

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times

Late Edition

Today, remaining cold, sunshine becoming dimmed by clouds, high 27. Tonight, partly cloudy, low 22. Tomorrow, not as cold, mostly sunny, high 36. Weather map, Page A22.

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THE 44TH PRESIDENT

## OBAMA TAKES OATH, AND NATION IN CRISIS EMBRACES THE MOMENT



DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

After the inaugural ceremonies at the Capitol, Barack and Michelle Obama walked part of the way down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House.

### MILESTONE FOR AMERICA

In Sober Address, He Vows to Begin Remaking Country — A Million Celebrate

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON — Barack Hussein Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States on Tuesday and promised to “begin again the work of remaking America” on a day of celebration that climaxed a once-inconceivable journey for the man and his country.

Mr. Obama, the son of a black man from Kenya and a white woman from Kansas, inherited a White House built partly by slaves and a nation in crisis at home and abroad. The moment captured the imagination of much of the world as more than a million flag-waving people bore witness while Mr. Obama recited the oath with his hand on the same Bible that Abraham Lincoln used at his inauguration 148 years ago.

Beyond the politics of the occasion, the sight of a black man climbing the highest peak electrified people across racial, generational and partisan lines. Mr. Obama largely left it to others to mark the history explicitly, making only passing reference to his own barrier-breaking role in his 18-minute Inaugural Address, noting how improbable it might seem that “a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath.” [Transcript, Page P2.]

But confronted by the worst economic situation in decades, two overseas wars and the continuing threat of Islamic terrorism, Mr. Obama sobered the celebration with a grim assessment of the state of a nation rocked by home foreclosures, shuttered businesses, lost jobs, costly health care, failing schools, energy dependence and the threat of climate change. Signaling a sharp and immediate break with the presidency of George W. Bush, he vowed to usher in a “new era of responsibility” and restore tarnished American ideals.

“Today, I say to you that the challenges we face are real,” Mr. Obama said in the address, delivered from the west front of the Capitol. “They are serious and they are many. They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America, they will be met.”

The vast crowd that thronged the Mall on a frigid but bright winter day was the largest to attend an inauguration in decades, if not ever. Many then lined Pennsylvania Avenue for a parade that continued well past nightfall on a day that was

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### THE INAUGURATION

**SPECIAL SECTION** Full coverage of the inauguration of the 44th president and the transition to the White House. PAGES P1-30

**ONLINE** A video analysis of President Obama’s address, additional photographs and panoramic images are at [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com).

### A PORTRAIT OF CHANGE

## Nation’s Many Faces in Extended First Family

By JODI KANTOR

WASHINGTON — The president’s elderly stepgrandmother brought him an oxtail fly whisk, a mark of power at home in Kenya. Cousins journeyed from the South Carolina town where the first lady’s great-great-grandfather was born into slavery, while the rabbi in the family came from the synagogue where he had been commemorating Martin Luther King’s Birthday. The president and first lady’s siblings were there, too, of course: his Indonesian-American half-sister, who brought her Chinese-Canadian husband, and her brother, a black man with a white wife.

When President Barack Obama was sworn in on Tuesday, he was surrounded by an extended clan that would have shocked past generations of Americans



DOUG MILLS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Three generations of Barack Obama’s family celebrate.

and instantly redrew the image of a first family for future ones.

As they convened to take their family’s final step in its journey from Africa and into the White House, the group seemed as if it had stepped out of the pages of Mr. Obama’s memoir — no longer the disparate kin of a young man wondering how he fit in, but the embodiment of a new presi-

dent’s promise of change.

For well over two centuries, the United States has been vastly more diverse than its ruling families. Now the Obama family has flipped that around, with a Technicolor cast that looks almost nothing like their overwhelmingly white, overwhelmingly Protestant predecessors in the role. The family that produced Barack and Michelle Obama is black and white and Asian, Christian, Muslim and Jewish. They speak English; Indonesian; French; Cantonese; German; Hebrew; African languages including Swahili, Luo and Igbo; and even a few phrases of Gullah, the Creole dialect of the South Carolina Lowcountry. Very few are wealthy, and some — like Sarah Obama, the stepgrandmother who only recently got electricity and run-

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### A CALL FOR CHANGE

## Rejecting Bush Era, Reclaiming Older Values

By DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama’s Inaugural Address on Tuesday was a stark repudiation of the era of George W. Bush and

the ideological certainties that surrounded it, wrapped in his pledge to drive the United States into “a new age” by reclaiming the values of an older one.

It was a delicate task, with Mr. Bush and Dick Cheney sitting feet from him as Mr. Obama, only minutes into his term as president, described the false turns and the roads not taken.

To read his words literally, Mr. Obama blamed no one other than the country itself, critiquing “our collective failure to make hard choices” and a willingness to suspend national ideals “for expedience’s sake” — a clear reference to the cascade of deci-



RUTH FREMSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

George W. Bush taking off from the Capitol on Tuesday.

sions ranging from interrogation policies to wiretapping to the invasion of Iraq.

Yet not since 1933, when Franklin D. Roosevelt called for a “restoration” of American ethics and “action, and action now” as Herbert Hoover sat and seethed, has a new president so publicly rejected the essence of his predecessor’s path.

When Mr. Obama looked forward, however, he was far less specific about how he would combine his lofty vision and his passion for pragmatism into urgently needed solutions.

Mr. Obama spoke eloquently of the need to “restore science to its rightful place” and to “harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories.” But he never acknowledged that his agenda would eventually have to be reconciled with towering budget deficits or spelled out what “unpleasant decisions” he would be willing to make in the service of a renewed America.

At times, Mr. Obama seemed to chastise the nation, quoting Scripture to caution that “the time has come to set aside childish things.” It seemed a call to end an age of overconsumption and the presumption that Amer-

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### BUSINESS DAY B1-8

#### Facing the Financial Crisis

Another big bank reported billions of dollars of mortgage-related losses — and the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 332 points, or 4 percent, to below 8,000 — reinforcing the scope of the crisis confronting President Obama. His advisers say that before setting a course, they will study the options, each with its own risks. PAGE B1

### INTERNATIONAL A8-20

#### Israel Slows Withdrawal From Gaza

Israel slowed its pullout from Gaza as the two-day cease-fire with Hamas suffered its first violations. Israeli troops twice came under fire, and eight mortars were shot at Israel, which responded with airstrikes. Palestinians supported Hamas at rallies while the United Nations secretary general offered support for those who suffered in the war. PAGE A8

### NATIONAL A23-24

#### Embracing Faith Over Medicine

Kara Neumann, 11, had grown so weak last March that she could not walk or speak. Her parents, who believe that God alone can heal the sick, did not take her to a doctor, and Kara died of diabetic ketoacidosis. Now, her parents are set to stand trial on reckless endangerment charges in a case that may set an important precedent. PAGE A23

### DINING D1-10

#### South Africa’s Wines Take the Stage

A new great source for moderately priced cabernet sauvignon, Eric Asimov writes. PAGE D1

