sharpton and how he was not able to be bought off by the naysayers (such as Vernon Jordan) in the early days of candidate Obama; Hillary Clinton and her earnestness (in the early days) as well as switching from working for a Republican to a Democrat; and validation (in my mind) in reference to President Obama and his willingness to directly assist and advocate for every group but African Americans. Again, the book presents perspective and insight on the politicians, pundits and talking heads that we listen to everyday.

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