"One Day in the World's Press: How is the Story Being Told?" A Thorough Study of the International News Coverage on Barack Hussein Obama's Election Day

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"One Day in the World’s Press: How Is the Story Being Told?"

A Thorough Study of the International News Coverage on

Barack Hussein Obama’s Election Day

By

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Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of

Master of Arts in Strategic Communication

Seton Hall University

2010
Acknowledgements

To my Parents and Siblings,
To whom I love infinitely and to whom I own this triumph
Thank you for your unconditional love and support

To my friends and loved ones,
Who kept reminding me “you could do this”
Thank you for your enduring encouragement

To my thesis Advisor,
Special thanks for your guidance, generous time and support
in completing this research project
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Abstract

Scholars, politicians, the public, and journalists have long argued about the news coverage of presidential elections, and whether it is in support of liberal or conservative politics. This study will not attempt to slant in any side of the confrontation. Instead, a goal of this research will be to provide significant information in order to contribute to the work that has already been accomplished in moving toward evaluation criteria for identifying media bias in presidential elections. The research will analyze the world press coverage on Barack Hussein Obama’s Election Day. The relation between media and politics, controversial issues in presidential elections, various aspects of media in political campaigns, among others, will be discussed. A content analysis will be performed examining thirty five of the most representative newspapers around the globe, including *The New York Times, The Guardian, The Globe and Mail, The Moscow News, Tehran Times, The China Daily*, and *The Sydney Morning Herald*. 
Chapter I
Introduction

If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer. It’s the answer spoken by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Latino, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled - Americans who sent a message to the world that we have never been a collection of Red States and Blue States: we are, and will always be, the United States of America.

— President-elect Barack Obama, Election Night Victory Speech


Four years ago, Barack Obama was still a Senator in the State of Illinois. By then, he had served eight years as State Senator with his rare moments on the United States national stage being the time he delivered a speech in 2002 opposing to the war in Iraq (Gonyea, 2008). The first time Obama was elevated to the national stage was in 2004 during the Democratic National Convention. During that speech Obama reminded Americans that there is no black, white, Latino, Asian, or Native American, but the “United States of America” (Federal Document Clearing House E-Media, 2004). This speech turned Obama from a relatively unknown State Senator to a major political figure for the Democratic Party. In his speech, Obama focused on the “American Dream.” He described a tolerant America where race and background is accepted and one’s hard work is rewarded (Rowland & Jones, 2007). This American Dream that Obama
spoke about is the story of his life growing up as a bi-racial child and moving forward ultimately to become the President of the United States.

The question is how did Obama rise from his relatively obscure background to become the Democratic Party’s presidential nominee in 2008? Wilson (2008) argues Obama represented a different generation than that of the previous two incumbents, President Bush and President Clinton. President Bush and President Clinton represented the elite generation of the baby boomers (p.9). Both Bush and Clinton were draft dodgers who experimented with cocaine and marijuana. Bush would not talk about his cocaine use or his drunk driving arrest while Clinton lied about his drug use (p.9). On the contrary, Obama was able to appeal to the younger generation because he was the first candidate not from the baby boomer generation. He represented a new way of thinking about issues. Unlike Clinton and Bush, Obama was honest and forthcoming of his troubled past of drug use. This honesty and openness appealed especially to the younger voters (p.11-13).

Furthermore, Wilson (2008) points out that while Obama presented as the first bi-racial candidate, and as a candidate from the younger generation, he also utilized social media and grassroots campaigning in a way never utilized by previous candidates (p. 14). Using such social networking sites such as Facebook and Myspace, Obama quickly reached out to various individuals throughout the country. His campaign seized the opportunity to utilize these tools. Within two weeks of announcing his candidacy for president, Obama’s Facebook page had over 200,000 supporters compared to the few thousand that his opponents had (p.15). With these different online networks, Obama’s campaign was able to put together an online community that would help support Obama and spread his candidacy to all types of individuals (p.15). Ceaser, Busch, & Pitney, Jr., (2008) suggest this online community, in effect, not only helped to spread
Obama's campaign, but also helped demonstrated the great organization of the campaign, which ultimately contributed to raise unprecedented amounts of money (p.23).

Moreover, by utilizing this online community and his appeal to the younger generation, Obama was able to stir a voting bloc rarely drawn on. Wilson (2008) indicates the younger generation was a group that did not vote as much as the other age groups did (p.19). The author compares the different approaches to this generation between former President Nixon and President Obama. Nixon considered the younger generation as soft, self-centered and annoying (p.20). Yet the one Obama called upon was different than the one Nixon scorned. This generation seemed more knowledgeable about politics with distinctive outlets. The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, for instance, helped individuals to learn more about the various events and issues facing the nation that pertained to this age group (p.20). Bringing forward this rarely utilized group along with his impressive campaign organization, Barack Obama had great support heading into the election.

However, in spite of great campaign organization and social media utilization, a candidate must be able to connect with individuals in order to build rapport. How exactly was Barack Obama able to reach people across different ethnicities and age groups? Ceaser et al., (2008) advocate that aside from his politics, his experience, and his other traits, Obama was one of the most charismatic candidates in recent election history (p.19). Obama had to have this special trait in order to stand out from the other candidates such as former New York Senator, Hillary Clinton, and former vice presidential nominee, John Edwards. Obama's charisma and appeal allowed him to come across as a compelling individual to many who were just learning about him during his candidacy, and ultimately, empowered him to reach out to voters of various ethnicities, ages and socioeconomic backgrounds.
Using his oratorical skills along with his message of unity helped him increase continuous support from city to city throughout each of his campaign stops (p.19). Furthermore, he was able to be a flexible candidate that adjusted according to the situation. He started out as a candidate approaching towards an image of change and bringing forward different types of politics to Washington. Once Obama gained a comfortable lead, he projected an image of change and commitment to help voters feel more confident in him (p.20). All these factors ranging from Obama’s charisma, appeal to younger voters, ability to raise money and campaign organization helped propel Obama to win the presidential election in November 2008.

With this in mind, how did the world see Obama’s presidential triumph? What is the significance of such an event at an international level? Did this election present a voice of a new America to the world? People around the globe were jubilant over the election of Obama as President of the United States of America. Celebrations erupted from the bars of London and Sydney, with parties spilling onto the streets from Berlin to Havana and from Paris to the small Japanese town of Obama. Many world leaders welcomed Obama’s victory. South Africa’s iconic leader Nelson Mandela wrote in a message to Obama, "Your victory, has demonstrated that no person anywhere in the world should not dare to dream of wanting to change the world for a better place" (O’Brien, 2008). President Nicolas Sarkozy of France added, “Your election has raised enormous hope in France, in Europe and beyond” (Whitesides, 2008). Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) also shared with the Sudan Tribune “Obama’s election demonstrates the greatness of America and its leadership in the world” (AFP, 2008, Nov. 6). In addition, Simpson (2008) describes Obama’s victory as a historic moment where Americans could overcome racial and political differences and unite for change:
The United States has seen the biggest transformation in its standing in the world since the election of John Fitzgerald Kennedy in November 1960. This is a country which has habitually, sometimes irritatingly, regarded itself as young and vibrant, the envy of the world. Often this is merely hype. But there are times when it is entirely true. With Barack Obama’s victory, one of these moments has arrived (Nov. 5).

Furthermore, The Economist (2008) created an imaginary Global Electoral College: What if the whole world could vote? All votes from around the world were gathered through an interactive map giving all one hundred and ninety five of the world’s countries—including the United States—a say in the election’s outcome. As in the United States, each country was allocated a minimum of three electoral-college votes with extra votes allocated in proportion to population size. In the study, global electoral votes totaled 9,115 for Obama versus 203 for McCain. All of the countries voted for Obama with the exception of Cuba (52% for McCain vs. 48% for Obama), Algeria (53% for McCain vs. 47% for Obama), Congo (54% for McCain vs. 46% for Obama) and Iraq (55% for McCain vs. 45% for Obama). The strongest votes for Obama came from Cameron, Cambodia, Kirgizstan, Maldives and Montenegro with a 100% support. Several other countries scored high. Kenya scored 98%, Jordan, Oman, Ghana, and Nigeria 97%, Bahrain, Mozambique, and Thailand 96%, and Indonesia 95% (Oct. 25).

In light of these facts, how did the world press present the news coverage on Barack Hussein Obama’s Election Day? Throughout this study, the author attempts to scrutinize the role that the world media played on Obama’s presidential triumph by analyzing different content categories and identifying the most prevalent trends of coverage on the Election Day. A content analysis will be performed examining distinct political news story characteristics. The study will be limited to observing thirty five of the most representative world newspapers on the Election
Day. It must be noted that such a day will vary from region to region because of time zone differences but the study will maintain the same unit of analysis. The fourth of November of 2008 is the actual day when President Obama was voted into office but most of the world press made the news public until the next day. Therefore, newspapers from the Eastern hemisphere will be granted an additional day.

Considering the aforementioned criteria, the author feels it is important to be acquainted with key terms that will be analyzed in the research. These will facilitate the understanding of the study and will allow one to attain an insightful perspective of how the world press covered Barack Obama’s Election Day. Orhan (2007), in his presentation of Political Socialization and Political Culture, argues a person’s knowledge of politics cannot simply come from their own experience or through the lessons learned from others directly. The author exemplifies the concept of media bias:

Much of the political knowledge people have comes from the mass media. The mass media influence individuals by what they report and what they do not report. Even with the selection process made by the media, most individuals do not spend much time listening or watching the news. Citizens spend an average of fifteen minutes on news through the various forms of media. Like other agents of political socialization, the media reinforce much of the political culture by reporting on election results and economic news. This reporting reinforces these institutions within society. The media do not frequently discuss alternatives to the way society is fundamentally structured. Media have “bad news” bias, especially on television. Bad news stories outnumber good news stories at least 3 to 1. Negative news attracts viewers, which in turn leads to more sponsors and more money. Sensationalism shows violence, conflict, scandal, corruption, sex, scares of various sorts and personal lives of celebrities and politicians. Emotional impact of news helps sell it, distorts real news: more complex topics are simplified, dramatized or ignored (University of Maryland, Department of Government and Politics).

Moreover, Broh (1980) expands the concept of media bias by pointing out “horse race” campaign coverage as part of the life of any political campaign. The author, after his observations of the 1976 Presidential Elections, enlightens the concept of horse race coverage:
"Horse-race campaign coverage, that is, news emphasizing who is ahead or be-hind, or gaining or losing ground, is the primary means by which people develop perceptions of the extent of mass public support for candidates" (Mutz, 1995). For journalists, the horse-race metaphor provides a framework for analysis. A horse is judged not by its absolute speed or skill but in comparison to the speed of other horses, and especially by its wins and losses. Similarly, candidates are pushed to discuss other candidates; events are understood in a context of competition; and picking the winner becomes an important topic. The race—not the winner—is the story. The candidate's image, personality, staff relations, and strategy are the main foci of reporting. With the horse-race metaphor journalists can generate interest among voters, most of whom don't get the chance to observe the candidates in person. By reporting and interpreting events for the uninvolved electorate through an easily understood image, the mass media forge a vital link in a democracy between the people and their elected officials. Thus the seeming trivialization of one of America's greatest democratic phenomena actually fosters the democratic process (p.515).

In addition, Dominique Wolton, current research director at the CNRS (France's National Center for Scientific Research) and founder of the International journal Hermès, presents a unique perspective of "political communication" and its relationships with people, techniques, cultures and societies:

Originally, political communication referred to the study of communication from a government to its electorate, and later to exchanges of political discourse between a governing majority and the opposition. Subsequently, the field was broadened to studies of the media's role in forming public opinion, and then to the influence of opinion polls on politics. Nowadays, the term encompasses studies of the role of communication in political life in the wider sense, embracing the media, opinion polls, political marketing and publicity, with a particular focus on elections. In fact, political communication could even be considered as referring to any communication that has a political purpose. This definition, although too broad, has the advantage of embracing two major characteristics of contemporary politics: the broadening of the political sphere and the increasing amount of space given to communication, through the influence of the media and public opinion as reflected in opinion polls (Wolton, 2000).

Furthermore, Gabriel Almond, an American political scientist best known for his pioneering work on comparative politics, political culture, and political development, offers a particular definition of "political culture" after his many observations in polling, policy, and public opinion studies:
Political culture refers to the distinguishing beliefs, values, attitudes, habits, and behaviour patterns that characterize a political community. It is made up of cognitive, affective and evaluative orientations towards the political system. It is important to recognize that political culture differs from public opinion in that it is much broader. It functions as a frame which constrains acceptable political action and discourse. It provides assumptions that guide public life. It is more enduring, stable and cross-generational. The essence of political culture is not agreement on issues, but common perception of the rights and obligations of citizenships and of the rules for participating in the political process (Almond, 2002).
Chapter II

Literature Review

The Media’s Take on the Race to the White House

Wilson (2008) advocates the greatest barrier to Barack Obama’s presidential campaign was the attacks on his qualifications by the press (p.25). Over and over again, Obama’s inexperience became the main focus of news coverage. Howard Kurtz, a Washington Post media writer posed the question, “Will journalists continue to swoon over Barack Obama or finally ask some hard questions about his record and lack of experience?” (Kurtz, 2007, Jan.21). More critically, the media on various occasions devalued Obama’s experience in trivial ways stating incorrectly that Obama served for seven years in the state senate, when in fact it was eight years (Wilson, 2008, p.25). Even liberals and leftists attacked Obama’s alleged inexperience. On The Huffington Post, Budowsky (2006), a former Democratic legislative staffer, denounced Obama’s experience in harsh terms:

Senator Obama has close to zero national security experience, close to zero national defense and foreign policy experience, close to zero national political experience, close to zero national legislative experience and close to zero experience being tested in the crucible of brutal national politics (Oct. 23).

Zimmerman (2007) of New York University added, “My fellow liberals, we cannot have it both ways. If George W. Bush was unqualified to be our president, Barack Obama is even more so” (Chicago Tribune).

