

"[A] fascinating read. Frank approaches this virtual analysis meticulously, closely reading both of Obama's memoirs, combing through speeches and journalistic accounts of Cabinet meetings. . . . His chapter on how Obama's critics see him—the psychology, or even pathology, behind some of their complaints—is masterful." —*The Boston Globe*

INSIDE THE MIND OF THE PRESIDENT

OBAMA ON THE COUCH

JUSTIN A. FRANK, M.D.

Author of the *New York Times* bestseller
Bush on the Couch

23092
RA

WITH A NEW EPILOGUE

PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA



PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA

Praise for *Obama on the Couch*

“Frank delves into Obama’s youth—his reconciliation of his biracial identity, nontraditional upbringing, and travels—to paint a detailed portrait of a president who is charismatic, well-intentioned, and the ultimate consensus builder . . . [and] returns to key themes regarding race and Obama’s relationship with his father, demonstrating how those factors have affected past policy decisions and will probably influence future ones.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Wonder why President Obama can’t fight back? The answer is in this compelling book. Dr. Frank unravels the tragic flaw within a tightly woven man whose unexpressed rage toward both his parents has neutered him as a leader. Aware of his own capacity for destructiveness, he cannot allow himself to retaliate against opponents bent on crushing his presidency. Pass on this book to his advisers. It could lift him out of depression and free him to expose the fractures threatening our country and heal our national split before it is too late.”

—Gail Sheehy, author of *Passages* and *Understanding Men’s Passages*

“Dr. Justin Frank’s brilliant use of psychoanalytic categories to unravel the mystery and enigma of President Barack Obama should be read by every American. For years we have puzzled over how the president elected on a promise of ‘change we can believe in’ could have become the Democrat who capitulated to most Republican demands—while abandoning and denouncing his political base rather than fighting for the needs of the environment, the middle class, the poor, the immigrants, and the powerless. *Obama on the Couch* demonstrates why this pattern is for our president a necessary response to his own inner needs. Nuanced and measured, Dr. Frank’s book is a major contribution to contemporary political analysis.”

—Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor in chief of *Tikkun*

“An analyst who can coin phrases like ‘obsessive bipartisan disorder’ to describe our president is a pleasure to read. But what makes *Obama on the Couch* an important book is Justin Frank’s ability to

dive deep into the president's eloquent writing about his childhood and emerge with fresh and major insights—unacknowledged rage for the mother Obama claims to idolize, unexpressed despair at his abandonment by his stepfather as well as his father. *Obama on the Couch* is nothing less than a public service.”

—Jesse Kornbluth, editor of HeadButler.com

“Dr. Frank’s *On the Couch* franchise has reinvented the way we look at political candidates, and I keep asking myself why no one has thought of this before. His latest opus, *Obama on the Couch*, has taken the president apart from the ground up and shown us the real man—half Shakespearean tragedy, half American success story—in a way that other authors could only hope to do. I found myself climbing deeper and deeper into the mind of this most enigmatic and engaging politician—no small feat—enjoying prose at once articulate, engaging, and—the rarest of beasts—occasionally profound. Great work wrapped up in a thoroughly entertaining package.”

—Robert Pobi, author of *Bloodman* (to be released May 2012)

“Brilliant. Justin Frank has opened a powerful line of inquiry into the minds of sitting presidents. Using classical techniques of psychoanalysis, Dr. Frank pierces the facades of the high and mighty to delve into their psyches, and he hits the target more precisely and more cogently than any other analyst in America today. *Bush on the Couch* was a triumph of presidential analysis. The arrival of *Obama on the Couch* is a very great gift to the American people, to history, and to Obama himself. Congratulations to Justin Frank for stepping where others fear to tread.”

—Michael Carmichael, director of Planetary Movement



PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA

*f*P



PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA

Also by Justin A. Frank, M.D.

Bush on the Couch: Inside the Mind of the President



PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA

OBAMA ON THE COUCH

Inside the Mind of the President

Justin A. Frank, M.D.

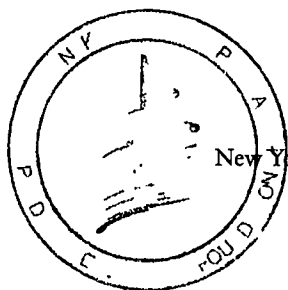
PUSTAKA PERDANA



1009962

FREE PRESS

New York London Toronto Sydney New Delhi



PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA



FREE PRESS

A Division of Simon & Schuster, Inc.
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Copyright © 2011 by Dr. Justin Frank

All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this book or portions thereof in any form whatsoever. For information address Free Press Subsidiary Rights Department, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020.

First Free Press trade paperback edition May 2012

FREE PRESS and colophon are trademarks of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

For information about special discounts for bulk purchases,
please contact Simon & Schuster Special Sales at 1-866-506-1949
or business@simonandschuster.com.

The Simon & Schuster Speakers Bureau can bring authors to your live event.
For more information or to book an event contact the Simon & Schuster Speakers Bureau
at 1-866-248-3049 or visit our website at www.simonspeakers.com.

Manufactured in the United States of America

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

The Library of Congress has catalogued the hardcover edition as follows:

Frank, Justin A.

Obama on the couch: inside the mind of the president /
Justin A. Frank.—1st Free Press hardcover ed.

p. cm.

1. Obama, Barack—Psychology. 2. Presidents—United States—Psychology.
3. United States—Politics and government—2009— I. Title.

E908.F69 2011

973.932092—dc23

2011025377

ISBN 978-1-4516-2063-4

ISBN 978-1-4516-2064-1 (pbk)

ISBN 978-1-4516-2065-8 (ebook)



PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA

973.93209

To Heather with gratitude and love



PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA



PERDANA
LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION
YAYASAN
KEPIMPINAN
PERDANA