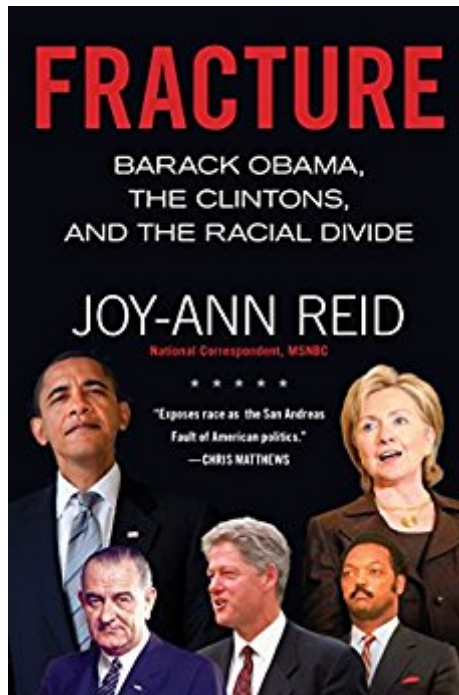




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Fracture: Barack Obama, The Clintons, And The Racial Divide



Synopsis

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.

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Customer Reviews

Joy's book is a wealth of information on the political figures, leaders and talking heads (the 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's and his successful grass root efforts to bring more African Americans to the polls that lead 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.

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