Nevertheless, other analysts rejected the attacks on Obama’s experience. New Yorker editor, Hendrik Hertzberg, argued that it would have been a disappointment if Obama were to be left out from the presidential race on the count of his inexperience. Wilson (2008) discussed that
Obama’s experience is precisely what made him such an excellent candidate. “It’s just a different kind of experience. It’s not a machine-graded resume, where computer programs would say he doesn’t have A, B or C. But he has categories of experience that other people don’t have” (Wilson, 2008, p.37). New York Times columnist, Nicholas Kristof, also supported that Obama’s experience as an antipoverty organizer in Chicago gave him a deeper understanding of a vital and important twenty-first century challenge that almost all politicians lacked (p.37).

In any case, Obama was heavily criticized by the press on his relation with Tony Rezko. Obama and Rezko knew each other since the time Obama was attending Harvard Law School. In 2006, Obama bought a new house and a small part of the lot adjacent from Rezko. Few months later Rezko was indicted on corruption charges (McKinney & Fusco, 2006). During the Democratic Debate in 2007, Brian Williams of NBC asked Obama about his connections with Rezko. Obama explained, “This is one time where I didn’t see the appearance of impropriety because I paid full price for the land. There have been no allegations of anything other than that. But it raised the possibility that here was somebody who was a friend of mine who was doing me a favor and I said it was a bone-headed mistake” (Corsi, 2008, p. 20).

Another exaggerated but damaging media story about Obama was published on the front page of The New York Times. This story involved Obama’s decision to invest $100,000 in high-risk stocks, which was recommended and advised by a UBS financial advisor and friend George Haywood, who bought shares of AVI BioPharma and Skyterra on Obama’s behalf (Wilson, 2008, p. 35). According to The New York Times, the stock purchases raise questions about how he could unwittingly come to invest in two relatively obscure companies, whose backers happen to include generous contributors to his political committees (McIntire & Drew, 2007). Obama, in fact, only found out about the specific investments when one of the companies mistakenly sent
shareholder information to his home. Obama promptly proceeded to sell the stocks (Wilson, 2008, p.35). “At no point did I know what stocks were held, and at no point did I direct how those stocks were invested,” Obama argued (Parsons & Zuckman, 2007).

Moreover, during Obama’s presidential campaign announcement, chief political correspondent for Politico, Mike Allen, claimed that Obama’s name was another potential weakness, suggesting that Obama was inconsistent in explaining its name origins “Why has he sometimes said his first name was Arabic and other times Swahili?” Allen asked (Allen, 2007, Feb. 9). Political satirist Stephen Colbert commented, “Just because, in fact, it is both? Oh, the true is so convenient”, then he concluded (summarizing the media coverage of Obama’s life): Obama’s a liar, pass it on” (Wilson, 2007). Obama then complained about superficial and inaccurate media coverage, “The problem is not that the information is not out there, the problem is that’s not what you guys have been reporting on. You’ve been reporting on how I look in a swimsuit” (Tapper, 2009). This prompted more attacks from the media. Kondracke (2007) protested on Fox News Channel that Obama was simply saying that the media were not paying close enough attention to what he was saying but on his image as a candidate (Feb. 19).

In addition, The Project for Excellence in Journalism & The Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy (2007) conducted a study on the coverage of the 2008 Presidential Campaign by Media Sectors. By comparing the different media outlets, the study found the media coverage was for the most part positive for Republicans and negative for Democrats. Fox News stories about Republican candidates were most likely neutral (47%) with the remainder more positive than negative (32% vs. 21% negative). The bulk of that positive coverage went to Giuliani with 44% positive while McCain still suffered from unflattering coverage (20% positive vs. 35% negative). Conversely, news stories about Democratic
candidates were most likely negative. Neutral stories had a slight edge of 39% followed by 37% negative and 24% positive. In marked contrast, the rest of the media coverage for Obama was twice as negative as positive, 32% negative vs. 16% positive and 52% neutral. The “Fox difference” lay not in what they covered but in how they covered the campaign. It came as no surprise to learn that Fox carried the most positive portrayal of McCain and Palin and the most negative portrayals of Obama and Biden.

Another study conducted by The Center for Media and Public Affairs (2008) — Media Bash Barack (Not a typo) — at George Mason University found that ABC, NBC and CBS were tougher on Obama than on Republican John McCain during the first six weeks of the general-election campaign. On-air evaluations of Barack Obama were 72% negative (vs. 28% positive) versus John McCain’s coverage, which was 57% negative (vs. 43% positive) during the same time period. Obama ran even farther behind McCain on Fox News Channel’s Special Report with 79% negative comments (vs. 21% positive) compared to 61% negative comments (vs. 39% positive) for McCain since June 8.

The results of the study were based on a scientific content analysis of 249 election news stories that aired on ABC World News Tonight, CBS Evening News, NBC Nightly News, and Fox Special Report from June 8, 2008 to July 21, 2008. The Center previously analyzed 2,144 stories during the primary campaign from December 16, 2007 through June 7, 2008. The Center reported on all on-air evaluations of the candidates by sources and reporters after excluding comments by the campaigns about each other.

On the other hand, Goldberg (2008) describes “the media’s get out of jail free card” as a common strategy journalists employ during political campaigns. The author states it is a process to dismiss the journalist critics while processing information through a filter of own biases (p.
“Bias is what people who hear or read the news bring to the story, not what the journalist brings to the reporting,” Jim Lehrer argues (Graham, 2008). Furthermore, Goldberg (2008) advocates bias is on the liberal journalist who slants the news to fit his or her own ideology rather than is on the conservative consumer of news (p.13). In addition, the author emphasizes pro-Obama bias were self-evident during the campaign. “You couldn’t turn on your TV during the campaign without hearing some slobbering reporter refer to Obama as a ‘rock star’. McCain, on the other hand, was the old, grumpy, white guy” (p.14). Moreover, Goldberg remarks on Oprah Winfrey’s favoritism during the Obama election. He argues Winfrey was portrayed as the perfect match for persuading a vast audience of women viewers, a mother of five young adolescents, one with Down syndrome, another going off to the army, and an unwed daughter pregnant (p.14).

The Center for Media and Public Affairs (2008)—Obama Leads the Media Race— at George Mason University in Virginia discovered on television a phenomenon called “Obama-Mania”. Of the 585 network news stories the center looked at between August 23, 2008 and September 30, 2008, Obama obtained 65% favorable coverage compared to 36% positive for McCain. Upon breaking these results down by network, CBS favored Obama with 73% of positive comments versus 31% for McCain. NBC supported Obama with 56% of positive coverage and 16% for McCain. ABC News gave Obama 57% of favorable coverage versus 42% for McCain. “For whatever reason, the media are portraying Barack Obama as better choice for president than John McCain,” concluded Robert Lichter who conducted the study.

Goldberg (2008) also argues the mainstream journalist’s outlook was in support of Barack Obama but not of McCain. The author lays blame on the major daily newspapers because of their commitment to biased campaign coverage. The New York Times editorialized
that McCain was running a ‘dismal’ and ‘ugly’ campaign. *The Times* published Obama’s op-ed on Iraq but refused to run one by McCain unless he revoked it to suit the paper’s sensibilities.

Four days after Obama won the Iowa Caucus, *NBC* News correspondent, Lee Cowan, said “it is almost hard to remain objective when covering Obama because it’s infectious, the energy, when Obama speaks to big crowds” (p.15).

Furthermore, Goldberg (2008) claims a report on *The Washington Post*’s campaign coverage by the paper’s ombudsman, Deborah Howell, turned up to be more pro-Obama bias. On *The Post*’s op-ed page, Howell counted fifty-eight clearly negative pieces about McCain versus thirty-two negative pieces about Obama. There were also thirty-two op-ed pieces favoring Obama and only thirteen favoring McCain (p.18). “Obama deserved tougher scrutiny than he got, especially of his undergraduate years, his start in Chicago and his relationship with Anthony Tony Rezko, who was convicted this year of influence-peddling in Chicago,” Howell concluded on *The Post* on November 9, 2008 (p.19).

In addition, *The Project for Excellence in Journalism (2008)*—*Winning the Media Campaign*—looked at more than 2,400 stories from forty-eight news outlets during a critical six-week period of the campaign—after the national political conventions in early September through the final presidential debates in mid-October. For Obama, during this period, just over a third of the stories were clearly positive in tone (36%), while a similar number (35%) were neutral or mixed. A smaller number (29%) were negative. For McCain, by comparison, nearly six in ten of the stories studied were decidedly negative in nature (57%), while fewer than two in ten (14%) were positive. The study concluded that while only 29% of the stories about Obama were negative, nearly twice as many (57%) of the references to McCain were negative.
Another study conducted by *The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press* (2008) evaluated the nation voters' opinion about media coverage during the presidential campaign. The study concluded that voters overwhelmingly believed that the media wanted Barack Obama to win the presidential election. By a margin of 70%—9%, Americans said most journalists wanted to see Obama, not John McCain, win on November 4. Another 8% said, journalists did not favor either candidate, and 13% said they did not know which candidate most reporters supported.

Moreover, a study by *The Project for Excellence in Journalism & The Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy* (2007) found that 63% of the campaign stories focused on political and tactical aspects of the campaign. That is nearly four times the number of stories about the personal backgrounds of the candidates (17%) or the candidates' ideas and policy proposals (15%). In fact, only 1% of the stories examined the candidates' records or past public performance. Furthermore, the press laid emphasis on tactics and polling results but failed to inform the public about the impact of the election on citizens. Only 12% of stories explained citizens how they would be affected by the election while nearly nine-out-of-ten stories (86%) focused on matters that largely impacted only the parties and the candidates.

Kant Patel argues that the media have failed in their responsibility to inform effectively the electorate. The primary concern of the media during presidential campaigns is the horse race, "the excessive importance placed on early primaries, overabsorption in character issues, and obsession with poll results" (as cited in Rose, 1991, p.107). Patel believes that the commercial demands of the major networks tend to condition media coverage in campaigns and, as a result, the American electorate remains largely uninformed during the process of presidential selection (p.108).
Krugman (2009) points out the main reasons why horse-race politics reporting is more common than policy reporting. The author argues it is easier to research horse-race material than to report on policy since a reporter has to master the policy issues fairly well. “It is easier to write horse-race stuff. Even if you know the policy issues, writing them so you don’t totally lose your audience is really tricky” (Aug. 30). In addition, the author indicates another reason journalists rely on horse-race reporting is because it can be full of personal details. This allows the story to be more appealing to the audience. Nevertheless, Krugman suggests political journalists should spend most of their time researching and reporting on the actual policies being debated. “It’s hard and the reader response is likely to often be negative but that’s not a good enough excuse to skew the reporting toward horse-race reporting as badly as it is,” Krugman says (Aug. 30).

Noam Chomsky also argues the media were responsible for not addressing policy proposals during the Obama campaign. In the media spotlight, “the horse race and the celebrity approach always prevailed over policy debates, but it was particularly strange for the press to attack Obama for not having policy proposal he did, in fact, have, when the media wouldn’t talk about them” (as cited in Wilson, 2008, p.27). Chomsky states that Obama could hardly be expected to match in a few months the candidates who had been planning for years to run for president but his policy details often exceeded what other candidates offered (p.27).

The Project for Excellence in Journalism (2008)—PEJ News Coverage Index—also conducted a study during Election Week (November 3 - 9, 2008) by media sector. The units of analysis were: Election campaign, the Obama Administration, and the financial crisis. The presidential election dominated the news agenda with the exception of the press. Election results occupied the first place (24% vs. 17.5% election campaign). In addition, the end of the presidential campaign—which encompassed coverage on just two days, was the No. 1 story,
accounting for 27% of the week’s news hole. Coverage of the election results—including straight reporting and analysis—was No. 2, filling another 21% and coverage of the incoming Obama administration—which began on Nov. 5 and looked forward—was right behind, also accounting for 21% of the news hole. When the campaign was finally over, the media almost immediately viewed Barack Obama’s victory as a transformational event and a subject that had been in some ways taboo moved front and center—race. “Obama Overcomes,” observed the Tuscaloosa Alabama News. “Dream Realized,” the Brockton Massachusetts Enterprise reported. “Race is History,” emphatically declared the Beaumont Texas Enterprise.
Chapter III

Research Methodology

A content analysis is the research methodology chosen for this study. Krippendorff (1980) defines a content analysis as a detailed and systematic examination of the contents of a particular body of material, for the purpose of identifying patterns, themes, or biases (p. 15). In addition, Franzosi (2007) defines content analysis from a quantitative point of view:

[The method of] quantitative content analysis... consists of tabulating the occurrences of content units....” “Content analysis... attempts to characterize the meanings in a given body of discourse in a systematic and quantitative fashion. Content analysis is the statistical semantics of political discourse... Content Analysis aims at statistical formulations, directed toward empirical problems... its statistical character [is] one of its most distinctive attributes.” “A distinguishing characteristic of content analysis... is its quantitative aspect.

Researchers have long debated the respective merits and uses of “quantitative” and “qualitative” approaches to content analysis (De Sola Pool, 1959, p.7). Quantitative content analysis is, in the first instance, “a statistical technique for obtaining descriptive data on content variables. Its value in this respect is that it offers the possibility of obtaining more precise, objective, and reliable observations about the frequency with which given content characteristics occur either singly or in conjunction with one another” (p.8). On the other hand, “qualitative content analysis” refers to a number of different aspects of research procedure, a “flexible” procedure for making content-descriptive observations or “coding” judgments (p.8).

The research design of a study is its “blueprint”, the plan specifying how a particular content analysis will be performed in order to answer the specific research question. This study
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intends to answer the following question: “How did the world press present the news coverage on Barack Hussein Obama’s Election Day?” In an attempt to answer the question, the author created a coding form (See Appendix A), which consists of twenty seven content categories classified in three major sections: General news categories, Candidate’s news story characteristics, and Political news story characteristics. In addition, the processing of data will initially be pre-coded in coding sheets—for each one of the articles to be analyzed—with numeric values that were assigned and will later be transferred to the statistical software SPSS. Frequency analysis and cross-tabulation analyses will be applied to the specific content categories of the study. Following are some of the content categories definitions to be analyzed in the study.

