



TRUMP DYNASTY

A Look at the Legacy of the Trump Family in America

Presented by Patriot Publications

Donald Trump

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Donald Trump

Donald John Trump (born June 14, 1946) is an American media personality and businessman who served as the 45th president of the United States from 2017 to 2021.

Born and raised in Queens, New York City, Trump attended Fordham University and the University of Pennsylvania, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1968. He became the president of his father Fred Trump's real estate business in 1971 and renamed it The Trump Organization. Trump expanded the company's operations to building and renovating skyscrapers, hotels, casinos, and golf courses. He later started various side ventures, mostly by licensing his name. Trump and his businesses have been involved in more than 4,000 state and federal legal actions, including six bankruptcies. He owned the Miss Universe brand of beauty pageants from 1996 to 2015. From 2003 to 2015 he co-produced and hosted the reality television series *The Apprentice*.

Trump's political positions have been described as populist, protectionist, isolationist, and nationalist. He entered the 2016 presidential race as a Republican and was elected in an upset victory over Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton while losing the popular vote.^[a] He was the first U.S. president without prior military or government service. His election and policies sparked numerous protests. Trump made many false and misleading statements during his campaigns and presidency, to a degree unprecedented in American politics. Many of his comments and actions have been characterized as racially charged or racist.

Trump ordered a travel ban on citizens from several Muslim-majority countries, citing security concerns; after legal challenges, the Supreme Court upheld the policy's third revision. He enacted the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 which cut taxes for individuals and businesses and rescinded the individual health insurance mandate penalty of the Affordable Care Act. Trump appointed more than 200 federal judges, including three to the Supreme Court: Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett. In foreign policy, Trump pursued an America First agenda: he renegotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement as the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement and withdrew the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Iran nuclear deal. He imposed import tariffs that triggered a trade war with China and met three times with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, but negotiations on denuclearization eventually broke down.

Donald Trump



Official portrait, 2017

45th President of the United States

In office

January 20, 2017 – January 20, 2021

Vice President Mike Pence

Preceded by Barack Obama

Succeeded by Joe Biden

Personal details

Born Donald John Trump
June 14, 1946
Queens, New York City,
U.S.

Political party Republican (1987–1999,
2009–2011, 2012–
present)


Other political affiliations Reform (1999–2001)
Democratic (2001–2009)
Independent (2011–2012)

Spouse(s) Ivana Zelníčková
(m. 1977; div. 1992)
Marla Maples
(m. 1993; div. 1999)
Melania Knauss (m. 2005)

Trump reacted slowly to the COVID-19 pandemic, ignored or contradicted many recommendations from health officials in his messaging, and promoted misinformation about unproven treatments and the availability of testing.

Russia interfered in the 2016 election to help Trump's election chances, but the special counsel investigation of that interference led by Robert Mueller did not find sufficient evidence to establish criminal conspiracy or coordination of the Trump campaign with Russia.^[b] Mueller also investigated Trump for obstruction of justice and neither indicted nor exonerated him. After Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate his political rival Joe Biden, the House of Representatives impeached him for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress on December 18, 2019. The Senate acquitted him of both charges on February 5, 2020.

Trump lost the 2020 presidential election to Biden, but refused to concede. Attempting to overturn the results, he falsely claimed electoral fraud, pressured government officials, mounted scores of unsuccessful legal challenges and obstructed the presidential transition. On January 6, 2021, Trump urged his supporters to march to the Capitol, which hundreds violently stormed, interrupting the electoral vote count. The House impeached Trump for incitement of insurrection on January 13, making him the only federal officeholder in American history to be impeached twice. The Senate acquitted Trump for the second time on February 13.

Children	<u>Donald Jr.</u> · <u>Ivanka</u> · <u>Eric</u> · <u>Tiffany</u> · <u>Barron</u>
Parents	<u>Fred Trump</u> <u>Mary Anne MacLeod</u>
Relatives	<u>Family of Donald Trump</u>
Residence	<u>Mar-a-Lago</u>
Alma mater	<u>Wharton School</u> (BS Econ.)
Occupation	Politician · businessman · television presenter
Awards	<u>List of honors and awards</u>
Signature	
Website	<u>Office of Donald J. Trump</u> (https://www.45office.com/) <u>Presidential Library</u> (https://www.trumplibrary.gov/) <u>White House Archives</u> (https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/)

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Personal life

Early life

Donald John Trump was born on June 14, 1946, at Jamaica Hospital in the borough of Queens in New York City,^{[1][2]} the fourth child of Fred Trump, a Bronx-born real estate developer whose parents were German immigrants, and Mary Anne MacLeod Trump, an immigrant from Scotland. Trump grew up with older siblings Maryanne, Fred Jr., and Elizabeth, and younger brother Robert in the Jamaica Estates neighborhood of Queens and attended the private Kew-Forest School from kindergarten through seventh grade.^{[3][4][5]} At age 13, he was enrolled in the New York Military Academy, a private boarding school,^[6] and in 1964, he enrolled at Fordham University. Two years later he transferred to the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in May 1968 with a B.S. in economics.^{[7][8]} In 2015, Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen threatened Trump's colleges, high school, and the College Board with legal action if they released

