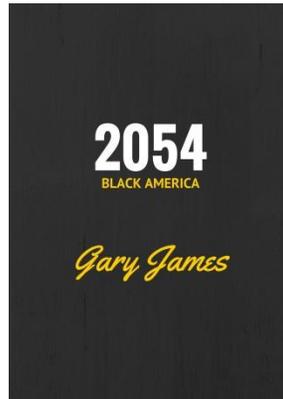


2054



Introduction

The election of President Barack Obama to the Presidency in 2008, made an African American, arguably the most powerful position on the planet. And the advent of President Obama, was no less than a politically earth shattering event in the minds of many. In the wake of his relatively steady two terms as POTUS, political controversies are emerging, particularly in the context of partisan politics associated with 2016 presidential politics, as well as from pundits, vociferous supporters and detractors. Ultimately it will be history and historians with the perspective of time that will assess and analyze the Obama Presidency, in the framework of previous presidents.

Nevertheless, there will be much discussed informally, from various quarters, regarding the quality of Obama's leadership on various fronts, not the least of which will be his standing among the pantheon of black American leaders. However, as the author points out in his 2014 release "Black Politics 2.0" Barack Obama resides in a completely different category as compared to all others from traditional leaders of the black community. Barack Obama is President of the United States therefore he cannot be evaluated in the context of traditional leaders of the black community. The fact that Obama was the first black person to achieve such a political milestone in America generates considerable pride among many African American people. But it would not be correct to classify Barack Obama as a leader of the black community as Obama is the leader of all the people of the United States of America.

On the other hand, it is appropriate to explore the political achievement of President Barack Obama in the framework of the history and the forward trajectory of former enslaved Africans in the New World in general, and in the United States of America in particular. In this framework, President Obama can be viewed in the historical perspective as it relates to the procession of African American advancements over the centuries. Therefore, it is propitious to position the political dispensation of President Obama as the most recent epoch in the journey of African Americas.

For the purpose of this work, the first epoch occurred in 1854, with the birth of the abolition movement, and the second epoch occurred with the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, an impetus for the modern civil rights movement. The political advent of President Barack Obama represents the third epoch.

The first epoch culminated with the emancipation of enslaved Africans by way of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1865, followed by the period of Reconstruction. The social, economic and political advancement of African Americans was unprecedented, and some of the achievements of the black community during the first civil rights period remain unprecedented to this day. The second epoch in the annals of former enslaved Africans arduous journey to freedom is the modern civil rights movement, which culminated in the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts respectfully, in 1965. The third epoch being the political advent of President Barack Obama, provides the opportunity to take stock of the previous two centuries, analyze, synthesizes and survey the road ahead.

While the previous two hundred years are outstanding on paper, highlighting the many achievements, advancements and forward movement; the storied victories associated racial discrimination and bigotry in social, political and economic life in the 19th and 20th century's have vanished. Meanwhile, the real-time, the political, social and economic facts on the ground continue to present a grim scenario going forward. It is a great paradox, and a profound conundrum that in spite of the glorious successes that distinguish the past two centuries as remarkable to the world, the black American community at large remains the weakest compared to other political minorities in terms of political leverage. Some may find ways to obfuscate this practical fact of life with glib phrases and rhetorical gymnastics, but irrespective of how you chose to perceive the relative and comparative state of black America, as a political, social and economic weakling, the evidence is unequivocal.

Although there is no discernible corrective action strategy in the process of becoming, some of us are positively persuaded that before the end of the day, the good fortunes of the black American community will be delivered. Faith, hope and prayer continues to be a unique strength that is well known, but, these laudable qualities need physical help in order to impact the physical/material world of phenomena on behalf of black folk. Should alpha turn into omega, as some suggest, than prospects for black Americans becoming politically, and economically competitive with other political minorities will be formidable.