News Story

News stories are well defined as all non-advertising matter in a news product. In a newspaper, this would usually include all staff-produced news stories found in the first and “local” sections, but excluding editorial pages, op ed pages, reader opinions, sports, routine business data, society news and similar matter. It may include relevant features produced by local staff reporters and syndicated and wire services stories relevant to the issue or election being analyzed (Fico, Lacy, & Riffe, 1998, p.112).

Election Issue

An election issue is a contention by opponents or those speaking on their behalf that may involve public policy issues in the election or more general assertions about themselves or their opponents. Public policy issues involve government and by definition are subject to open meeting and public record acts. Other issues may not involve this governmental dimension.
although contention is present. Such other issues may include, for example, a candidate's character, credibility or fitness (Fico et al, 1998, p.112)

Source

A source is a person, or organization, who gives information to news reporters. A partisan source is one whose arguments about a candidate constitute the information provided by news reporters. An expert source is one who does not take a partisan stand on a candidate but has credible knowledge about the probable electoral success of a candidate. Sources are explicitly identified as such when news reporters quote or paraphrase information from them in stories. The means by which reporters publicly credit a source for story information is called attribution. Such attribution is signaled when a person or organization’s name is linked in a story sentence with verbs denoting a person speaking, such as “said”, “claimed”, and so forth. Attribution also may be made by verbs denoting a source’s state of mind, such as “thinks”, “feels”, and “wants”. Story information not clearly attributed to a source is assumed to originate from a reporter’s direct observations of actions and events (Fico et al, 1998, p.112).

Post-Partisanship

Brazile (2008) defines post-partisanship as the desire of Americans to see their leaders come together to solve problems without first resorting to finger pointing, name-calling and other childish games. Further, it might also suggest that such definition might include elected and appointed leaders actually respect each other when they disagree on the issues (Nov. 24). In addition, Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger argues “post-partisanship is not simply Republicans and Democrats each bringing their proposals to the table and working out
differences. It is Republicans and Democrats actively giving birth to new ideas together” (as cited in Kondracke, 2007).

News Story Tone

News story tone can be classified within a sentiment analysis or opinion mining frame in four different directions. Pang & Lee (2008) suggest a news story tone can be positive, negative, neutral and or mixed, depending on the amount of positive and negative contents identified in a news story (as shown on figure A). In addition, Balahur & Steinberger (n.d.) point out news articles and other media reports typically contain much less clearly stated opinions. “Although support or criticism are sometimes expressed, the bias or sentiment of the journalist is often expressed indirectly, for instance by highlighting some facts while possibly omitting others or by the choice of words” (Balahur & Steinberger, n.d., p.2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
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<td>+pos,-neg</td>
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<th>Neutral</th>
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<td>-pos,-neg</td>
<td>+pos,+neg</td>
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Fig. A

For the purpose of this research, the author will identify the positive and negative comments of each news story based on Pang & Lee’s methodology of sentiment analysis or opinion mining. These findings will subsequently be classified by the majority rule (50% + 1) and will finally be coded as “positive”, “negative”, “neutral” or “mixed”.
Newspapers Researched

Newspapers were primarily selected because of their social, political and economic relevance in the region. In addition, their geographic location and publication language were accounted. However, some of the limitations encountered in the sample selected were the difficulty in finding and accessing information accompanied by the language barrier yet the author relied on her linguistic skills of various foreign languages to perform news story translations. Following are the newspapers utilized as units of analysis:

North America
The Globe and Mail (Canada)
The New York Times (U.S.)
The Washington Post (U.S.)
The Honolulu Advertiser (Hawaii)
Diario de Morelos (Mexico)

South America
El Colombiano (Colombia)
O Globo (Brazil)
El Pais (Uruguay)
Clarin (Argentina)
El Mercurio (Chile)

Europe
The Guardian (U.K)
La Tribune (France)
El Mundo (Spain)
Corriere della Sera (Italy)
The Moscow News (Russia)

Africa
Morocco Board (Morocco)
Sudan Tribune (Sudan)
Irin (Zimbabwe)*
The Times (South Africa)
Madagascar Tribune (Madagascar)

* Integrated Regional Information Networks, is a unique humanitarian news and analysis service; part of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
Middle East

*Today's Zaman (Turkey)**
The Jordan Times (Jordan)
Saudi Gazette (Saudi Arabia)
Tehran Times (Iran)
Gulf News (United Arab Emirates)

Asia

Daily News & Analysis (India)
China Daily (China)
The Asahi Shimbun (Japan)
Manila Standard Today (Philippines)
The Jakarta Post (Indonesia)

Australia

Sunday Times (Western Australia)
The Courier Mail (Queensland)
The Australian (New South Wales)
The Sydney Morning Herald (New South Wales)
The Age (Victoria)

**Turkey, a Eurasian country, will be considered part of the Middle East based on its location in the Anatolian Peninsula and its religion importance in the area (although Turkey is a secular state, Islam is the largest religion in the area)

Note: Antarctica will not be included in this research study. The Antarctic Sun (funded by the National Science Foundation) is the only newspaper of the continent and exclusively provides information within the science field.
Chapter IV
Research Findings

For this study, a total of thirty five news articles were evaluated in seven different regions of the world: North America, South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Australia. From each region, five newspapers were strategically selected based on their social, political, and economic relevance in the area. Following are the most relevant content categories analyzed in how the world press presented the Obama Election Day.

News story originality

The category was classified as “original” if content was unique, enthused, and innovative, whereas a duplicate of other stories was given a “no original” value. The study found that 71.4% of the stories were a duplicate of other stories and only 22.9% of them were original in content (See figure 1 below). However, there were other stories (5.7%) that presented a peculiar originality and did not fall under the conventional sorting (see figure 1 below). These stories were produced by The Moscow News from Russia and The Asahi Shimbun from Japan. Further details will be discussed in the following pages.

Similar content included repetitive information concerning horse race reporting, main administration challenges, candidate’s strengths and weaknesses, exit and opinion poll results, racial content, and news story tone, among others. In addition, the study observed Obama’s election night victory speech was monotonously quoted by several newspapers. “It’s been a long time coming, but tonight because of what we did on this day in this election at this defining moment, change has come to America.” This same quote was reported by The Globe and Mail (Canada), The New York Times (United States), The Washington Post (United States), El
In addition, the unpopularity of the Bush administration was for the most part one of the favorite pieces to include in the story telling of the world newspapers. Former United States president was indeed heavily criticized by the world press, “The election was in many respects a referendum on the two-term president, whose popularity has plunged to the lowest levels since the 1930s, because of his administration’s handling economy, Hurricane Katrina, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan,” The Washington Post reported (Barnes, & Shear, 2008, Nov. 5). This same scenario was frequently portrayed by many of the world newspapers.

Furthermore, upon evaluating the stories by world regions, the results revealed that eight out of thirty five news stories were original in content. These were produced by the North American, African, and Australian presses (See figure 2 below). In North America, The
Honolulu Advertiser from Hawaii and Diario de Morelos from Mexico were the only newspapers to report unique contents. In the island, the enjoyment reached the Advertiser's front page with an enthused tone that hailed the new elected candidate, "Hawai'i voters, in a show of local pride, gave the Punahou School graduate his largest victory margin of any state in the nation" (DePledge, 2008, Nov. 5). In addition, the story evolved within a more emotional edge that praised Obama's presence in the island. Obama's sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, had also a say on the story, "Although Barack is not here to celebrate with all of you, he is also here with you tonight in spirit," The Honolulu Advertiser announced (Nov. 5).

Figure 2

The Mexican press was not far behind in content. The story opened up with a humorous style —“The skinny kid with the funny name, not afraid to walk alone, voted in on Tuesday night
by Americans of many colors, will be the first Black president in the White House” (Prats, Nov.5) —and closed in an amiable fashion that no other story touched upon, “May he be blessed by all the spirits; black, white, yellow, tan, brown and red skinned. May their wisdom penetrate his meditations and their hands rest on his shoulders to share the burden and steer him in the right direction toward change... to show the world... Yes, we still can” (Nov.5).

Nevertheless, the African press was the predominant region for unique, enthused, and innovative news stories (see figure 2 above). All of the newspapers selected for the study revealed original contents in their own fashion. Morocco Board narrated a remarkable, one of a kind, enthused, and avant-garde story:

They stood side by side. A long line as far as the mind can understand. Head down they had left everything behind. Their dreams, ambitions, memories and smiles of the past. But like in fairytales, when all was lost. When people got tired to ask and forgot how to speak. When life lost its meaning by losing its color. They turned their head for the last time. They wanted to freeze that final moment. They wanted to capture the eternal second. That's when they felt the breeze of hope. A breeze of words spoken by a man that ignited the crippled candle inside each broken sole (sic., “soul”) of this nation (Temsamani, 2008, Nov.5).

The Sudanese press also had a say in the region in spite of the turbulence encircling the nation’s heart. “Darfur rebels hail Obama’s victory in United States elections,” Sudan Tribune’s headline read (AFP, 2008, Nov. 6). The case in Zimbabwe, however, posed a more engaging scenario. Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) reported a first hand story that described the very first impact the election had on Zimbabweans. "We held our elections in March, and this is November and they have not been finalized (sic., “finalized”). On television
we watched Obama win an election which was free of violence and with none of the controversy [which plagued] ours,” Elias Mugari, a Zimbabwean national, told IRIN (IRIN, 2008, Nov. 6).

In the same fashion, the South African press reported a praising story where Obama’s victory posed important lessons for local leaders. Democratic Alliance leader Helen Zille said, “South Africa will have to learn from Obama’s success, and take the politics of the open opportunity society to heart” (Mahlangu & May, 2008, Nov. 5). Last but not least, the Madagascar press opened up with a unique story tone of elation, “C’est fait. C’est lui. Barack Obama est devenu le 44ème président des Etats-Unis depuis hier. Cette victoire revient seulement et uniquement à Barack Hussein Obama”— It’s a fact. It's him. Barack Obama has become the 44th president of the United States. This victory is only and uniquely to Barack Hussein Obama (“Barack Obama”, 2008).

Yet this jubilant sentiment was not shared in other regions of the world. The Moscow News from Russia and The Asahi Shimhun from Japan were the exception to the press (See figure 1 above). Can one Obama change everything? The Moscow News headline read. President Medvedev from Russia spoke right out to the United States of America and to the world the day after Barack Obama was voted into office. He did not congratulate Obama but blamed the United States for the global financial crisis and reminded everyone about the awfulness of the Bush administration:

The outright atrocities of the Bush administration —from the still operational Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba, where inmates are held without legal representation, to the invasion of a sovereign state, Iraq, in direct contravention of U.N. law —will not and should not be forgotten any time soon. Indeed, they must be addressed (Bridge, 2008, Nov. 5).
Medvedev also warned the United States about deploying short-range Iskander missiles close to its borders with NATO countries Poland and Lithuania, in response to United States plans for a missile defense system in Europe. In addition, the President recalled Obama about the challenges awaiting the administration. "So this brings us back to Barack Obama, who has inherited a kitchen full of dirty dishes in the midst of financial meltdown. Barack Obama and the American people should work closely with Dmitry Medvedev and the Russian people," Medvedev stated (Nov. 5).

Conversely, The Asahi Shimbun from Japan disclosed a more delicate story than the one revealed by The Moscow News. "Getting to know Obama is 1st task," The Asahi Shimbun headline read. Officials pointed out their concern about establishing a solid rapport with the 47-year old Democrat because of the many challenges awaiting the administration, including North Korea's weapons of mass destruction threatens in the region. Nevertheless, former Prime Minister of Japan, Taro Aso, expressed his desire to strengthen Japan-United States relations and extended the nation's cooperation in addressing the war against terrorism, the global financial crisis, and the North Korea state of affairs ("Getting to know Obama", 2008).

Candidate's ideas and policy proposals

Upon evaluating candidate's ideas and policy proposals, three major approaches stood out in the contents of the news stories: the United States economic situation, the war in Iraq, and the United States foreign policy affairs. The study found that in 11.4% of the stories, Obama promised to build a lasting foundation for America's economic prosperity and security around the core challenges facing the nation — economy, war, energy, health care and education (See figure 3 below). In addition, 5.7% of the stories revealed that the candidate expressed his
intention to withdraw United States troops from Iraq and called for a new opening to United States adversaries, such as Iran and Cuba. Candidate urged the closing of the Guantanamo Bay prison and favored cap-and-trade systems to reduce global warming. Lastly, 14.3% of the stories disclosed candidate’s intentions to build and strengthen United States foreign relations.

Unexpectedly, the study found that 68.6% of the world newspapers did not include candidate’s ideas and policy proposals in their news stories (See figure 3).

![CANDIDATE'S IDEAS AND POLICY PROPOSALS](chart)

Figure 3

These same results were observed by regions of the world (see figure 4). In North America, the news coverage of policy proposals was surprisingly neglected. The exception was *The New York Times*, which called upon the economic, political, and social situation of the nation, “Mr. Obama will come into office after an election in which he laid out a number of clear
promises: to cut taxes for most Americans, to get the United States out of Iraq in a fast and orderly fashion, and to expand health care” (Nagourney, 2008, Nov. 5) (See figure 4).

In South America, the scenario was not that different from the one projected in North America. The United States economic crisis remained the dominant factor of the news stories (See figure 4). O Globo from Brazil, however, was the only newspaper from the region to make Obama’s policy proposals part of its narration:

Numa campanha dominada até o final por notícias ruins na economia, a liderança de Obama e suas propostas sobre como lidar com a crise desequilibram a disputa a seu favor. As pesquisas de boca-de-urna mostraram que a economia era a principal questão da campanha para 60 por cento dos eleitores — In a campaign dominated by the end of
the bad news on the economy, Obama’s leadership and proposals on how to deal with the crisis placed the dispute in his favor. Opinion polls showed that the economy was the main issue in the campaign by 60 percent of the voters (Whitesides, 2008, Nov. 5).