Trump's academic records.^[9] While in college, Trump obtained four student draft deferments.^[10] In 1966, he was deemed fit for military service based upon a medical examination, and in July 1968 a local draft board classified him as eligible to serve.^[11] In October 1968, he was classified 1-Y, a conditional medical deferment,^[12] and in 1972, he was reclassified 4-F due to bone spurs, permanently disqualifying him from service.^{[13][14]}



Trump at the New York Military Academy in 1964

Family

In 1977, Trump married Czech model Ivana Zelníčková.^[15] They have three children, Donald Jr. (born 1977), Ivanka (born 1981), and Eric (born 1984).^[16] Ivana became a naturalized United States citizen in 1988.^[17] The couple divorced in 1992, following Trump's affair with actress Marla Maples.^[18] Maples and Trump married in 1993^[19] and had one daughter, Tiffany (born 1993).^[20] They were divorced in 1999,^[21] and Tiffany was raised by Marla in California.^[22] In 2005, Trump married Slovenian model Melania Knauss.^[23] They have one son, Barron (born 2006).^[24] Melania gained U.S. citizenship in 2006.^[25]

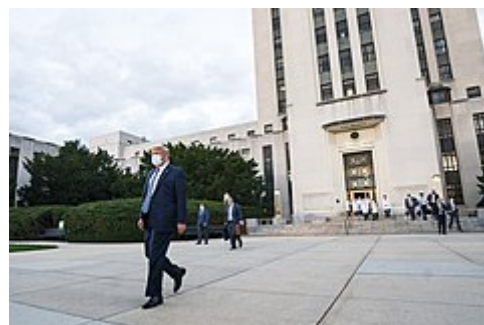
Religious views

Trump went to Sunday school and was confirmed in 1959 at the First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica, Queens.^{[26][27]} In the 1970s, his parents joined the Marble Collegiate Church in Manhattan, which belongs to the Reformed Church.^{[26][28]} The pastor at Marble, Norman Vincent Peale,^[26] ministered to the family until his death in 1993.^[28] Trump has described Peale as a mentor.^[29] In 2015, the church stated Trump "is not an active member".^[27] In 2019, Trump appointed his personal pastor, televangelist Paula White, to the White House Office of Public Liaison.^[30] In 2020, Trump said that he identified as a non-denominational Christian.^[31]

Health

Trump says he has never drunk alcohol, smoked cigarettes, or used drugs.^{[32][33]} He sleeps about four or five hours a night.^{[34][35]} Trump has called golfing his "primary form of exercise" but usually does not walk the course.^[36] He considers exercise a waste of energy, because he believes the body is "like a battery, with a finite amount of energy" which is depleted by exercise.^[37]

In 2015, Harold Bornstein, who had been Trump's personal physician since 1980, wrote that Trump would "be the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency" in a letter released by the Trump campaign.^[38] In 2018, Bornstein said Trump had dictated the contents of the letter and that three agents of Trump had removed his medical records in February 2017 without authorization.^{[38][39]}



Trump discharged on October 5, 2020, by his team of doctors at Walter Reed

Trump was hospitalized at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for COVID-19 treatment on October 2, 2020, reportedly with a fever and difficulty breathing. It was revealed in 2021 that his condition had been much more serious. He had extremely low blood oxygen levels, a high fever, and lung infiltrates, indicating a

severe case of the disease.^[40] He was treated with the antiviral drug remdesivir, the steroid dexamethasone, and the unapproved experimental antibody REGN-COV2.^[41] Trump returned to the White House on October 5, still struggling with the disease.^[40]

Wealth

In 1982, Trump was listed on the initial *Forbes* list of wealthy individuals as having a share of his family's estimated \$200 million net worth. His financial losses in the 1980s caused him to be dropped from the list between 1990 and 1995.^[42] In its 2021 billionaires ranking, *Forbes* estimated Trump's net worth at \$2.4 billion (1,299th in the world),^[43] making him one of the richest politicians in American history and the first billionaire American president.^[43] *Forbes* estimated that his net worth declined 31 percent and his ranking fell 138 spots between 2015 and 2018.^[44] After he filed mandatory financial disclosure forms with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) in July 2015, Trump publicly announced a net worth of about \$10 billion while the records released by the FEC showed "at least \$1.4 billion in assets and \$265 million in liabilities".^[45]

Journalist Jonathan Greenberg reported in 2018 that Trump, using the pseudonym "John Barron" and claiming to be a Trump Organization official, called him in 1984 to falsely assert that he owned "in excess of ninety percent" of the Trump family's business, to secure a higher ranking on the Forbes 400 list of wealthy Americans. Greenberg also wrote that *Forbes* had vastly overestimated Trump's wealth and wrongly included him on the Forbes 400 rankings of 1982, 1983, and 1984.^[46]

Trump has often said he began his career with "a small loan of one million dollars" from his father, and that he had to pay it back with interest.^[47] In October 2018, *The New York Times* reported that Trump "was a millionaire by age 8," borrowed at least \$60 million from his father, largely failed to repay those loans, and had received \$413 million (adjusted for inflation) from his father's business empire over his lifetime.^{[48][49]} According to the report, Trump and his family committed tax fraud, which a lawyer for Trump denied. The tax department of New York said it is investigating.^{[50][51]} Trump's investments underperformed the stock market and the New York property market.^{[52][53]} *Forbes* estimated in October 2018 that the value of Trump's personal brand licensing business had declined by 88 percent since 2015, to \$3 million.^[54]



