

MUSLIM BACKGROUND?

Obama (then called “Barry”) spent most of his formative years in Hawaii, raised by his grandparents; Stanley Armour Dunham and Madelyn Lee Payne Dunham, both from Kansas. His mother, Stanley Ann Dunham, had her focus on her education and career, and she left the young Barry Obama with her parents when she studied abroad. When his mother remarried an Indonesian-born Muslim, Obama went to live in Indonesia with them from the age of 6 until 10. While there, he received Islamic instruction and attended mosque worship with his stepfather. While he did attend public school in Indonesia, and not a Madrassa (an Islamic religious school where instruction is given from the Koran), he did receive Islamic instruction, including study of the Koran.

In Obama’s own autobiography, he states (in reference to a discussion he had with the activist community organizer who brought him to Chicago) that “In Indonesia, I had spent 2 years at a Muslim school, two years at a Catholic School”. Then adds “In the Muslim school, the teacher wrote to tell my mother that I made faces during Koranic studies.”

The Times interviewed Israella Darmawan, Obama’s first-grade teacher at the Catholic school. She told the newspaper “At that time, Barry was also praying in a Catholic way, but Barry was a Muslim”. Many other sources from his neighborhood and school confirm this, but I’m trying to be brief.