On the other hand, the Middle Eastern press attributed great preponderance to policy contents in their news stories. All of the newspapers from the region—with the exception of the Saudi Gazette (Saudi Arabia)—included part of the candidate’s ideas and policy proposals in their news story contents (See figure 4). The Turkish press enlightened Obama’s promises in regard to the war in Iraq. “Obama has said he will try to withdraw United States troops from Iraq in 16 months and has called for a new opening to United States adversaries, such as Iran and Cuba,” Today’s Zaman reported (AP, 2008, Nov. 6). The Jordanian press concurred with the Turkish press about the political situation of the war and laid emphasis on the economic crisis of the United States, “Obama has promised to withdraw United States troops from Iraq in sixteen months of his term and to bolster United States troop levels in Afghanistan, but his first task will be tackling the United States financial crisis, the worst since the Great depression,” The Jordan Times announced (Whitesides, 2008, Nov. 6).

United States foreign relations not only played a major role in the Iranian and Emirati presses but both called upon the abhorred Bush administration in their narrations (See figure 4). The Tehran Times from Iran reported, “Obama is promising to renew bruised ties with United States allies, and to engage some of the United States’ foes” (AFP, 2008, Nov. 6). The Gulf News from the United Arab Emirates added, “Obama has promised to restore United States leadership in the world by working closely with foreign allies and dropping some of the policies that made Bush an unpopular leader at home and abroad” (AP, 2008, Nov. 6).
By the same token, the Asian press emphasized on Obama’s intentions to build and strengthen United States foreign relations in the region. The exceptions were the Japanese and Philippines newspapers, which conversely omitted policy contents in their news stories (See figure 4). In India, the Daily News & Analysis stressed the importance of addressing the major conflicts the nation was facing with neighboring territories, “Obama has promised to bring United States soldiers home and has indicated that the focus of his war on terror will be Pakistan’s tribal areas and the neighboring area of Afghanistan” (Choudhury, 2008, Nov. 5). In China, the China Daily adjoined the Daily’s outlook and heightened the immediate necessity to address the Afghan and Iraqi wars, “Obama has vowed to restore United States leadership in the world by working closely with foreign allies, to withdraw United States troops from Iraq and to bolster United States troop’s levels in Afghanistan” (Agencies, 2008, Nov. 6). Nevertheless, the Indonesian press laid emphasis on the discordant political relations in the nation and the economic crisis, “Obama promised to change the divisive politics of Washington, bridge the conservative-liberal divide of American society and then, responding to the financial crisis and the onset of recession, the reining in of Wall Street,” The Jakarta Post reported (Selamat, 2008, Nov. 5).

In Australia, the press was more conservative. Only two out of five newspapers from the region included policy material in their news stories. On one hand, the Sunday Times from Western Australia revealed Obama’s promises to build a lasting foundation for America’s economic prosperity and security around the core challenges facing the nation — economy, war, energy, health care and education (See figure 4). “He spoke of United States troops risking their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan and the challenges of providing health care and education to a new generation of Americans” (“Obama”, 2008). On the other hand, The Age from Victoria touched
upon some of the United States foreign policy challenges, "To the rest of the world, Senator Obama promised that America would defeat those who threatened it but would help countries that pursue peace" (Davies, 2008, Nov. 6). Conversely, the European and African presses excluded policy contents in their news stories (See figure 4).

Election impact on nation’s citizens

Did the world press make each nation’s citizens part of their narrations? How did people around the globe sense the presidential triumph of Senator Barack Obama? Did they have a say on the election? Did the press report the impact the election had on them? Unexpectedly, the world press neglected for the most part the impact of such event on the distinct populations that the study examined. From the original sample of thirty five newspapers, only ten of them reported impact content (See figure 5). In addition, the study found that 71.4% of the world press did not include impact election material in their new stories. In fact, only 28.6% of them addressed citizen’s opinions about the election (See figure 5).
These same results were observed by regions of the world. As figure 6 illustrates, North America and Africa were the leading regions in making each nation's citizens part of their news stories. Conversely, the South American and Australian presses were more moderate in coverage. In North America, the newspapers recalled the world that "democracy" is possible even in the midst of a ruined economy and two wars in course, "It's been a long time coming, but tonight because of what we did on this day in this election at this defining moment, change has come to America," President elected stated during his election night speech (Nagourney, 2008, Nov. 5).

**Figure 6**

With this in mind, how did Americans experience the election of their 44th president of the nation? "A roar sounded from the 125,000 people gathered in Hutchison Field in Grant Park at the moment that they learned Mr. Obama had been projected the winner," *The New York*
One Day in the World’s Press

Times, reported. The capital’s leading newspaper also shared the euphoria lived in the heart of the nation. “The historic Election Day brought millions of new and sometimes tearful voters, long lines at polling places nationwide, and celebrations on street corners and in front of the White House,” The Washington Post announced (Barnes, & Shear, 2008, Nov. 5).

In Hawaii, The Honolulu Advertiser laid emphasis on the special significance the election had on native and non-native Hawaiians not only because of Obama’s attachment to the land but also because of the unique understanding he would bring to the island. The Advertiser recounted how Obama’s inspirational messages of hope and change inundated the streets of Honolulu.

Sasha Zaytseva, who moved to Hawaii 12 years ago from Russia, voted for the first time. “It's history making,” she said. “I came for Obama” (DePledge, 2008, Nov. 5). The Mexican press also shared their citizen’s partaking in the election, “Inheriting a world in shambles on all fronts, his work will be endless and we are here, historically participating in the beginning,” Diario de Morelos reported (Prats, Nov. 5). The Canadian press, however, was the exception of the North American press. The Globe and Mail excluded on its narration how Canadians sensed the election.

This same symbolic moment praised in North America was also extolled across the continent. In Africa, the Moroccan press shared a unique narration on how their citizens lived the election of Barack H. Obama:

Tonight, so many of us cried and grabbed our faces with both hands to hug our bruised smiles. Tonight, when all was lost, one man stood to renew our hope. One man glued back the shuddered glass and filled it with dreams of tomorrow. One man and a nation joined hands tonight to plant the seed in the final hour. Tonight we cried tears of joy and watered the seed knowing it will grow tall and strong. Like in the glorious past the tree
will rise to the highest sky. Like a beacon, the tree will bring back the moon and the stars that had left in that final hour. Tonight, let those who are present tell the absents. Let the story of tonight be written on napkins in small restaurants across this country. Let the story of tonight be forever stored in blogs and decorate web pages across the world (Temsamani, 2008, Nov. 5).

Furthermore, the Sudanese press laid emphasis on election impact of its nation’s citizens. The Sudanese population had a say on the election and the story evolved around the Sudanese rebel groups who participated as the main protagonists of the narration. Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) expressed his opinion about the election and shared his forthcoming expectations, “Obama’s election demonstrates the greatness of America and its leadership in the world. I urge Mr. Obama to translate these great values in his handling the Darfur crisis to stop the genocide and resolving the conflict his priority” AFP (2008, Nov. 6). The SLM chief also said he aspired to replicating the United States model of racial and religious tolerance one day in Sudan (Nov. 6).

Moreover, Zimbabweans shared not only their contentment of elected president Obama but regarded the election as a unique and fruitful experience for the mindset of the nation. The IRIN (Integrated Regional Information Networks) reported,

Many Zimbabweans, including elderly people who rarely follow global politics, have followed the rise of Obama, and they have identified with his ideas. Obama has had a profound effect on many Zimbabweans, with the younger generation regarding him as one of their own, while the elderly view him as some favorite nephew whose ideas they have quickly embraced (IRIN, 2008, Nov. 6).
In addition, the South African press revealed an engaging and evolving narration that touched upon the many lessons to be learned by the South African population. *The Times* not only highlighted the importance of learning about new political processes—such as the one offered by the Obama election—but also gave a voice to its nation’s citizens, “South Africa will have to learn from Obama’s success, and take the politics of the open opportunity society to heart,” Independent Democrats leader Patricia De Lille said (Mahlangu & May, 2008, Nov. 5). African Christian Democratic party leader Kenneth Meshoe added, “African leaders would do well to learn from this election to accept outright wins by opposition parties and hand over reins with grace” (Nov. 5). Thus, the African press was certainly the leading region in presenting unique news stories that laid emphasis on the impact the election had on each nation’s citizens.

Nevertheless, the South American and Australian presses were more conservative in tone (See figure 6). In South America, only the *Clarín* from Argentina reported the impact of the election in the nation. Yet the news story content was rich enough to stand out from the entire region,

*Nunca pensé que iba a llegar este día*, dijo a Clarín Gloria Mirna, una afronorteamericana, mientras que una lágrima caía por su mejilla. "Yo sé que Obama no podrá cambiar todo, pero, pase lo que pase, creo que hemos dado un paso hacia adelante"—I never thought this day would come," Gloria Mirna told to Clarín, an African American, while a tear was falling down her cheek. "I know that Obama will not be able to change everything, but whatever happens, I think that we have made a step forward (Naron, 2008, Nov. 5).

In Australia, *The Courier Mail* of Queensland was the only newspaper to report election impact content of its nation’s citizens, “Australians have joined the global embrace of Democrat
Barack Obama’s historic victory to become the first black man to lead the world superpower,” The Mail’s headline read (O’Malley & Madigan, 2008, Nov. 5). Nevertheless, this same emotion was not shared by other presses in the world. The European, Middle Eastern and Asian presses entirely neglected a say of each nation’s citizens in their narrations (See figure 6).

**Horse race reporting**

“A horse is judged not by its absolute speed or skill but in comparison to the speed of other horses, and especially by its wins and losses. Similarly, candidates are pushed to discuss other candidates; events are understood in a context of competition” (Broh, 1980, p.515). Horse race coverage is more predominant and can be easily grasped during presidential campaigns. The study found that a great majority of the news articles laid great preponderance to election poll results, candidate’s weaknesses, and news story tone. Policy proposals were for the most part ignored in their narrations (see Figure 7). The above definition of “horse race” was taken into consideration when evaluating the category.

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**Figure 7**
As shown in figure 7 (see above), the study discovered that 71.4% of the world press made horse race reporting part of the Obama Election Day news stories whereas a 28.6% of the press excluded horse race content in their narrations (See figure 7). These same findings were observed by regions of the world. As figure 8 illustrates, the study revealed an excessive amount of horse race material utilized by the world press in their narrations. The information presented was in many cases not only irrelevant but detrimental enough, particularly when addressing candidate opponent, Republican Senator John McCain. Nevertheless, the African press was able to breach such relentless reporting style. None of their newspapers reported horse race content (See figure 8).

Figure 8
In North America, all newspapers reported horse race content in their news stories with the exception of Diario de Morelos from Mexico. The North American press’ focus was on poll results accompanied by an evident tone of sarcasm towards candidate John McCain. The Globe and Mail from Canada reported, “The popular vote was closer than some polls predicted. With more than three-quarters of the vote counted, Mr. Obama, was five percentage points ahead of his Republican rival” (Koring, 2008, Nov. 5). As argued by Broh (1980), horse race events are understood in a context of competition and the above quote portrays a clear win-lose scenario (p.515).

The New York Times was more aggressive in tone. In fact, the Times stood out because of its heavy use on poll results and use of detriment adjectives upon addressing Republican Senator John McCain, “Mr. McCain failed to take from Mr. Obama the two Democratic states that were at the top of his target list, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania” (Nagourney, 2008, Nov. 5). In this quote, The Times presents Obama as the evident winner of the race and portrays Senator McCain, on the contrary, as the evident “looser” of the race. Moreover, The Washington Post bolstered election poll results on its narration with quotes such as, “Obama overpowered McCain in Ohio, Florida, Virginia and Pennsylvania.” Likewise The New York Times, the nation’s leading newspaper presented Obama as the obvious triumphant of the race, “the Democrat easily won most of the Northeast, the Rust Belt, the West Coast and Mid-Atlantic States that normally back Democrats” (Barnes & Shear, 2008, Nov. 5). Furthermore, The Post opened up with an optimistic tone upon addressing the victory of Senator Obama yet with a bitter one upon Senator McCain from Arizona,

Obama, 47, the son of a Kenyan father and a white mother from Kansas, led a tide of Democratic victories across the nation in defeating Republican Sen. John McCain of
Arizona, a 26-year veteran of Washington who could not overcome his connections to President Bush’s increasingly unpopular administration (Nov. 5).

In South America, the press was much more critical than in North America. All of the newspapers selected from the region included horse race content in their news stories. For the most part, the South American press made poll results part of their narrations and also laid great emphasis on incumbent Arizona Senator’s weaknesses. *El Colombiano* (Colombia), for example reported, “Obama ganó con facilidad a su contrincante, el senador republicano John McCain, quien intentaba por segunda vez llegar a la Casa Blanca—Obama easily won over his opponent Republican Senator John McCain, who was trying for the second time to reach to the White House (EFE, 2008, Nov. 5). By the same token, *O Globo* from Brazil portrayed McCain as the evident looser of the race, “Mas a derrota de McCain já parecia evidente com o andamento da apuração em Estados importantes, especialmente Ohio e Pensilvânia—But McCain’s defeat was already evident in key states like Ohio and Pennsylvania (Whitesides, 2008, Nov. 5).