Trump and wife Ivana in the receiving line of a state dinner for King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in 1985, with U.S. president Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan

Trump's tax returns from 1985 to 1994 show net losses totaling \$1.17 billion over the ten-year period, in contrast to his claims about his financial health and business abilities. *The New York Times* reported that "year after year, Mr. Trump appears to have lost more money than nearly any other individual American taxpayer" and that Trump's "core business losses in 1990 and 1991—more than \$250 million each year—were more than double those of the nearest taxpayers in the I.R.S. information for those years." In 1995 his reported losses were \$915.7 million.^{[55][56]}

According to a September 2020 analysis by *The New York Times* of twenty years of data from Trump's tax returns, Trump had accumulated hundreds of millions in losses and deferred declaring \$287 million in forgiven debt as taxable income.^[57] According to the analysis, Trump's main sources of income were his share of revenue from The Apprentice and income from businesses in which he was a minority partner, while his majority-owned businesses were largely running at losses.^[57] A significant portion of Trump's income was in tax credits due to his losses, which enables him to avoid paying income tax, or paying as little as \$750, for several years.^[57] Over the past decade, Trump has been balancing his businesses' losses by selling and taking out loans against assets, including a \$100 million mortgage on Trump Tower (due in 2022) and the liquidation

of over \$200 million in stocks and bonds.^[57] Trump has personally guaranteed \$421 million in debt, most of which is due to be repaid by 2024. The tax records also showed Trump had unsuccessfully pursued business deals in China, including by developing a partnership with a major government-controlled company.^[58]

Trump has a total of over \$1 billion in debts, secured by his assets, according to a *Forbes* report in October 2020. \$640 million or more was owed to various banks and trust organizations. Lenders include Deutsche Bank, UBS, and Bank of China. Approximately \$450 million was owed to unknown creditors. The current value of Trump's assets exceeds his indebtedness, according to the report.^[59]

Business career

Real estate

While a student at Wharton and after graduating in 1968, Trump worked at his father Fred's real estate company, Trump Management, which owned middle-class rental housing in New York City's outer boroughs.^{[60][61][62]} In 1971, he became president of the company and began using The Trump Organization as an umbrella brand.^[63] It was registered as a corporation in 1981.^[64]

Manhattan developments

Trump attracted public attention in 1978 with the launch of his family's first Manhattan venture, the renovation of the derelict Commodore Hotel, adjacent to Grand Central Terminal. The financing was facilitated by a \$400 million city property tax abatement arranged by Fred Trump,^[65] who also joined Hyatt in guaranteeing \$70 million in bank construction financing.^{[66][67]} The hotel reopened in 1980 as the Grand Hyatt Hotel,^[68] and that same year, Trump obtained rights to develop Trump Tower, a mixed-use skyscraper in Midtown Manhattan.^[69] The building houses the headquarters of the Trump Organization and was Trump's primary residence until 2019.^{[70][71]}



Trump Tower in Midtown Manhattan

In 1988, Trump acquired the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan with a loan of \$425 million from a consortium of banks. Two years later, the hotel filed for bankruptcy protection, and a reorganization plan was approved in 1992.^[72] In 1995, Trump lost the hotel to Citibank and investors from Singapore and Saudi Arabia, who assumed \$300 million of the debt.^{[73][74]}

In 1996, Trump acquired the vacant 71-story skyscraper at 40 Wall Street. After an extensive renovation, the high-rise was renamed the Trump Building.^[75] In the early 1990s, Trump won the right to develop a 70-acre (28 ha) tract in the Lincoln Square neighborhood near the Hudson River. Struggling with debt from other ventures in 1994, Trump sold most of his interest in the project to Asian investors, who were able to finance completion of the project, Riverside South.^[76]

Palm Beach estate

In 1985, Trump acquired the Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida.^[77] Trump converted the estate into a private club with an initiation fee and annual dues and used a wing of the house as a private residence.^[78] In 2019, Trump declared Mar-a-Lago his primary residence.^[71]

Atlantic City casinos



Entrance of the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City

In 1984, Trump opened Harrah's at Trump Plaza, a hotel and casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The project received financing from the Holiday Corporation, which also managed the operation. Gambling had been legalized there in 1977 to revitalize the once-popular seaside destination.^[79]



Mar-a-Lago in 2009

The property's poor financial results worsened tensions between Holiday and Trump, who paid Holiday \$70 million in May 1986 to take sole control of the property.^[80] Earlier, Trump had also acquired a partially completed building in Atlantic City from

the Hilton Corporation for \$320 million. Upon its completion in 1985, that hotel and casino were called Trump Castle. Trump's then-wife Ivana managed it until 1988.^{[81][82]}

Trump acquired a third casino in Atlantic City, the Trump Taj Mahal, in 1988 in a highly leveraged transaction.^[83] It was financed with \$675 million in junk bonds and completed at a cost of \$1.1 billion, opening in April 1990.^{[84][85][86]} The project went bankrupt the following year,^[85] and the reorganization left Trump with only half his initial ownership stake and required him to pledge personal guarantees of future performance.^[87] Facing "enormous debt," he gave up control of his money-losing airline, Trump Shuttle, and sold his megayacht, the Trump Princess, which had been indefinitely docked in Atlantic City while leased to his casinos for use by wealthy gamblers.^{[88][89]}

