



## Gene Healy: Obama and the continuing “cult of the presidency”

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Back in 2008, Gene Healy, a vice president at the [Cato Institute](#), wrote a great book, *The Cult of the Presidency: America's Dangerous Devotion to Executive Power*, about the way the nation's chief executive has been transformed over the last several decades. This book, written at the tail of George W. Bush's presidency, during which Americans saw a tremendous expansion of executive power, notes the foundation that was laid before Barack Obama ever stepped foot in the White House.

But now that Obama's first term is nearly completely, Healy is back with another in-depth look at how Obama has continued to transform the presidency. In *False Idol: Barack Obama and the Continuing Cult of the President*, a new e-book, Healy goes through extraordinary actions taken by Obama over the last four years, including unprecedented power of the nation's healthcare system, the targeted killing of Americans overseas, and going to launching military action without congressional approval.