

Tribhuvan University

**Barack Obama's Middle-ground Political Stance in *The Audacity of Hope*: A
Byproduct of His Mixed Heritage and Faith in Communitarianism**

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Ambika Prasad Joshi has completed his thesis, "Barack Obama's Middle-ground Political Stance in *The Audacity of Hope: A Byproduct of His Mixed Heritage and Faith in Communitarianism*", under my supervision. He carried out this research paper from August 2010 to May 2011. I hereby forward this thesis to be submitted for viva.

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Letter of Approval

The thesis entitled, "Barack Obama's Middle-ground Political Stance in *The Audacity of Hope: A Byproduct of His Mixed Heritage and Faith in Communitarianism*", submitted to the central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Mr. Ambika Prasad Joshi has been approved by undersigned members of the research committee.

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Abstract

This project studies the rationale behind Barack Obama's middle-ground political stance that he has taken in his book, *The Audacity of Hope*, a text of political analysis with autobiographical tinge. The middle-ground political position that Barack Obama has taken in this book is the byproduct of his mixed heritage, hybrid identity, and upbringing in a liberal and Methodist family along with his faith in communitarian political principles. Positing middle-ground political location between liberalism and conservatism as a mnemonic strategy, Obama lays a foundation to establish communitarian view of politics in the US. Implementation of communitarian political vision can assemble Obama's family members overseas within a larger human association, thereby creating a way to serve them. Besides, such a stance helps Obama to resolve the political deadlock caused by rigid, doctrinaire thinking. The project, at first, illuminates the middle-ground standpoint, and then, studies it through communitarianism and Obama's own autobiographical expressions that have contributed to shape his vision. This research helps to discern the elements that present Obama as a middle-ground politician.

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