In 1995, Trump founded Trump Hotels & Casino Resorts (THCR), which assumed ownership of Trump Plaza, Trump Castle, and the Trump Casino in Gary, Indiana.^[90] THCR purchased the Taj Mahal in 1996 and underwent successive bankruptcies in 2004, 2009, and 2014, leaving Trump with only ten percent ownership.^[91] He remained chairman of THCR until 2009.^[92]

Golf courses

The Trump Organization began acquiring and constructing golf courses in 1999.^[93] It owned 11 golf courses and resorts worldwide and managed another four as of July 2020.^[94]

From his inauguration until the end of 2019, Trump spent around one of every five days at one of his golf clubs.^[95]

Branding and licensing

The Trump name has been licensed for various consumer products and services, including foodstuffs, apparel, adult learning courses, and home furnishings.^{[96][97]} According to an analysis by *The Washington Post*, there are more than fifty licensing or management deals involving Trump's name, which have generated at least \$59 million in yearly revenue for his companies.^[98] By 2018, only two consumer goods companies continued to license his name.^[97]

Legal affairs and bankruptcies

Fixer Roy Cohn served as Trump's lawyer and mentor for 13 years in the 1970s and 1980s.^{[99][100]} According to Trump, Cohn sometimes waived fees due to their friendship.^[61] In 1973, Cohn helped Trump countersue the United States government for \$100 million over its charges that Trump's properties had racial discriminatory practices. Trump and Cohn lost that case when the countersuit was dismissed and the government's case went forward.^[101] In 1975, an agreement was struck requiring Trump's properties to furnish the New York Urban League with a list of all apartment vacancies, every week for two years, among other things.^[102] Cohn introduced political consultant Roger Stone to Trump, who enlisted Stone's services to deal with the federal government.^[103]

As of April 2018, Trump and his businesses had been involved in more than 4,000 state and federal legal actions, according to a running tally by USA Today.^[104]

While Trump has not filed for personal bankruptcy, his over-leveraged hotel and casino businesses in Atlantic City and New York filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection six times between 1991 and 2009.^{[105][106]} They continued to operate while the banks restructured debt and reduced Trump's shares in the properties.^{[105][106]}

During the 1980s, more than 70 banks had lent Trump \$4 billion,^[107] but in the aftermath of his corporate bankruptcies of the early 1990s, most major banks declined to lend to him, with only Deutsche Bank still willing to lend money.^[108] The New York Times reported days after the storming of the United States Capitol that the bank had decided not to do business with Trump or his company in the future.^[109]

In April 2019, the House Oversight Committee issued subpoenas seeking financial details from Trump's banks, Deutsche Bank and Capital One, and his accounting firm, Mazars USA. In response, Trump sued the banks, Mazars, and committee chairman Elijah Cummings to prevent the disclosures.^{[110][111]} In May, DC District Court judge Amit Mehta ruled that Mazars must comply with the subpoena,^[112] and judge Edgardo Ramos of the Southern District Court of New York ruled that the banks must also comply.^{[113][114]} Trump's attorneys appealed the rulings,^[115] arguing that Congress was attempting to usurp the "exercise of law-enforcement authority that the Constitution reserves to the executive branch."^{[116][117]}

Side ventures

In September 1983, Trump purchased the New Jersey Generals, a team in the United States Football League. After the 1985 season, the league folded, largely due to Trump's strategy of moving games to a fall schedule (where they competed with the NFL for audience) and trying to force a merger with the NFL by bringing an antitrust suit against the organization.^{[118][119]}

Trump's businesses have hosted several boxing matches at the Atlantic City Convention Hall adjacent to and promoted as taking place at the Trump Plaza in Atlantic City.^{[120][121]} In 1989 and 1990, Trump lent his name to the Tour de Trump cycling stage race, which was an attempt to create an American equivalent of European races such as the Tour de France or the Giro d'Italia.^[122]



Trump International Hotel and Tower in Chicago



Trump at a New York Mets baseball game in 2009

In the late 1980s, Trump mimicked the actions of Wall Street's so-called corporate raiders. Trump began to purchase significant blocks of shares in various public companies, leading some observers to think he was engaged in the practice called greenmail, or feigning the intent to acquire the companies and then pressuring management to repurchase the buyer's stake at a premium. *The New York Times* found that Trump initially made millions of dollars in such stock transactions, but later "lost most, if not all, of those gains after investors stopped taking his takeover talk seriously."^{[55][123][124]}

In 1988, Trump purchased the defunct Eastern Air Lines shuttle, with 21 planes and landing rights in New York City, Boston, and Washington, D.C. He financed the purchase with \$380 million from 22 banks, rebranded the operation the Trump Shuttle, and operated it until 1992. Trump failed to earn a profit with the airline and sold it to USAir.^[125]

In 1992, Trump, his siblings Maryanne, Elizabeth, and Robert, and his cousin John W. Walter, each with a 20 percent share, formed All County Building Supply & Maintenance Corp. The company had no offices and is alleged to have been a shell company for paying the vendors providing services and supplies for Trump's rental units and then billing those services and supplies to Trump Management with markups of 20–50 percent and more. The proceeds generated by the markups were shared by the owners.^{[49][126]} The increased costs were used as justification to get state approval for increasing the rents of Trump's rent-stabilized units.^[49]