The Uruguayan, Argentinean, and Chilean presses were not far behind in horse race content. “Obama sumaba ya 338 votos electorales, frente a los 163 de su rival John McCain—Obama already counted with 338 electoral votes versus 163 from his rival John McCain,” *El País* from Uruguay reported (Agencias, 2008, Nov. 5). *El Mercurio* from Chile, moreover, opened up with a news story that projected Obama as the evident winner of the night: “Obama dio el primer golpe de la noche al imponerse en Pennsylvania, estado en el que las huestes del ex héroe de Vietnam habían puesto los mayores recursos en tiempo y dinero para quedarse con la victoria—Obama struck the first blow of the night by winning Pennsylvania, state in which the armies of former hero of Vietnam had invested the greatest amount of time and money to keep the victory up (“Ha transcurrido”, 2008).
Nevertheless, the scenario in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Australia was not that different from the one illustrated in North and South America (see figure 8). Poll results were in fact the predominant theme of the news coverage, “Obama had 52% of the popular vote against 47% for McCain,” The Guardian from the United Kingdom reported (MacAskill & Goldenberg, 2008, Nov. 6). “Senator Obama solidified traditional Democratic states and cut deep into the Republican territory, which his rival needed to control to win the White House,” the Tehran Times from Iran announced (AFP, 2008, Nov. 6). Other presses, however, were more emphatic on McCain’s expected defeat over Senator Obama. The Gulf News from the United Arab Emirates, for example, proposed a clear win-lose set-up,

But he lost not only Ohio and Virginia but also Iowa and New Mexico, two more states won by Bush in 2004. His loss in Pennsylvania, a state won by Democrats in the last four elections, eliminated his best hope of capturing a Democratic-leaning state (AP, 2008, Nov. 6).

News story racial content

How did the world press regard candidate elected Obama? Is he a black in the skin of a white? Is he a white in the skin of a black? Is he black? Is he white? Is he interracial? Did the world press make Obama’s race part of their narrations? Was race not essential? Was race perhaps the main theme of the story? Did Barack Obama’s skin color matter to the world? Did Obama’s skin color give him more legitimacy than any other American leader in history? The study found that only 8.6% of the stories excluded racial content in their stories (see figure 9). By contrast, 17.1% of the news stories alluded Obama as the “first African-American president of the United States” and 54.3% of them regarded candidate elected as the “first black chief executive to be voted into the White House” (see figure 9). Moreover, 2.9% of the news stories
associated candidate elected with legendary American clergyman, activist and prominent leader in the African American civil rights movement. “Martin Luther King has been fulfilled with the Obama election”, several newspapers reported. Other stories made up 17.1% of the results by revealing a different approach, which will be discussed in the following pages (see figure 9).

Upon analyzing these same results by the total number of newspapers examined, the study discovered that only three of them did not make racial content part of their narrations and sixteen referred to candidate elected as the “first black to be voted into the White House” (as shown in figure 9). With this in mind, how did the North American press portray the 44th president of the United States? The press reported an interesting combination of racial content between the “first African-American” and “black president” of the United States (see figure 10).
below). The Canadian and Hawaiian presses regarded Obama as the youthful but charismatic Afro-American who struck the winning of the election. *The Globe and Mail* from Canada opened up with a euphoric and welcoming narration, “Americans overwhelmingly chose Barack Obama as their next president last night, sending the first African-American to the Oval Office in a historic election victory that also gave Democrats commanding control of Congress” (Koring, 2008, Nov. 5). *The Honolulu Advertiser* from the Honolulu Island added, “Barack Obama made history last night, becoming the first African-American, and the first person born in Hawai‘i, elected president of the United States” (DePledge, 2008, Nov. 5).

**Figure 10**

The American press was more aggressive in content (see figure 10). *The Washington Post*’s headline read, “Obama Makes History. U.S. Decisively Elects First Black President;
Democrats Expand Control of Congress” (Barnes & Shear, 2008, Nov. 5). The New York Times’ headline read, “Obama Elected President as Racial Barrier Falls” (Nagourney, 2008, Nov. 5). Furthermore, the news story of the Times opened up with a strong impetus on Obama’s race, “Barack Hussein Obama was elected the 44th president of the United States on Tuesday, sweeping away the last racial barrier in American politics with ease as the country chose him as its first black chief executive” (Nov. 5). Was race perhaps the main theme of the story? Was the terminology “first black” attractive enough to captivate the many audiences of the leading newspaper? The Times’ story did not only praise Obama’s race but it evolved with a unique contemptuous style with the use of nouns such as “slave”.

As the returns became known, and Mr. Obama passed milestone after milestone—Ohio, Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Iowa and New Mexico—people rolled spontaneously into the streets to celebrate what many described, with perhaps overstated if understandable exhilaration, a new era in a country where just 143 years ago, Mr. Obama, as a black man, could have been owned as a slave (Nov. 5).

By the same token, the Mexican press embraced Obama’s skin color yet in an enthusiastic tone, “The skinny kid with the funny name, not afraid to walk alone, voted in on Tuesday night by Americans of many colors, will be the first Black president in the White House,” Diario de Morelos reported (Prats, 2008, Nov. 5).

Nonetheless, the scenario was more detriment in South America (see figure 10). The press fell in harsh and punitive terms upon regarding the elected President, “Obama Presidente. Primer negro en llegar a la Casa Blanca—President Obama. First black to reach to the White House,” El Colombiano’s front page read (See Appendix A). Moreover, the Colombian press shared same New York Times’ derogatory terminology about Obama’s skin color “Obama, de 47
años, logró además acabar con la última barrera racial que existía en un país donde, hace 143 años, hubiera sido un esclavo—Obama, 47, was able to eradicate the last racial barrier that existed in a country where, 143 years ago, he could have been owned as a slave (EFE, 2008, Nov. 5). The Uruguayan, Argentinean, Chilean, and Brazilian presses were a short way off the Colombian press. They all opened up with solid headlines that stressed Obama’s racial affiliation, “El candidado demócrata se convierte por mayoría abrumadora en el primer presidente negro de la historia de Estados Unidos —The democratic candidate has been voted, by an overwhelming majority, the first black president in United States history,” El País from Uruguay announced (Agencias, 2008, Nov. 5). “Histórico: Por primera vez, un negro llega a la presidencia de los EE.UU—Historic: For the first time, a black makes it to the United States presidency,” Clarín’s front page read (Naron, 2008, Nov. 5).

On the other hand, the European press was more conservative in tone (see figure 10). The French and Italian presses alluded Obama as the first African-American president of the United States: “Pour la première fois, un Afro-Américain a été élu à la Maison-Blanche—For the first time, an African-American has been elected in the White House,” La Tribune from Paris announced (“It’s Obama”, 2008). Conversely, the Russian press did not make race part of its news story. President Medvedev’s speech early on that day captivated the lines of The Moscow News. The Guardian from United Kingdom and El Mundo from Spain regarded Obama as the “first black to be voted into the White House”. The Guardian’s front page read “First black leader to hail 'birth of freedom' at inauguration” (MacAskill & Goldenberg, 2008, Nov. 6)

Nevertheless, the African press distinguished from the rest of the world press. Its unique, one of a kind, and commendable narrative style positioned candidate elected within a remarkable news frame. Obama was not only regarded by his full name but racial content was understood in
an exceptional manner, very different, from the one portrayed by the world press (see figure 10). The Moroccan press was with no doubt the one that praised Barack Obama’s skin color in an unforeseen and invigorating tenor,

Let the story of the one man and the nation who said "Yes we can" be remembered forever. Let the story of the son of the African immigrant and the nation of blacks, whites, Arabs, Asians and Latinos be remembered by all. Let the story of the man who united Christians, Muslims, Jews and all of those that said "I believe", be told (Temsamani, 2008, Nov.5).

Yet the Moroccan press was not the only one to welcome the Obama triumph. The Sudanese, South African, Zimbabwean and Malagasy presses also joined hands to embrace and commemorate the elected president, “Darfur rebels hail Obama’s victory in United States elections,” Sudan’s Tribune headline read (AFP, 2008, Nov. 6). Not only the Sudanese press made its citizens — rebel groups — part of its narration but regarded president elected in a graceful and courteous manner, “Our congratulations go to Mr. Obama on his well deserved victory” Sudan’s Tribune news story closed (Nov. 6). The Times from South Africa added, “Messages of congratulations poured in for President-elect Barack Obama” (Mahlangu & May, 2008, Nov. 5). The Zimbabwean and Malagasy presses also addressed Obama’s skin color, but the narrations evolved in a schmaltzy context, “It is good for Zimbabwe in particular, and Africa in general, that a young African-American has become the most powerful man in the world,” IRIN from Zimbabwe reported (IRIN, 2008, Nov. 6). Furthermore, the Malagasy press closed with a flourish, “Ce blanc dans la peau d’un noir est plus qu’un héros, et a tout d’un génie—This white man in a black man’s skin is more than a hero, he’s a genius” Madagascar Tribune reported (“Barack Obama”, 2008).
Conversely, the Middle Eastern press was bitterer in content. The main theme of the news stories, likewise the South American press, was Obama’s skin color (See figure 10). Candidate elected was primarily regarded as “the first black to be voted into the White house”—with the exception of the Emirati press, which alluded Obama as the 44th president of the United States. Turkish Today’s Zaman headline read, “Democrat Barack Obama, fresh from a historic election win as the United State’s first black president” (AP, 2008, Nov. 6). In addition, the Saudi press added, “Barack Obama is the first black president of the United States of America and celebrations are erupting worldwide as you read this” (“Change” 2008).

The Asian press portrayed a combined racial perspective of candidate elected. Some of the newspapers emphasized on Obama’s skin color whereas others emphasized on Obama’s ethnicity—first African-American president of the United States. On one hand, the Japanese press neglected racial content on its news story. On the other hand, the Daily News & Analysis from India announced the triumph of Democratic candidate Barack Obama to become the first African-American to win the United States’ presidency. In addition, the Indonesian press not only regarded candidate elected in a courteous manner but also stressed the special significance of Obama’s attachment to the land, “Congratulations must first be extended to Americans for taking this important step in breaking down racial barriers and for the first time in history, sending an African-American - and one with strong Asian connections for good measure - to the White House,” The Jakarta Post announced (Selamat, 2008, Nov. 5).

The Chinese and Philippine presses also laid emphasis on candidate elected skin’s color. The China Daily opened up, “Barack Obama rode a wave of voter discontent to an historic White House victory, promising change as the first black United States president but facing enormous challenges from a deep economic crisis and two lingering wars” (Agencies, 2008,
Furthermore, the *Manila Standard Today* added, “Barack Obama swept to victory as America’s first black president Tuesday night in an Electoral College landslide that overcame racial barriers as old as the United States itself” (“Obama wins”, 2008).

Yet the Australian press was not far away in racial content coverage. The main focus of the press was Obama’s skin color—with the exception of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, which neglected racial content on its narration. However, the Australian press had a different racial content approach than the one portrayed by the other international newspapers. Race was regarded in an enthusiastic and invigorating manner as part of the historic “change” occurring in the United States, “America’s first black president Barack Obama has told a sea of screaming supporters that he is walking proof that anything can happen in America,” the *Sunday Times* from Western Australia reported (“Obama”, 2008). *The Age* from Victoria added, “Barack Obama has pledged to unite Americans across racial and partisan divides and to show the world that "America can change", after making history yesterday by being elected the first black President of the world's most powerful nation” (Davies, 2008, Nov. 6). Furthermore, *The Courier Mail* from Queensland presented a unique perspective of racial content within the region. The Queensland press associated candidate elected with legendary American clergyman, activist and prominent leader in the African American civil rights movement. Current prime minister of Australia, Mr Kevin Rudd told *The Courier Mail*:

Forty-five years ago Martin Luther King had a dream of an America where men and women would be judged not on the colour (sic., “color”) of their skin but on the content of their character. Today, what America has done is turn that dream into a reality (O'Malley & Madigan, 2008, Nov. 5).
Chapter V
Conclusions

Was the Obama election a symbolic moment in the history of the world? Did the international newspapers rejoice such historic moment in a euphoric and jubilant manner, or was it perhaps ignored by some? Did the world press call upon Obama’s policy proposals or was horse race the heart of the news on Obama’s Election Day? How did the rest of the globe sense the election of a son of an immigrant from Kenya with a Caucasian mother from Kansas? Did each nation’s citizens have a say on the Election Day? Did Obama’s skin color matter to the world? Was Obama’s new way of thinking what made him such a great candidate, not only for America but for the entire globe?

The win by Obama marked a milestone in the history of the world. Obama, with a spirit born of conviction and stardust, projected a “Yes, we can” across the globe. Many nations believed that the election brought inspirational value for changes in the political culture of the world. Furthermore, the election showcased the power of democracy where “Anything is possible in the North.” But how was this outlook portrayed by the world press? Most media outlets expressed positive hopes and expectations for the president-elected yet some were more skeptical as it was the case of the Russian press. The Moscow News was the only newspaper to scorn the election. President Medvedev’s warning about deploying short-range Iskander missiles in response to United States plans for a missile defense system in Europe, took over the triumph of first-term Senator from Illinois. Although Russia’s state of affairs captivated many of the international newspaper’s front pages, the Obama election remained as the top news story. Thus, the election represented for many nations an unthinkable political process while for others represented a cathartic vehicle that touched upon the nation’s heart. In America, the election was
certainly an important democratic process in the evolution of the nation’s fraught racial history.

In Africa, the election reached the spirit of the land.

In addition, it was interesting to observe the lack of creativity of the world press. As identified in the study, the majority of world newspapers produced duplicate news story contents. Some were more detriment upon addressing the unpopularity of the Bush government whereas some were more delicate upon regarding the many challenges awaiting the Obama administration. The African press was the one that unexpectedly stood out from the rest of the world. Its uniqueness and richness of news story contents positioned the press as the leading one of the globe. In particular, it was impressive to learn about the idiosyncrasy of the Moroccan press. Its narration not only glorified in a unique manner the triumph of Senator Obama but the story itself evolved as a fairytale [Tonight, let those who are present tell the absents. Let the story of tonight be written on napkins in small restaurants across this country. Let the story of tonight be forever stored in blogs and decorate web pages across the world]. In the same manner, it was fascinating to learn about the peculiarity of the narrations presented by the Sudanese, Zimbabwean and Madagascar presses. All of the stories touched upon the many lessons to be learned by local leaders, including the rebel groups of the region. The Obama election not only reached the core of these nations with messages of hope and leadership, but “change” was indeed a model to replicate.

