



# PRESIDENT OBAMA

The start of an era

The Washington Times

## INAUGURATION

It is a moment that will resonate in memories and imaginations for years to come — Barack Obama taking the oath of office to become the 44th president of the United States of America.

People around the world took time to witness the United States inaugurate its first black president and fulfill the self-evident promise in its Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal. Mr. Obama's trip to the presidential podium on Jan. 20, 2009, culminated a longer journey, a collective journey that stretches back before the country's founding, through the Revolutionary Era and westward expansion, through the Civil War and Reconstruction, through world wars and Jim Crow and the civil rights movement — a journey whose mending course was reflected in the eyes of every American taking in the 56th inauguration of a U.S. president.

Hundreds of thousands thronged the National Mall, forming the largest gathering in U.S. history to view firsthand the swearing-in of a president.



### PRESIDENT OBAMA: The Start of an Era

## Now it's Obama's time to shine

By Christina Bellantoni  
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As he asked Americans to channel their hopes into his candidacy, Barack Obama declared, "This is our moment, this is our time." Now it's his moment.

Mr. Obama spent more than 21 months with that message, insisting in a booming voice from Seattle to St. Petersburg that the election was not about him: "It's not about me; it's about you."

He won the presidency in part by fulfilling that promise, to make everyday citizens feel like they were a part of a movement bound by hope and technology. His coalition of young people, suburban liberals, black voters and disenfranchised Republicans put their boots to the ground to help him become the nation's first black president.

Those groups converge on Washington on Tuesday to witness his-

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After his speech, Barack and Michelle Obama basked in the approval of the crowd. On that night, the relatively unknown politician overshadowed the Democratic ticket of John Kerry and John Edwards.