Trump's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

From 1996 to 2015, Trump owned all or part of the Miss Universe pageants, including Miss USA and Miss Teen USA.^{[127][128]} Due to disagreements with CBS about scheduling, he took both pageants to NBC in 2002.^{[129][130]} In 2007, Trump received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for his work as producer of Miss Universe.^[131] After NBC and Univision dropped the pageants from their broadcasting lineups in June 2015,^[132] Trump bought NBC's share of the Miss Universe Organization and sold the entire company to the William Morris talent agency.^[127]

Trump University

In 2004, Trump co-founded Trump University, a company that sold real estate training courses priced from \$1,500 to \$35,000.^{[133][134]} After New York State authorities notified the company that its use of the word "university" violated state law, its name was changed to Trump Entrepreneur Initiative in 2010.^[135]

In 2013, the State of New York filed a \$40 million civil suit against Trump University, alleging that the company made false statements and defrauded consumers.^{[136][137]} In addition, two class actions were filed in federal court against Trump and his companies. Internal documents revealed that employees were instructed to use a hard-sell approach, and former employees testified that Trump University had defrauded or lied to its students.^{[138][139][140]} Shortly after he won the presidency, Trump agreed to pay a total of \$25 million to settle the three cases.^[141]

Foundation

The Donald J. Trump Foundation was a private foundation established in 1988.^{[142][143]} In the foundation's final years its funds mostly came from donors other than Trump, who did not donate any personal funds to the charity from 2009 until 2014.^[144] The foundation gave to health care and sports-related charities, as well as conservative groups.^[145]

In 2016, *The Washington Post* reported that the charity had committed several potential legal and ethical violations, including alleged self-dealing and possible tax evasion.^[146] Also in 2016, the New York State attorney general's office said the foundation appeared to be in violation of New York laws regarding charities

and ordered it to immediately cease its fundraising activities in New York.^{[147][148]} Trump's team announced in December 2016 that the foundation would be dissolved.^[149]

In June 2018, the New York attorney general's office filed a civil suit against the foundation, Trump, and his adult children, seeking \$2.8 million in restitution and additional penalties.^{[150][151]} In December 2018, the foundation ceased operation and disbursed all its assets to other charities.^[152] In November 2019, a New York state judge ordered Trump to pay \$2 million to a group of charities for misusing the foundation's funds, in part to finance his presidential campaign.^{[153][154]}

Media career

Books

Trump has written up to 19 books on business, financial, or political topics, though he has used ghostwriters to do this.^[155] Trump's first book, *The Art of the Deal* (1987), was a *New York Times* Best Seller. While Trump was credited as co-author, the entire book was ghostwritten by Tony Schwartz.^[156] According to *The New Yorker*, "The book expanded Trump's renown far beyond New York City, making him an emblem of the successful tycoon."^[156] Trump has called the book his second favorite, after the Bible.^[157]

Film and television

Trump made cameo appearances in eight films and television shows from 1985 to 2001.^{[158][159]}

Trump had a sporadic relationship with the professional wrestling promotion WWE since the late 1980s.^[160] He appeared at WrestleMania 23 in 2007 and was inducted into the celebrity wing of the WWE Hall of Fame in 2013.^[161]

Starting in the 1990s, Trump was a guest about 24 times on the nationally syndicated Howard Stern Show.^[162] He also had his own short-form talk radio program called *Trumped!* (one to two minutes on weekdays) from 2004 to 2008.^{[163][164]} From 2011 until 2015, he was a weekly unpaid guest commentator on Fox & Friends.^{[165][166]}

In 2003, Trump became the co-producer and host of *The Apprentice*, a reality show in which Trump played the role of a chief executive and contestants competed for a year of employment at the Trump Organization. Trump eliminated contestants with the catchphrase "You're fired."^[167] He later co-hosted *The Celebrity Apprentice*, in which celebrities competed to win money for charities.^[167] Trump, who had been a member since 1989, resigned from the Screen Actors Guild in February 2021 rather than face a disciplinary committee hearing for inciting the January 6, 2021 mob attack on the U.S. Capitol and for his "reckless campaign of misinformation aimed at discrediting and ultimately threatening the safety of journalists."^[168] Two days later, the union permanently barred him from readmission.^[169]

Pre-presidential political career

Trump's political party affiliation changed numerous times. He registered as a Republican in 1987, a member of the Independence Party, the New York state affiliate of the Reform Party, in 1999,^[170] a Democrat in 2001, a Republican in 2009, unaffiliated in 2011, and a Republican in 2012.^[171]



Trump and President Bill Clinton in June 2000

In 1987, Trump placed full-page advertisements in three major newspapers,^[172] advocating peace in Central America, accelerated nuclear disarmament talks with the Soviet Union, and reduction of the federal budget deficit by making American allies pay "their fair share" for military defense.^[173] He ruled out running for local office but not for the presidency.^[172]

In 2000, Trump ran in the California and Michigan primaries for nomination as the Reform Party candidate for the 2000 United States

presidential election but withdrew from the race in February 2000.^{[174][175][176]} A July 1999 poll matching him against likely Republican nominee George W. Bush and likely Democratic nominee Al Gore showed Trump with seven percent support.^[177]



Trump speaking at CPAC 2011

In 2011, Trump speculated about running against President Barack Obama in the 2012 election, making his first speaking appearance at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in February 2011 and giving speeches in early primary states.^{[178][179]} In May 2011, he announced he would not run,^[178] and he endorsed Mitt Romney in February 2012.^[180] Trump's presidential ambitions were generally not taken seriously at the time.^[181]