The African press also laid great emphasis on the significant values to be attained from the election. In fact, the African press made each nation’s citizens part of their narrations. All of the newspapers from the region praised the Obama election with a say of their nationals. Conversely, the European, Middle Eastern and Asian newspapers excluded their national’s voice over their publications. Thus, the world press neglected for the most part—as pointed out in the
research findings of this study—the impact of the election on their citizens. Yet the North American press touched upon their nation’s citizens likewise the African press. On one hand, the American people must be applauded for voting into office the first African American of the United States. On the other hand, the American press must be congratulated for sharing their enjoyment with the rest of the world and invigorating their narrations with euphoric messages of “Yes we can”. Moreover, the participation of voter’s such as Ann Nixon Cooper, a 106-year-old Afro-American, will be reminded as an iconic figure of the Obama election [And this year, in this election, she touched her finger to a screen, and cast her vote, because after 106 years in America, through the best of times and the darkest of hours, she knows how America can change].

With this in mind, did Obama’s skin color give him more legitimacy than any other American leader in history? Was the election about Obama’s skin color or did he really represent a different generation than the one from previous incumbents, President Bush and President Clinton? How did the world press perceive the candidate’s racial affiliation? Many publications used Obama’s election to reflect on their country’s own race relations or to comment on America’s. However, as pointed out on the earlier chapters of this thesis, various studies conducted by The Project for Excellence in Journalism & The Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy, revealed an enduring criticism throughout the campaign about Obama’s ethnicity. The research study, furthermore, confirmed this same approach employed by the world press on Obama’s Election Day. “First black to be voted into the White House”, numerous newspapers’ front pages read.

It was also interesting to observe the triviality that the press laid on the news stories. While horse race reporting filled most of the international newspaper’s narrations, the
candidate’s ideas and policy proposals were vastly ignored. Personal details of candidates such as name background and religious affiliation, in addition to poll results coverage, were the news core of many newspapers. Will the press continue to lay emphasis on horse race coverage or is it thinkable that this pattern can be changed in future presidential elections?

Considering the aforementioned criteria, how will the world press present President Obama if he would be re-elected? Would the world press cover with the same enthusiasm it did on November the 4th or will it be more aggressive, perhaps, after learning about Obama’s first Administration? Will the Obama re-election impact the international newspapers with the same impetus of its election as one of the most remarkable leaders in world history? Will the re-election represent a radical change in the socio-ethnic policies of the United States of America, and why not, of the entire globe?

If the next elected President of the United States would be a Hispano-American, will the world press rejoice the victory—as a symbolic change—with the same euphoria it took place with President Obama? How will the Hispanic press portray the election? Will it give the same grandeur as the African press did with the election of Barack Obama? Will this electoral triumph be the equality of ethnicities in the land of liberty and the world?

How will the world press react with the election of a woman in the political life of the United States? Will the world press acknowledge such momentum as a “turn of the page” in the socio-political history of America? Will the election be the universal recognition of the equality between women and men? Will this victory be a model to replicate in other nations of the world where it is still today inconceivable for a woman to reach the Head of State? How will the press of these nations approach the coverage of the news in such a case? This and many other questions wait for the next generation of research in this arena.
References


Appendix A

Coding Form

1. News story identification (number)

2. Newspaper:

North America
1. *The Globe and Mail* (Canada)
4. *The Honolulu Advertiser* (Hawaii)
5. *Diario de Morelos* (Mexico)

South America
6. *El Colombiano* (Colombia)
7. *O Globo* (Brazil)
8. *El País* (Uruguay)
9. *Clarín* (Argentina)
10. *El Mercurio* (Chile)

Europe
12. *La Tribune* (France)
13. *El Mundo* (Spain)
14. *Corriere della Sera* (Italy)
15. *The Moscow News* (Russia)

Africa
16. *Morocco Board* (Morocco)
17. *Sudan Tribune* (Sudan)
18. *Irin* (Zimbabwe)*
19. *The Times* (South Africa)
20. *Madagascar Tribune* (Madagascar)

*Integrated Regional Information Networks,* is a unique humanitarian news and analysis service; part of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
Middle East
21. Today's Zaman (Turkey)**
22. The Jordan Times (Jordan)
23. Saudi Gazette (Saudi Arabia)
24. Tehran Times (Iran)
25. Gulf News (United Arab Emirates)

Asia
26. Daily News & Analysis (India)
27. China Daily (China)
28. The Asahi Shimbun (Japan)
29. Manila Standard Today (Philippines)
30. The Jakarta Post (Indonesia)

Australia
31. Sunday Times (Western Australia)
32. The Courier Mail (Queensland)
33. The Australian (New South Wales)
34. The Sydney Morning Herald (New South Wales)
35. The Age (Victoria)

**Turkey, a Eurasian country, will be considered part of the Middle East based on its location in the Anatolian Peninsula and its religion importance in the area (although Turkey is a secular state, Islam is the largest religion in the area)

Note: Antartica will not be included in this research study. The Antarctic Sun (funded by the National Science Foundation) is the only newspaper of the continent and exclusively provides information within the science field.
General news story characteristics

3. News story prominence
   1. Lead
   2. Non lead

4. News story origin
   1. Newspaper's own reporter
   2. Newspaper's state bureau
   3. Wire Service Agency
   4. Unknown

5. News story primary source
   1. Candidate
   2. Campaign or party
   3. Organization or group
   4. Government
   5. Unknown

6. News story originality
   0. News story content is a duplicate of other stories
   1. News story content is unique, enthused, and innovative
   2. Other

7. News story main topic
   1. Social
   2. Political
   3. Economic
   4. Legal
   5. Foreign
   6. Finance
   7. Other
Candidate's news story characteristics

8. Does news story address candidate's ethnic background?
   0. No
   1. Yes

9. Does news story address candidates' religious affiliation?
   0. No
   1. Yes

10. Does news story address candidate's career background?
    0. No
    1. Yes

11. Does news story address candidates' strengths? ___ Yes ___ No
    
    If yes,
    1. Candidate portrays leadership through messages of change and hope
    2. Obama's versatility makes him a unique candidate
    3. Candidate is an authentic nation unifier

12. Does news story address candidates' weaknesses? ___ Yes ___ No
    
    If yes,
    1. First-term Illinois senator's inexperience and anonymity remain the major concern of his election
    2. Candidate's negligence to address domestic and foreign policies was prominent
    3. Candidate's vague promises of sweeping change provoked uncertainty on voters

13. News story addresses candidates' ideas and policy proposals? ___ Yes ___ No
    
    If yes,
    1. Obama promises to build a lasting foundation for America's economic prosperity and security around the core challenges facing the nation — economy, war, energy, health care and education
    2. Candidate has expressed his intention to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq and has called for a new opening to U.S. adversaries, such as Iran and Cuba. He has urged the closing of the Guantanamo Bay prison and favors cap-and-trade systems to reduce global warming.
    3. Candidate seeks to build and strengthen U.S. foreign relations

14. Does news story address candidates' record(s) or past public performance?
    0. No
    1. Yes
Political news story characteristics

15. Does news story address main administration challenges? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes,
1. U.S. economic crisis, Iraq and Afghan wars, and health care reform remain a top priority of the administration
2. World economic recession and course of the two wars continue to be critical within the international agenda
3. Foreign policy issues must be addressed in a timely manner
4. Other

16. Does news story address election impact on nation’s citizens?
   0. No
   1. Yes

17. Does news story address “war and diplomatic issues”?
   0. No
   1. Yes

18. Does news story address “horse race” reporting?
   0. No
   1. Yes

19. Does news story address government official opinion(s)?
   0. No
   1. Yes

20. Does news story address national public opinion?
   0. No
   1. Yes

21. Does news story address new congressional appointment allocation?
   0. No
   1. Yes

22. Does news story address general campaign activity?
   0. No
   1. Yes

23. Does news story address election exit and or opinion poll results?
   0. No
   1. Yes
24. Does news story address candidate’s election opponent? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes,
1. Candidate recognizes the special significance of Obama’s triumph
2. Democrat Senator won ( ) Electoral College votes in ( ) state(s) vs. Republican Senator
3. “McCain represents nothing more than the continuation of the Bush Administration”
4. The Republican has argued Obama was too inexperienced to be U.S. commander in chief, attacked him as a “socialist” and accused him of being a “pal” with terrorists

25. Does news story address preceding U.S. president? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes,
1. Bush congratulates Obama and promises a smooth transition to the White House
2. “The Bush administration remnants as the worst in the U.S. history”

26. Does news story address racial content? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes,
1. Obama is alluded as the first African-American president of the U.S.
2. “Obama is the first black chief executive to be voted into the White House”
3. “Martin Luther King dream has been fulfilled with the Obama election”
4. Other

27. Does news story address emotive content?
0. No
1. Yes

28. News story tone
1. Positive
2. Negative
3. Neutral
4. Mixed

29. News story main theme
1. “Change and post-partisanship”
2. “Promise, hope and challenges”
4. “End of the republican period”
5. “End of racial barrier”
6. “Historic election”
7. “Symbolic moment”
8. Poll results
9. Other
Yes he can. Massive turnout delivers the most votes ever cast for a U.S. presidential candidate.
Yes he can. Key battlegrounds switch from red to blue, including Florida, Iowa, Ohio and Virginia.
Yes he can. Democrats expand their majority in the House and cement their grip on the Senate.

Obama overcomes
OBAMA
RACIAL BARRIER FALLS IN DECISIVE VICTORY

Democrats in Congress
Strengthen Grip

No Time for Laurels;
Now the Hard Part

After Decades,
A Time to Reap

For Many Abroad,
An Ideal Renewed

The New York Times
November 5, 2008
One Day in the World's Press 74
Obama Makes History

U.S. DECISIVELY ELECTS FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT

DEMOCRATS EXPAND CONTROL OF CONGRESS

Measured Response To Financial Crisis Sealed the Election

Measur... to financial crisis sealed the election. Mr. Obama, a leader in public, did not hide his vision when he announced his top ad visors to work with him on economic plans. The retired general turned congressman had planned since the presidential race began to lay the groundwork for a new government. He told The New York Times last month that the president-elect was coming in with a rare opportunity to influence the course of history. The great challenge will be to show how to do that in a way that is effective and credible. The president-elect said Monday that he was confident he could deliver a strong message.

To what end, the new mayor said, when the nation is facing a financial crisis of unprecedented proportions? The president-elect said Monday that the country is facing a financial crisis of unprecedented proportions.

A Day of Transformation

America's History Gives Way to Its Future

Michael Duffy

A day of transformation.

Obama's victory was the result of a combination of factors: a strong economy, strong leadership and strong values. The president-elect, a leader in public, did not hide his vision when he announced his top advisors to work with him on economic plans. The retired general turned congressman had planned since the presidential race began to lay the groundwork for a new government. He told The New York Times last month that the president-elect was coming in with a rare opportunity to influence the course of history. The great challenge will be to show how to do that in a way that is effective and credible. The president-elect said Monday that he was confident he could deliver a strong message.

To what end, the new mayor said, when the nation is facing a financial crisis of unprecedented proportions? The president-elect said Monday that the country is facing a financial crisis of unprecedented proportions.
VOTERS ON O'AHU SAY ‘YES’ TO RAIL

BY DAN INOUYE

The Honolulu Advertiser

HONOLULU - Voters in the Honolulu region showed their support for a rail system that will be built between the city center and the island's north shore. The referendum was held on November 8, and the results showed a strong majority in favor of the project.

The Honolulu Advertiser reported that 60% of voters approved the rail project, with 40% opposed. The project is expected to cost $7 billion and take about 10 years to complete. The Honolulu Advertiser noted that the project has been controversial due to concerns about its cost and impact on the environment.

The article went on to discuss the reasons why the majority of voters supported the project. It cited the need for public transportation in the area, the expected economic benefits, and the potential for the project to reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Honolulu Advertiser also mentioned the support of local politicians, who have long advocated for a rail system in the area. The article noted that the project is likely to be funded through a combination of federal, state, and local sources.

Overall, the Honolulu Advertiser's coverage of the rail referendum showed a balanced perspective, highlighting both the arguments for and against the project. The article concluded by stating that the referendum results are a significant step forward for the project, which is expected to begin construction in 2023.
Encuentran segunda narcólista en Amatitlán

Se mata Mourino

Expresa Calderón su pesar

Exige MAC limpiar Policías de municipios

Pelean paristas con papás

ES OBAMA EL NUEVO PRESIDENTE DE EU
Obama Presidente
Primer negro en llegar a la Casa Blanca

El Senador Democrata
Presidente Barack Hussein Obama

Em votação histórica, EUA elegem o primeiro presidente negro, apenas 44 anos após o fim da segregação racial

Itaú Unibanco quer crescer no México e no Chile

Ahora são clientes com fortunas acima de US$ 5 milhões

Número de vans no Rio pode aumentar

Guarda vai trabalhar até mais tarde

Costa de luz sobe em média 4,7%

A partir de sexta-feira, a tarifa de luz subiu para um milhão de reais, 4,7%. Os 3,5 milhões de consumidores residenciais e comerciais da empresa terão o aumento de 3,7%. A mudança na tarifa ocorreu, segundo o presidente da empresa, em função de aumentos nas tarifas de energia. Página 27
OBAMA SE PERFILA GANADOR DE UNA ELECCIÓN HISTÓRICA

Estados Unidos. Candidato demócrata sería el primer presidente negro
EE.UU.: Obama, cerca de un histórico triunfo

El candidato demócrata se imponía en el conteo de votos al republicano McCain. Vencía en distritos de fuerte peso. Y avanzaba con firmeza en la estratégica suma de electores que designarán al sucesor de Bush.

Además

El Gobierno debió aceptar 15 cambios en la ley de las AFJP

El principal es que el destino de los fondos se usaría sólo para pagar jubilaciones. Así lograría apoyo opositor.
"Chile en cuatro momentos"

Elecciones presidenciales en EE.UU.: Candidatos mantenían sus bastiones según primeras proyecciones de voto

McCa y Obama ganan en Kentucky y Virginia Occidental.

Chávez, en turn, llevaba versión en Vermont.

Hubo algunas problemáticas con las máquinas de votación.

