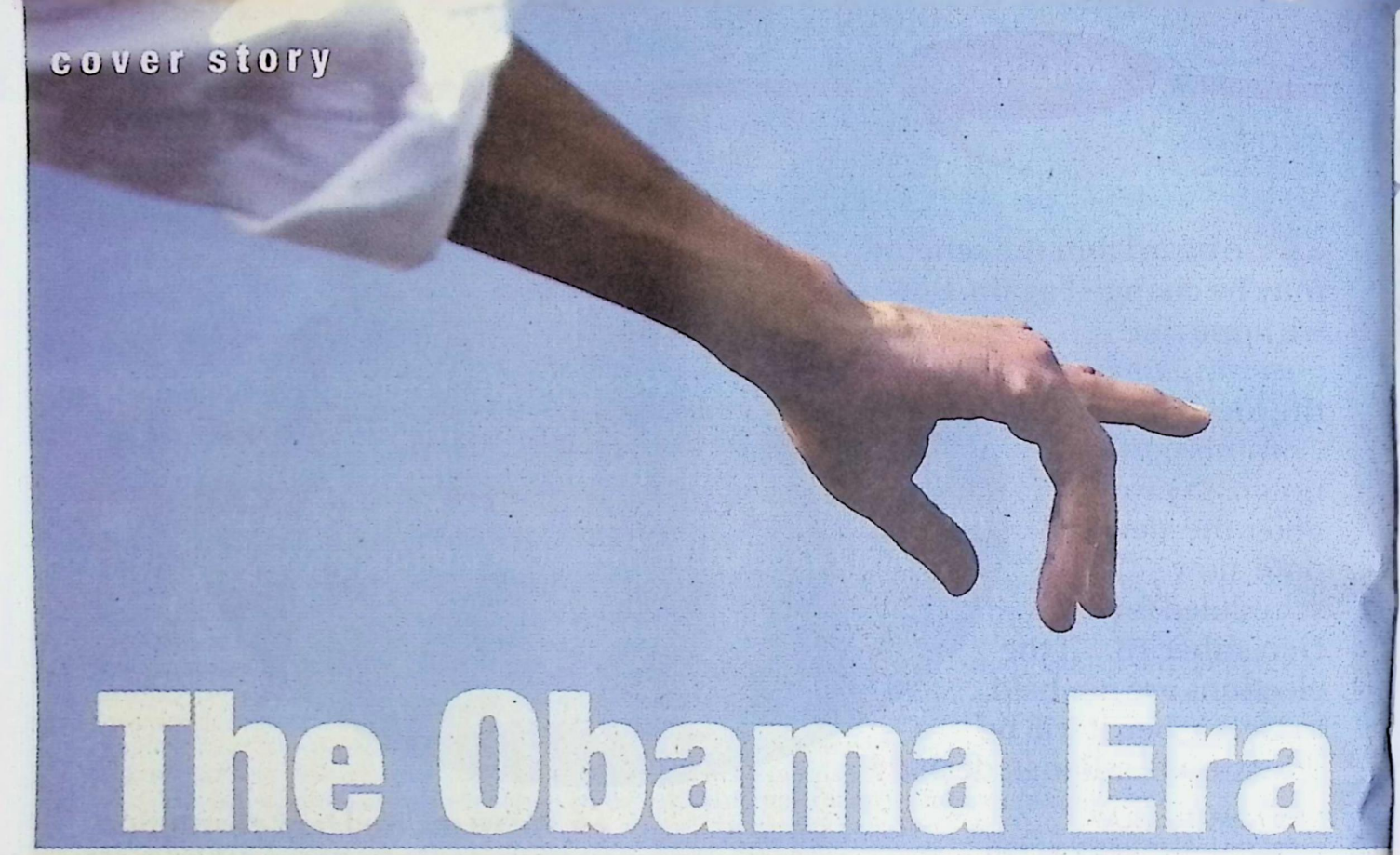


The Obama Era

Obama has won, and as many liberals say, so has the world. But is that really the case? If one believes everything the Democrats say then, the world will never be the same. Our saviour will heal the world's wounds, unite people, push back the global recession, part the seas and turn water into wine. While most are willing to believe in Obama's divine qualities his actions will need to prove louder than words. To look forward at what an Obama presidency offers us, we must retrace his past and understand the roots of his 'New Deal' to see if it's the real deal for the rest of the world. He has been compared to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy, but for the time being the world is celebrating the fact that he is not another George W. Bush. In these dark times the Obama star shines bright and for many it has always done so.

NADER RAHMAN

Barack Obama has the personal history of an urban legend. Like most urban legends, the story seems too outlandish to be true, and like most urban legends more than one person is willing to testify to its authenticity. His history is important to frame the context within which his political ideas have formed and mutated. Those ideas and their mutations are those which the world will have to live by, and contrary to the urban legend that he is Muslim, his early life was diverse but in the end just about as white and middle-class as rural Kansas.

His father was a foreign student from Kenya studying in Hawaii and his mother was a white woman, originally from Kansas. By the time she was 20 she had married and divorced Obama's father and barely out of her teens, alone and with a child. She soon remarried another foreign exchange student and moved to Indonesia. Between the ages of six and ten Obama studied in Indonesia, a claim often mixed with his middle name (Hussein) that has been routinely used to smear him as a Muslim. By the age of ten he was back in Hawaii and readily claims to have been raised by his white grandparents since then.

His scattered childhood with an African father and