2016 presidential campaign

Republican primaries

On June 16, 2015, Trump announced his candidacy for President of the United States.^{[182][183]} His campaign was initially not taken seriously by political analysts, but he quickly rose to the top of opinion polls.^[184]

On Super Tuesday, Trump received the most votes, and he remained the front-runner throughout the primaries.^[185] After a landslide win in Indiana on May 3, 2016—which prompted the remaining candidates Ted Cruz and John Kasich to suspend their presidential campaigns—RNC chairman Reince Priebus declared Trump the presumptive Republican nominee.^[186]

General election campaign

Hillary Clinton had a significant lead over Trump in national polls throughout most of 2016. In early July, her lead narrowed in national polling averages.^{[187][188]}

On July 15, 2016, Trump announced his selection of Indiana governor Mike Pence as his vice presidential running mate.^[189] Four days later, the two were officially nominated by the Republican Party at the Republican National Convention.^[190]



Trump campaigning in Fountain Hills, Arizona, March 2016. The cap he is wearing advertises the campaign slogan Make America Great Again (MAGA). Such caps were ubiquitous during the campaign.

Trump and Clinton faced off in three presidential debates in September and October 2016. Trump's refusal to say whether he would accept the result of the election drew attention, with some saying it undermined democracy.^{[191][192]}

Political positions

Trump's campaign platform emphasized renegotiating U.S.–China relations and free trade agreements such as NAFTA and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, strongly enforcing immigration laws, and building a new wall along the U.S.–Mexico border. His other campaign positions included pursuing energy independence while opposing climate change regulations such as the Clean Power Plan and the Paris Agreement, modernizing and expediting services for veterans, repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, abolishing Common Core education standards, investing in infrastructure, simplifying the tax code while reducing taxes for all economic classes, and imposing tariffs on imports by companies that offshore jobs. During the campaign, he advocated a largely non-interventionist approach to foreign policy while increasing military spending, extreme vetting or banning immigrants from Muslim-majority countries^[193] to pre-empt domestic Islamic terrorism, and aggressive military action against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. He described NATO as "obsolete".^{[194][195]}



Candidate Trump and running mate Mike Pence at the Republican National Convention, July 2016

Trump's political positions and rhetoric were right-wing populist.^{[196][197][198]} *Politico* has described his positions as "eclectic, improvisational and often contradictory,"^[199] while NBC News counted "141 distinct shifts on 23 major issues" during his campaign.^[200]

Campaign rhetoric

Trump said he disdained political correctness and frequently made claims of media bias.^{[201][202][203]} His fame and provocative statements earned him an unprecedented amount of free media coverage, elevating his standing in the Republican primaries.^[204]

Trump made a record number of false statements compared to other candidates,^{[205][206][207]} the press reported on his campaign lies and falsehoods, with the *Los Angeles Times* saying, "Never in modern presidential politics has a major candidate made false statements as routinely as Trump has."^[208] His campaign statements were often opaque or suggestive.^[209]

Trump adopted the phrase "truthful hyperbole," coined by his ghostwriter Tony Schwartz, to describe his public speaking style.^{[210][211]}

Support from the far-right

According to Michael Barkun, the Trump campaign was remarkable for bringing fringe ideas, beliefs, and organizations into the mainstream.^[212] During his presidential campaign, Trump was accused of pandering to white supremacists.^[213] He retweeted racist Twitter accounts,^[214] and repeatedly refused to condemn David Duke, the Ku Klux Klan or white supremacists.^[215] Duke enthusiastically supported Trump and said he and like-minded people voted for Trump because of his promises to "take our country back".^{[216][217]} After repeated questioning by reporters, Trump said he disavowed Duke and the Klan.^[218]

The alt-right movement coalesced around and enthusiastically supported Trump's candidacy,^{[219][220]} due in part to its opposition to multiculturalism and immigration.^{[221][222][223]}

In August 2016, he appointed Steve Bannon, the executive chairman of Breitbart News—described by Bannon as "the platform for the alt-right"—as his campaign CEO.^[224] After the election, Trump condemned supporters who celebrated his victory with Nazi salutes.^{[225][226]}

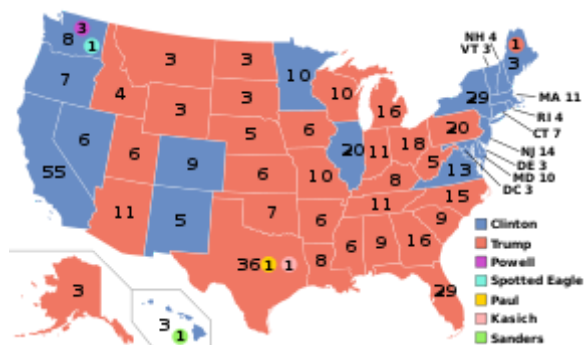
Financial disclosures

Trump's FEC-required reports listed assets above \$1.4 billion and outstanding debts of at least \$315 million.^{[45][227]} Trump did not release his tax returns, contrary to the practice of every major candidate since 1976 and his promises in 2014 and 2015 to do so if he ran for office.^{[228][229]} He said his tax returns were being audited, and his lawyers had advised him against releasing them.^[230] After a lengthy court battle to block release of his tax returns and other records to the Manhattan district attorney for a criminal investigation, including two appeals by Trump to the United States Supreme Court, in February 2021 the high court allowed the records to be released to the prosecutor for review by a grand jury.^{[231][232]}