En Kenia rezaban por un triunfo de Obama

Participación superaría récord histórico

Votos desde el espacio, café gratis y papeletas mojadas

Gobierno ruchas nuevas directivas de la Zona Franca

VIRTEX de MÁS

Mancione toma el mando del Banco del país en su nuevo cargo de presidente

La dirección del Banco de Chile tomó el mando.

PPD prepara proclamación de Lagos tras contactos con el ex Mandatario

Dirigentes lo llamarán a París y volverán a Chile a fin de mes.

Brutal homicidio de economista de la UC causa conmoción

El economista Diago subió desde el tercer piso de su casa al tercer piso de un edificio vecino para robar.

Chahuán defiende aplicación de la ley antiterrorista

Se invocará cuando el caso lo amerite, aunque el Gobierno discrepe.
First black leader to hail 'birth of freedom' at inauguration
« It's Obama »

Le portrait du nouveau président des États-Unis, Barack Obama, après sa victoire aux élections présidentielles américaines. L’Amérique est de retour...
Obama hace historia

El senador demócrata se convierte en el primer presidente negro de Estados Unidos. Derrota al candidato republicano John McCain gracias a una elevada participación electoral que superó los 130 millones de votantes.

España lidera el ranking mundial de creación de parados con 6.214 al día

Mientras, Estados Unidos, con 154 millones de trabajadores, generó 5.300 desempleados diarios en septiembre, su peor mes en cinco años.
Obama: cambierò l'America

L'omaggio del mondo e di McCain al nuovo presidente democratico
News

State of the Nation: Medvedev talks tough
By Anna Aryanaya
In his first state of the nation address, President Dmitry Medvedev branded his liberal streak by suggesting sweeping changes on both the domestic and foreign policy fronts.

Columns

Can one Obama Change Everything?
By Robert Baldwin
Take a moment and punch the word “change” into your Google news search engine and you will quickly understand the essence of Barack Obama’s victory in the U.S. Presidential elections.

News

EU Commission calls for resumption of talks with Russia
BRUSSELS (AP) - The European Commission on Wednesday urged member states to agree next week to resume EU-Russia partnership talks, frozen over the Georgia conflict.

News

Hundreds detained in holiday protests
MOSCOW (RIA Novosti) - Police detained more than 200 tar-orange activists on central Moscow’s Navy Arbat who were taking part in an un sanctioned rally to mark Unity Day, a police spokesman said.

News

In Brief - 8 dead in minibus blast in Russian Caucasus
8 dead in minibus blast in Russian Caucasus, 3 detained over Moscow railway blast, Stalin’s grandson dies in Moscow.

News

Armenia, Azerbaijan to intensify talks
Combined reports/AP, RIA Novosti
A 20-year conflict over the disputed land of Nagorno-Karabakh could be coming to a close.

News

Russia’s first lady presents donation to orphanage
ST. PETERSBURG (RIA Novosti) - The Russian president’s wife Svetlana Medvedeva visited an orphanage in St. Petersburg on Monday, and handed over a donation of $11,000 raised at fundraising events.
YES WE CAN!

DRISS TEMSAMANI

As I turned my head back for the last time, I felt a breeze of hope on my face. It was the final hour.

Last call for the same but there was no one to order.

The road was long. The sky was gray.

It felt like the stars had left and the moon was too sad to cast its shadow on what became the bay of tears.

They stood side by side.

A long line as far as the mind can understand. Head down they had left everything behind.

Their dreams, ambitions, memories and smiles of the past. But like in fairytales, when all was lost. When people got tired to ask and forgot how to speak. When life lost its meaning by losing its color. They turned their head for the last time. They wanted to freeze that final moment. They wanted to capture the eternal second. That's when they felt the breeze of hope.

A breeze of words spoken by a man that ignited the crippled candle inside each broken sole of the nation.

Tonight, so many of us cried and grabbed our faces with both hands to hug our bruised smiles. Tonight, when all was lost, one man stood to renew our hope. One man glued back the shatred glass and filled it with dreams of tomorrow. One man and a nation joined hands tonight to plant the seed in the final hour. Tonight we cried tears of joy and watered the seed knowing it will grow tall and strong. Like in the glorious past the tree will rise to the highest sky. Like a beacon, the tree will bring back the moon and the stars that had left in that final hour.

Tonight, let those who are present tell the absent. Let the story of tonight be written on napkins in small restaurants across this country. Let the story of tonight be forever stored in blogs and decorate web pages across the world. Let the story of the one man and the nation who said "yes we can" be remembered forever. Let the story of the son of the African immigrant and the nation of blacks, whites, Arabs, Asians and Latinos be remembered by all. Let the story of the men who united Christians, Muslims, Jews and all of those that said "I believe", be told.
Darfur rebels hail Obama's victory in US elections

Thursday, 6 November 2008

November 4, 2008 (WASHINGTON) - Darfur rebel groups welcomed the election of US Senator Barack Obama as the next president and expressed hope that his administration would make Sudan's troubled western region a top item on his foreign agenda.

"Our congratulations go to Mr. Obama on his well deserved victory. We look forward to working with him and the next administration on ending the crisis in Darfur," Sudan's senior presidential assistant Minni Arcka Mhammedi told Sudan Tribune today.

Mhammedi who is also leader of Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) said that Obama's "track record of supporting the cause of Darfur makes him in a unique position to foster a lasting peace for our people".

Abdel Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) said that Obama's election "demonstrates the greatness of America and its leadership in the world".

"I urge Mr. Obama to translate these great values in his handling the Darfur crisis to stop the genocide and resolving the conflict his priority" Al-Nur told Sudan Tribune by phone from Paris France.

The SLM chief said he aspires to replicating the US model of racial and religious tolerance one day in Sudan.

The spokesperson of Darfur Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Ahmed Hussein echoed Al-Nur's call and said that the election results "shedded which direction the world is going to take".

The JEM official expressed appreciation to the outgoing Bush administration and stressed that action is needed to restore peace and security to Darfur.

"Rhetoric and slogans to action particularly after six years of speech but little has been done. Obama has the duty to level the world to speak with one voice against what is happening in Darfur and to work collectively he said.

Obama and his running mate Joe Biden have backed forceful measures to protect civilians in Darfur. Obama characterizes the Darfur conflict as genocide and visited refugees from Darfur in eastern Chad in 2006.

Obama wrote in 2005, "When the history of this tragedy is written, nobody will remember how many times officials visited the region or how much humanitarian
ZIMBABWE: Elias Mugabi, "Obama has had a profound effect on many Zimbabweans"

HARARE, 6 November 2008 (IRIN) - Businessman Elias Mugabi squeezed into a crowded hotel lobby in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 5 November to watch a live broadcast of the victory speech of US President-elect Barack Obama. With tears in his eyes, he told IRIN what he hoped an Obama presidency would mean for his crisis-ridden country.

"We held our elections in March, and this is November and they have not been finalised. On television we watched Obama win an election which was free of violence and with none of the controversy which plagued ours. The loser, John McCain, quickly conceded defeat when it became clear that he would not win."

"Zimbabweans as a people, who are hurting because of election violence, are yearning for such a peaceful transfer of power. Even our rogue politicians would feel bad about subjecting us to this bad lifestyle when a fellow black person in the USA is assuming power in a peaceful manner."

"It is good for Zimbabwe in particular, and Africa in general, that a young African-American has become the most powerful man in the world. For decades, African dictators have always been back at Western countries which suggest they practice the rule of law and democracy, (accusing them of being) racist and imperialist.

"When Obama preaches democracy and the rule of law to the same African despots, they can’t accuse him of being racist. An additional dilemma for any African dictator would be the mere fact that Obama has such charisma and appeal among Africans, a verbal fight with him would make them (even more) unpopular in their countries."

"For Zimbabweans in particular, comparing the ages of (President Robert) Mugabe, who is 84, and Obama, who is just 47, will change the thinking of many of us who suddenly realise that younger leaders can offer new ideas and new solutions."

"Many Zimbabweans, including elderly people who rarely follow global politics, have followed the rise of Obama, and they have identified with his ideas. Obama has had a profound effect on many Zimbabweans, with the younger generation regarding him as one of their own, while the elderly view him as some favourite nephew whose ideas they have quietly embraced."
World hails Obama

Dreams of change, hope and a kinder America hit home as Democrat wins popular vote

"We express the hope that the poverty and under development of Africa, which constitute a challenge for humanity, will continue to receive the attention from the new administration," South African President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday. John McCain immediately responded, saying that the victory was "a testament to hard work, optimism and faith in the enduring promise of our nation whose journey represents the triumph of the American spirit."

South African political analyst Paddy Rossiter said that the victory of Barack Obama was significant for Africa. "His victory can bring hope for African nations in their quest for democratic governance," he said.


"We are deeply disappointed by the outcome of the election," said the Republican Party.

More details can be found in the next edition of the Times.
Les Mpanera font la loi

mercredi 1 novembre 2008
Dans le hall du tribunal d'Ampey, l'homme d'affaires qui était le prime ministre a été reconnu coupable. Le procureur, qui a réalisé plusieurs reportages dans les rues de la capitale, a indiqué que les personnes impliquées ont été arrêtées. Il a également précisé que l'enquête est en cours.

2237 visites

SANS CIBLE

(De l'ah bord!!)

Barack Obama, président des États-Unis

ercredi 5 novembre 2008

1812 visites

Dialogue présidentiel

L'opposition dehors!

mercredi 5 novembre 2008
Le Premier ministre a rencontré les membres de la presse hier matin au palais de l'État de Malagasy pour évoquer le processus de dialogue présidentiel. Après celui de 2007. Au cours de la rencontre, il a mis beaucoup d'eau dans son verre de relations avec les médias qu'il a rencontré lors de sa visite à Washington. Le PM a évoqué les débats sur les réformes à venir et la nécessité de se mettre d'accord sur un programme commun.

2382 visites
One Day in the World's Press 93

Don't miss out on special coverage of the Third International Jewelry, Silver & Watch Fair

'Magic Flute' Kutluğ launches her newest album, 'Meviana,' today with concert at Hagia Elene

TODAY'S ZAMAN

Aliev calls for an end to Nagorno-Karabakh's occupation

CHANGE COMES TO AMERICA OBAMA REVOLUTION

Barack Obama's swearing-in as the 44th president in Washington to the nation's capital has been a symbol of new hope and change. The inauguration ceremony marked the beginning of a new chapter in American history. Obama's inauguration was not just a political event, but a cultural milestone for a nation that has been divided for too long.

PHILIP'S MEDICINE PLEDGES REFORM IN ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH

A leading medical equipment manufacturer in the United States, Philipreed, has announced plans to reform its electrocardiograph business. The company has identified several areas for improvement, including reduced costs, improved patient care, and increased accessibility. The reforms are expected to be implemented over the next few years.

DISEMBARGED IRAN OBAMA WILL BRING NEW STRATEGIES TO TRADE

Despite the ongoing tensions between Iran and the United States, President Obama has indicated a willingness to engage in new strategies to improve trade relations. The president has stated that such a move could help to reduce tensions and foster a more positive relationship between the two nations.

Letters to the Editor
After historic win, Obama looks to future

World reaction mostly positive

President Barack Obama's victory in the US presidential election is expected to have a positive impact on Jordan, where many people are hopeful for a new era of cooperation with the US. However, some are concerned about the impact of a possible change in the US's foreign policy.

Barrage of rockets after six Hamas fighters killed in Gaza

Israel destroys four houses in east Jerusalem

Israel has launched a series of strikes in the Gaza Strip, targeting Hamas fighters and their supporters. The Israeli military said it had killed six fighters in an encounter between Israeli forces and Hamas militants. The Israeli air force has also carried out several raids in the past week, targeting Hamas fighters and their supporters.

Authorities seize JD120m worth of assets, refer 202 firms to court

Jordanian authorities have seized assets worth JD120 million and referred 202 firms to court for violation of financial laws. The authorities have also seized assets worth JD40 million from a company suspected of money laundering.

King Abdullah congratulates president-elect

The Jordanian king has congratulated the newly elected US president, Barack Obama. The king's congratulations came in a phone call to Obama, in which he congratulated him on his victory and expressed his hope for a new era of cooperation.

Zarqa

Traffic congestion campaign gains momentum

A campaign to reduce traffic congestion in Zarqa is gaining momentum. The campaign is aimed at encouraging drivers to use public transport and to park in designated areas.

Economy

External debt falls to JD3.6b

The Jordanian government announced that the country's external debt had fallen to JD3.6 billion, down from JD4.2 billion in the previous year. The government said that the reduction in debt was due to the country's economic growth and its ability to attract foreign investment.

Weather

The weather in Amman is sunny and hot, with temperatures reaching 35°C.

Jordan, Austria to boost economic cooperation

Jordan and Austria have signed a memorandum of understanding to boost economic cooperation. The memorandum aims to expand economic ties between the two countries and to facilitate investment projects.

Midast

Austrian investment in Jordan kicks off

Austrian investors have begun investing in Jordan, starting with a JD20 million project to build a new factory in the country. The project is expected to create hundreds of jobs.

