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I think that it is fair to say that, we live in exciting times. This statement is true, whether we are talking about the United States of America or Cuba. Both countries are in the midst of unprecedented change at the highest level and there is reason to be hopeful. Come November, the United States will elect a new president. Many candidates (Republican and Democrat alike) are vying for the position. We are in the middle of a historic Presidential election. For the first time, the candidates for the highest office in the land reflect the face of Americans. As of late March 2008, the candidates included a white male, a white female, and an African American male, all of whom are immensely qualified to hold this office. It's been decades since a U.S. presidential race has been so wide open, unpredictable and fetchingly cast. It's an exciting, page-turner of a campaign and Americans are watching every cliffhanger and climax.

On the other hand, while the U.S. is embarking on change, Cuba has witnessed unprecedented change; the end of five decades of rule by Fidel Castro. On Sunday, February 24, 2008. Raul Modesto Castro Ruz, Fidel's younger brother, took the reins of power. Many believe that Raul will pursue limited economic reforms to tackle food shortages and poor living standards, but few believe that major change is likely. Still, for some inside and outside of Cuba, hope for change remains high. Will the people of Cuba see meaningful change or just more of the same? The Cuban people anxiously wait and watch in anticipation.

As I said earlier, we live in exciting times. The world moves forward and if we stay aware and prepare for change, we, too, can march forward, maybe even aspire to the highest office in our homeland.

"In the face of impossible odds, people who love their country can change it."

Barack Obama quote from his February 10, 2007
Presidential announcement