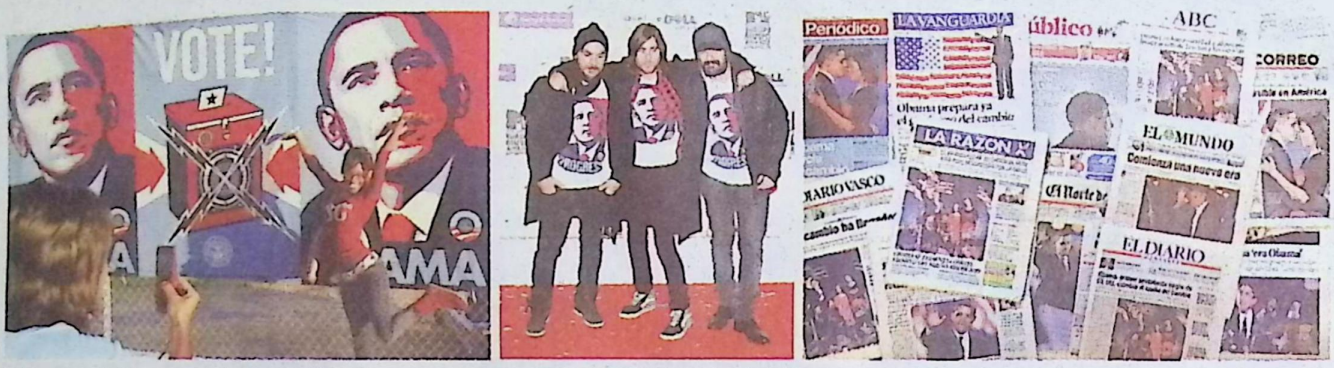
my Father' are emblematic of the struggles and problems many black youths face across America. He overcame the stereotypical rebellion stage and set sail for New York University where he cleaned up his life and graduated in Political Science. What is important about this stage of his life is that while earlier on he had a very white middle class view on the world, his trysts with contraband opened his eyes to the lives many black people choose and are pushed into. A leader must know his people and this was his education. Knowing both sides of the coin he went on to become a community organiser in Chicago. From there he went on to great things, made it into Harvard Law school and even became the first black editor of the Harvard Law Review. It garnered him small-scale national fame, but also highlighted that he could be a leader in the future.



Obama quickly turned into a media phenomenon, capturing both public and celebrity attention with consummate ease. His cult of personality and electability grew symbiotically.

The rest as they say is history, he went on to become a state senator and then finally in January 2003, he announced that he would run for congress. His famous speech at the Democratic National Convention in 2004 catapulted him to national fame beyond his wildest dreams and a mere four years later the world celebrates his promotion to the office of President of the United States. Everything one can possibly wish to know about him has been said, debated, analysed and regurgitated, but what is of special interest is how the world took to his election. From Beirut to Burkina Faso, Palestine to Poland the world celebrated Obama's victory with a vigour that has not been seen since the end of WW II. Surely part of that was the relief of knowing that Bush was finally leaving, but the other part was that people were and are genuinely hopeful that Obama would fundamentally change the ills of the world. It may be a case of the right man at the right time, but to many Obama is more than just that. He gives people hope with the promise of change, what more could one ask for. But the real question is to where his national and international priorities lay, what will define the Obama Doctrine?

The economy will obviously be the first thing on President Obama's mind and in a way it affects the entire world. America's recession must be tackled before it turns into a global depression and pressure is on the greenback to hold its value, even small depreciations in the Dollar could affect the global economy on a catastrophic scale. The excesses of Wall Street must be tackled, while strengthening the backbone of America, commonly known as its middle class. With Christmas around the corner, no longer can Americans buy their economy out of trouble, the policy makers must shape it back into life. Obama was elected on his take on the 'New Deal' championed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, but his greatest challenge will be to act on his own words. Having promised to decrease taxes on 95% of the population he has to now make the plan work. A 700 billion dollar bail out, tax cuts and the promise to increase employment in a country that has lost hope, is a tough ask, but if anyone is up to the task seemingly Obama is.



The political slogan of change will indelibly be linked with Obama's 2008 presidential election.