Zarqa

Traffic congestion campaign gains momentum

A campaign to reduce traffic congestion in Zarqa is gaining momentum. The campaign is aimed at encouraging drivers to use public transport and to park in designated areas.
NEWS BASKET

Abdullah, Zardari discuss bilateral ties

RIYADH - King Abdullah, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday night discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to enhance them. The meeting here was attended by Prince Michael bin Abdul Aziz, Chairman of Allegiance Commission, and Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Deputy...Read More

Golden chance to develop Jeddah - Emir

JEDDAH - Investors and real estate owners have a golden opportunity to develop the Central Jeddah area, Prince Saud bin Talal, First of Makkah Region, said Monday night. He was referring to the first meeting between the Central Jedda real estate owners and the boards of developers. Held at the Lailiy Hall, the meeting discussed ways and details as how the developers would participate in the huge project to improve Central...Read More

OTHER NEWS TODAY

» SR1.5bn projects launched in Jizan
» Gasabi hits back at private sector
» US private enterprise seeks Saudi support
» Credit crisis will not affect Saudi economy
» Japan stocks climb, Wall Street rises
» God bless my successor - Bush
» Record vote for change

BIOGRAPHY

CHANGE

BARACK OBAMA is the first black president of the United States of America and celebrations are erupting worldwide as you read this. At 6 PM, Saudi time, after capturing key states Ohio and Pennsylvania, Obama will be inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States on January 20. Obama and his family will move into the White House on the same day. The celebration in Saudi Arabia was subdued as Obama won with a 3-1 loss to AS Roma in the Champions League on Tuesday, while Inter Milan and...Read More

BUSINESS

Advisors reflect on Mubarak’s energy vision

Abu Dhabi’s Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahayan, center, flanked by Bahrain Oil and Gas Minister Abdul Hussein Musa, right, and Emir of Higher Education Minister Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak, left, reviewed the energy vision of the UAE. Exchange Rate

Oil prices surge as global stocks rally

China, Taiwan ink deals on closer economic ties

UK forges clean energy deal with UAE company

SPONSORS

Chelsea crashes to AS Roma

LONDON - Chelsea were stunned to a 3-1 loss to AS Roma in the Champions League on Tuesday, while Inter Milan and Liverpool needed late equalizers to avoid embarrassing defeats. While Barcelona...Read More

SPORTS

» Saudi Arabia to take on UAE in quarters
» Maradona confirmed Argentina coach
» Webbah holds Hidal to a goalless draw
» Jantowski, Venus advance

One giant leap for mankind - Africans

WISUMU, Kenya - Africans looked to all night parties and set off fireworks and, determined to celebrate a victory in Kenya as Barack Obama tried to become the first Black American president. "Tonight we are...Read More

What did Martin Luther King say?

SAUDIS VOTE TODAY

A Saudi man votes during a mock vote at the residence of the US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ford Frakes in Riyadh Wednesday midnight. Americans, Saudis and...Read More

NATION

» Hajjar Elmir relieved from post upon his request
» Clinics for pre-natal tests at all govt hospitals
» NFRS teams extend areas of observation
» PSJ-ES decked up to welcome Zardari

OPINION

And new Muslim terrorists?

When the term 'Hindu terrorists' was used by a section of the Indian media recently, the Sajngh Pawar protested vehemently against it. ...Read More

NATIONAL

» Aljazeera reflects on Mubarak’s energy vision
» Abu Dhabi’s Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahayan, center, flanked by Bahrain Oil and Gas Minister Abdul Hussein Musa, right, and Emir of Higher Education Minister Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak, left, reviewed...Read More

OPINION

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NEW-WORLD ISSUES

» Economy top concern

PRESS FEEDS

OPINION

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Their Say

One giant leap for mankind - Africans

WISUMU, Kenya - Africans looked to all night parties and set off fireworks and, determined to celebrate a victory in Kenya as Barack Obama tried to become the first Black American president. "Tonight we are...Read More

World hopes for a new era

What did Martin Luther King say?
Leader advises pilgrims to use spiritual journey of hajj to solidify Muslim unity

TEHRAN — Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said here on Wednesday that the hajj pilgrimage provides the best opportunity to consolidate unity among Muslims. Since Muslims are from diverse ethnic groups, which all have their own particular cultures and beliefs, the hajj pilgrimage is a golden opportunity to bridge such 'natural and artificial' differences, the Leader pointed out in a meeting with hajj officials and pilgrims.

Ayatollah Khamenei advised them to seize the opportunity to bring Muslims closer together both in their minds and hearts. The hajj is not a vacation, it is a spiritual journey, the Leader noted.

U.S. elects Obama as its first Black president

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Barack Obama swept to an historic victory as America's first Black president, but praised his foe for his heroism and warned the setback would not crush his belief in change.

"At this defining moment, change has come to America," Obama told 245,000 jubilant supporters, many in tears, as they poured in at Tinley Park to celebrate their victory over Republican John McCain.

Obama, 47, will be inaugurated on January 20 and inherit an economy reeling from financial crisis, wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Even as we celebrate tonight, we know the challenges that tomorrow will bring are the greatest of our lifetime," said Obama. "The next eight years will be long, hard, and often painful."

World halls Obama's victory, urges change of tack

PARIS (AFP) — World leaders hailed Barack Obama's triumph Wednesday in the U.S. presidential election as the dawn of a new era and called for the global superpower to change the way it does business.

Russia to deploy missiles near Poland

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia will deploy missiles near NATO member Poland in response to U.S. missile defense plans, President Dmitry Medvedev said Wednesday. State-owned news agency ITAR-TASS quoted Medvedev as saying that Russia is prepared to "counteract any aggression." He said Russia would deploy the missiles near the city of Kaliningrad, which borders both Poland and Estonia, to ensure the "defensive capability of the state."
CHANGE HAS COME

It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this day, in this election, at this defining moment, change has come to America ... And to all those watching tonight from beyond our shores, from parliaments and palaces to those who are huddled around radios in the forgotten corners of our world — our stories are singular, but our destiny is shared, and a new dawn of American leadership is at hand. To those who would tear this world down — we will defeat you. To those who seek peace and security — we support you. And to all those who have wondered if America's beacon still burns as bright — tonight we proved once more that the true strength of our nation comes not from the might of our arms or the scale of our wealth, but from the enduring power of our ideals: democracy, liberty, opportunity, and unyielding hope.”

Barack Obama, US President-Elect

VICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2008
One Day in the World’s Press 98

OBAMA RECLAIMS AMERICAN DREAM

RACE IN NUMBERS

Barack Obama
John McCain
349 52%
162 48%

Obama needed 270 electoral votes to become US first black president.

Race is over.

John McCain

New blips await Indo-US ties

The world will see US differently now

"With the election of America's first black president, the world will see the US differently."

President Obama

Lt Col Purnell remanded to custody till Nov 15

DNA

Legendary filmmaker BR Chopra passes away

The world is sad to lose a visionary genius...

Hansal Mehta
One Day in the World's Press 99

CHANGE HAS COME

Bush pays stirring tribute
World leaders welcome victory
Jubilant supporters celebrate

President extends congratulations

President Bush paid a stirring tribute to the American troops who have been fighting in Iraq. "I was there," he said, "and I am filled with pride as I think of the brave Americans who have put their lives on the line for our country." The president said he was particularly proud of the women and children who have been so instrumental in the war effort. "The American people are united in their support of our troops," he said.

Bush has been consistent in his support of the war effort, and his words have been met with widespread approval. "President Bush is a true leader," said Senator John Kerry. "He has been steadfast in his support of our troops, and he has been a source of inspiration for all Americans." The president's words have also been praised by other political leaders, including former President George W. Bush. "I am proud of my son," the former president said. "He is doing a great job, and he is a true American hero."
One Day in the World's Press 100

The Asahi Shimbun

BRIEFLY

Moriya handed 2½-year sentence

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2008

Getting to know Obama is 1st task

Afghanistan and dealings with North Korea are key policy issues, say officials.

Thousands of kilometers away, a city rejoices

Citizens hope election win will put Japan's Obama on the map.

Man in hit-and-run dragging death caught in Osaka

WEATHER

Newsmakers

Moriya handed 2½-year sentence

Moriya, 37, a former TV personality, was sentenced to 27 months in prison for abuse of authority and other offenses. The court found Moriya guilty of violating the law on the purchase and sale of television programs, and of abusing her position as a senior officer of a television company.

Getting to know Obama is 1st task

The US president-elect met with newsmakers in the US, China, and Japan, and met with leaders of other countries. The president-elect is scheduled to visit Japan on November 9.

Thousands of kilometers away, a city rejoices

Citizens in Japan are cheering for Barack Obama's election win. They hope he will bring a new era to Japan and the world.

Man in hit-and-run dragging death caught in Osaka

A man who dragged a woman to her death in a hit-and-run accident in Osaka was arrested. The incident occurred in front of a university dormitory.

Weather

The weather in Japan is expected to be sunny with high temperatures in the 20s.
Justice chief rejects Sabio’s demands

By Ray C. Buenfeld and
Joser Pangul-Pangul

The Supreme Court’s decision to grant
Justice Chief Justice Teodoro L. dela Cuesta’s petition for a
court order to prevent an “infringement of his honor”
case filed by Justice Minerva Asuncion-Moro
against former Justice Aurora Pareja-Romero
and former Supreme Court Secretary General
Carlos L. Daru during their time in office
is not only a step forward for justice,
but also a victory for judicial independence.

Obama wins
US presidency
by a landslide

By Sara Jane Ong

Washington — Barack Obama swept
to victory in America’s first Black presi-
dential contest, winning an electoral
landslide that confirmed his rise to the
United States’ helm.

Obama, a member of the Democratic
Party, garnered 273 electoral votes to
John McCain, the Republican candidate,
who received 173 electoral votes.

The victory is widely seen as a
triumph for black and Latino voters,
who gave Obama strong support.

Democrats strengthen hold on Congress

Washington — Democrats retained
their majority in Congress, albeit by a
slimmer margin than expected.

The party won 257 House seats to 179
for the Republicans, and 53 Senate seats
to 47 for the GOP.

Euro general has new alibi: 
Friend sent shopping money

By Blenda A. Evangelista

The ex-commissioner of the Tax Com-
mission has a new alibi for the U.S.
$650,000 in cash that he was supposed
to deliver to a businessman.

He said he gave the cash to a friend
who went shopping in the U.S.
for items that will be used in the
commission’s operations.

Nokia, credit card ring up
5% bill rebate

The Finnish mobile giant
and the country’s largest
credit card operator,
First Data, are giving
consumers a 5% discount
on their monthly bill.

This is part of a promo-
tion called “Thank You,
米粉,” which will run
from November 1 to 30.

The offer will only be
valid for First Data’s
credit card holders.

The campaign will also
be available in the
future.

Next page
One Day in the World's Press

BARRY'S DONE IT!

Mulyani's bosses annul Bakrie suspension lift
AMERICA'S first black president Barack Obama has told a sea of screaming supporters that he is witness to a fact that anything can happen in America.

"... Change has come to America," he said.

"If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where anything is possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive... who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer," he said.

"Americans have sent a message to the world that we have never been just a collection of individuals or a collection of red states and blue states, we are and always will be the United States of America," he said.

"It's been a long time coming but tonight - because of what we did on this day, in this election, at this defining moment - change has come to America."

He was elated and thanked his family for their support.

But he added: "Even as we celebrate tonight, we know the challenges that tomorrow will bring are the greatest in our lifetime.

"Two wars, a planet in peril, the worst financial crisis in a century."

He spoke of US troops risking their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan and the challenges of providing health care and education to a new generation of Americans.

He also spoke of repairing America's relations with the world.

"The road ahead will be long and our climb will be steep," he said.
IT'S A NEW DAWN

BARACK Obama insisted himself to become the first African-American to lead the US, declaring a "new dawn of American leadership is at hand".

Touched by his family yesterday, Senator Obama addressed a sea of emotional supporters in his home town of Chicago, telling them it was time to realize the American dream after an expectant period.

"I have a dream that there who so dream that America is a place where all things are possible; who will remember if the dream of our forefathers is alive in our time. Who will understand the power of our democracy. Tonight is your answer," he said.

"Change has come to America." Senator Obama, the son of a black man from Kenya and a white woman from Kansas, is now the US president.

He will move into the White House in January 20 at a time of crisis, and will immediately need to confront the recession-bound US economy and war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He told the crowd: "This victory shows it is not the change we seek, it is only the chance for us to make change." While the need to reduce the nation would be long, it promised "you, the people will get there". He also vowed to be a president for all whose support he was yet to earn.

Republican John McCain conceded defeat in a speech of grace and generosity that called for all Americans to unite behind their first African-American leader.
President-elect to reshape America

December 4, 2008, 12:00AM

PRESIDENT-ELECT Barack Obama will move quickly to put his stamp on a new administration, announcing over the next few days key White House posts as well as leading cabinet positions after he declared "a new dawn of American leadership".

The 47-year-old freshman senator from Illinois won a landslide victory yesterday to become the first black president of the US, but faces a daunting series of national security and economic challenges, with nearly half the country still sceptical about his rise to the most powerful position on the planet.

Senator Obama's blueprint for easing the transition to the White House in 75 days is expected to include asking the Bush administration's Defence Secretary, Robert Gates, to stay on for at least the first 12 months.

And in keeping with his appeals for bipartisanship, the president-elect is also considering asking the Republican grandee of foreign relations, Richard Lugar, and Nebraska moderate Republican Chuck Hagel to serve in his cabinet. Sources say Senator Lugar has been considered for secretary of state, though former presidential candidate John Kerry is also high on the list.

In a dramatic moment in the country's history yesterday, which granted full rights to blacks only 40 years ago, the US emphatically ruled a line under the contentious years of the presidency of George W. Bush.

Senator Obama won 52 per cent of the popular vote against his Republican opponent John McCain's 47 per cent. In terms of electoral college votes, the victory was more decisive, with Senator Obama taking 369 against Senator McCain's 163.

In choosing Senator Obama, the first post-boomer president, the US has also passed the baton to a new generation of leadership.

"If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer," Senator Obama said before more than 100,000 people in Chicago's Grant Park.

"It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this date, in this election, change has come to America.

"And to all those watching tonight from beyond our shores, from parliaments and palaces to those who are huddled around radios in the forgotten corners of our world -- our stories are singular, but our destiny is shared, and a new dawn of American leadership is at hand."

Senator Obama acknowledged his challenges as president were immense, as the economy dives
**Obama's America**

PETER HARTCHER ON A NEW RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.
FOUR-PAGE SPECIAL REPORT WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE WORLD

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**The Sydney Morning Herald**

Thursday, November 8, 2006

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'THIS IS OUR TIME'

Americans embrace change and elect first black president

---

Bye-bye billions: Swan stares into abyss

---

India rejects ban

---

City rail demand as trains feel the strain
Yes we can!

"It's been a long time coming. But at this defining moment, change has come to America."

President-elect Barack Obama