In October 2016, portions of Trump's state filings for 1995 were leaked to a reporter from *The New York Times*. They show that Trump had declared a loss of \$916 million that year, which could have let him avoid taxes for up to 18 years.^[233] In March 2017, the first two pages of Trump's 2005 federal income tax returns were leaked to MSNBC. The document states that Trump had a gross adjusted income of \$150 million and paid \$38 million in federal taxes. The White House confirmed the authenticity of the documents.^{[234][235]}

Election to the presidency

On November 8, 2016, Trump received 306 pledged electoral votes versus 232 for Clinton. The official counts were 304 and 227 respectively, after defections on both sides.^[236] Trump received nearly 2.9 million fewer popular votes than Clinton, which made him the fifth person to be elected president while losing the popular vote.^[237]



2016 electoral vote results. Trump won 304–227



President Obama and president-elect Trump on November 10, 2016

Trump's victory was a political upset.^[238] Polls had consistently shown Clinton with a nationwide—though diminishing—lead, as well as an advantage in most of the competitive states. Trump's support had been modestly underestimated, while Clinton's had been overestimated.^[239]

Trump won 30 states; included were Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, which had been part of what was considered a blue wall of Democratic strongholds since the 1990s. Clinton won 20 states and the District of Columbia. Trump's victory marked the return of an undivided

Republican government—a Republican White House combined with Republican control of both chambers of Congress.^[240]

Trump was the oldest person to take office as president at the time of his inauguration.^[241] He is also the first president who did not serve in the military or hold any government office prior to becoming president.^[242]

Protests

Trump's election victory sparked numerous protests.^{[243][244]} On the day after Trump's inauguration, an estimated 2.6 million people worldwide, including an estimated half million in Washington, D.C., protested against Trump in the Women's Marches.^[245] Marches against his travel ban began across the country on January 29, 2017, just nine days after his inauguration.^[246]

Presidency (2017–2021)

Early actions

Trump was inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States on January 20, 2017. During his first week in office, he signed six executive orders: interim procedures in anticipation of repealing the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare"), withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations, reinstatement of the Mexico City Policy, authorizing the Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipeline construction projects, reinforcing border security, and beginning the planning and design process to construct a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico.^[247]

Trump's daughter Ivanka and her husband Jared Kushner became Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor to the President, respectively.^{[248][249]}

Conflicts of interest

Before being inaugurated, Trump moved his businesses into a revocable trust run by his sons, Eric and Donald Jr, and a business associate.^{[250][251]} However Trump continued to profit from his businesses^[252] and continued to have knowledge of how his administration's policies affected his businesses.^[251] Though Trump said he would eschew "new foreign deals," the Trump Organization pursued expansions of its operations in Dubai, Scotland, and the Dominican Republic.^[252]

Trump was sued for violating the Domestic and Foreign Emoluments Clauses of the U.S. Constitution,^[253] marking the first time that the clauses had been substantively litigated.^{[253][254]} The plaintiffs said that Trump's business interests could allow foreign governments to influence him.^{[253][252][255][254]} Trump called the clause "phony".^{[256][252]} After Trump's term had ended, the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed the cases as moot.^[257]

Domestic policy

Economy and trade

Trump took office at the height of the longest economic expansion in American history,^[258] which began in June 2009 and continued until February 2020, when the COVID-19 recession began.^[259]

In December 2017, Trump signed tax legislation that permanently cut the corporate tax rate to 21 percent, lowered personal income tax rates until 2025, increased child tax credits, doubled the estate tax exemption to \$11.2 million, and limited the state and local tax deduction to \$10,000.^[260]



Women's March in Washington on January 21, 2017



Trump is sworn in as president by Chief Justice John Roberts.

Trump is a skeptic of trade liberalization, adopting these views in the 1980s, and sharply criticized NAFTA during the Republican primary campaign in 2015.^{[261][262][263]} He withdrew the U.S. from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations,^[264] imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports,^[265] and launched a trade war with China by sharply increasing tariffs on 818 categories (worth \$50 billion) of Chinese goods imported into the U.S.^{[266][267]} On several occasions, Trump said incorrectly that these import tariffs are paid by China into the U.S. Treasury.^[268] Although Trump pledged during his 2016 campaign to significantly reduce the U.S.'s large trade deficits, the U.S. trade deficit reached its highest level in 12 years under his administration.^[269] Following a 2017–2018 renegotiation, Trump signed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) as the successor to NAFTA on January 29, 2020.^[270] The revised trade deal became effective on July 1, 2020.^[271]



Trump speaks to automobile workers in Michigan, March 2017

Despite a campaign promise to eliminate the national debt in eight years, Trump as president approved large increases in government spending, as well as the 2017 tax cut. As a result, the federal budget deficit increased by almost 50 percent, to nearly \$1 trillion in 2019.^[272] Under Trump, the U.S. national debt increased by 39 percent, reaching \$27.75 trillion by the end of his term; the U.S. debt-to-GDP ratio also hit a post-World War II high.^[273]

Although the U.S. unemployment rate hit a 50-year low (3.5 percent) in February 2020, the unemployment rate hit a 90-year high (14.7 percent), matching Great Depression levels, just two months later, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.^[274] Trump left office with 3 million fewer jobs in the U.S. than when he took office, making Trump the only modern U.S. president to leave office with a smaller workforce.^[258]

An analysis published by *The Wall Street Journal* in October 2020 found the trade war Trump initiated in early 2018 neither revived American manufacturing nor resulted in the reshoring of factory production.^[275]

Energy and climate

Trump rejects the scientific consensus on climate change.^{[276][277]} He slashed the budget for renewable energy research and reversed Obama-era policies directed at curbing climate change.^[278] In June 2017, Trump announced the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement, making the U.S. the only nation in the world to not ratify the agreement.^[279]

Trump rolled back more than 100 federal environmental regulations, including those that curbed greenhouse gas emissions, air and water pollution, and the use of toxic substances. He weakened protections for animals and environmental standards for federal infrastructure projects, and expanded permitted areas for drilling and resource extraction, such as allowing drilling in the Arctic Refuge.^[280] Trump aimed to boost the production and exports of fossil fuels;^{[281][282]} under Trump, natural gas expanded, but coal continued to decline.^{[283][284]}

Deregulation

During his presidency, Trump dismantled many federal regulations on health, labor, and the environment, among other topics.^[285] Trump signed 15 Congressional Review Act resolutions repealing federal regulations, becoming the second president to sign a CRA resolution, and the first president to sign more than one CRA resolution.^[286] During his first six weeks in office, he delayed, suspended or reversed ninety federal regulations.^{[287][288]}

On January 30, 2017, Trump signed Executive Order 13771, which directed that for every new regulation administrative agencies issue "at least two prior regulations be identified for elimination."^[289] Agency defenders expressed opposition to Trump's criticisms, saying the bureaucracy exists to protect people against well-organized, well-funded interest groups.^[290]

Health care

During his campaign, Trump vowed to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act,^[291] and urged Congress to do so. In May 2017, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives passed a bill to repeal the ACA in a party-line vote,^[292] but repeal proposals were narrowly voted down in the Senate after three Republicans joined all Democrats in opposing it.^[293]

Trump scaled back the implementation of the ACA through Executive Orders 13765^[294] and 13813.^[295] Trump has expressed a desire to "let Obamacare fail"; his administration cut the ACA enrollment period in half and drastically reduced funding for advertising and other ways to encourage enrollment.^{[296][297]} The 2017 tax bill signed by Trump effectively repealed the ACA's individual health insurance mandate in 2019,^[298] and a budget bill Trump signed in 2019 repealed the Cadillac plan tax.^{[299][300]} As president, Trump falsely claimed he saved the coverage of pre-existing conditions provided by the ACA;^[301] in fact, the Trump administration joined a lawsuit seeking to strike down the entire ACA, including protections for those with pre-existing conditions.^{[302][303]} If successful, the lawsuit would eliminate health insurance coverage for up to 23 million Americans.^[302] As a 2016 candidate, Trump promised to protect funding for Medicare and other social safety-net programs, but in January 2020 he suggested he was willing to consider cuts to such programs.^[304]

Trump's policies in response to the opioid epidemic have been widely criticized as ineffectual and harmful. U.S. opioid overdose deaths declined slightly in 2018, but surged to a new record of 50,052 deaths in 2019.^[305]

Social issues

Trump favored modifying the 2016 Republican platform opposing abortion, to allow for exceptions in cases of rape, incest, and circumstances endangering the health of the mother.^[306] He said he was committed to appointing "pro-life" justices, pledging in 2016 to appoint justices who would "automatically" overturn Roe v. Wade.^[307] He says he personally supports "traditional marriage" but considers the nationwide legality of same-sex marriage a "settled" issue.^[308] In March 2017, the Trump administration rolled back key components of the Obama administration's workplace protections against discrimination of LGBT people.^[309]

Trump says he is opposed to gun control in general, although his views have shifted over time.^[310] After several mass shootings during his term, Trump initially said he would propose legislation to curtail gun violence, but this was abandoned in November 2019.^[311] The Trump administration has taken an anti-marijuana position, revoking Obama-era policies that provided protections for states that legalized marijuana.^[312]

Long favoring capital punishment,^[313] Trump approved the first federal executions in 17 years;^[314] under Trump, the federal government executed 13 prisoners, more than in the previous 56 years combined.^[315] In 2016, Trump said he supported the use of interrogation torture methods such as waterboarding^{[316][317]} but later appeared to recant this due to the opposition of Defense Secretary James Mattis.^[318]



Trump, the First Lady, and Senator John Cornyn meeting with survivors of the 2019 El Paso shooting

Other issues

Pardons and commutations

Most of Trump's pardons were granted to people with personal or political connections to him.^{[319][320]} In his term, Trump sidestepped regular Department of Justice procedures for considering pardons; instead he often entertained pardon requests from his associates or from celebrities.^[319]

In 2017, Trump pardoned former Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio who was convicted of contempt of court for disobeying a court order to halt the racial profiling of Latinos.^[321] In 2018, Trump pardoned former Navy sailor Kristian Saucier, who was convicted of taking classified photographs of a submarine;^[322] Scooter Libby, a political aide to former vice president Dick Cheney, who was convicted of obstruction of justice, perjury, and making false statements to the FBI;^[323] conservative commentator Dinesh D'Souza, who had made illegal political campaign contributions;^[324] and he commuted the life sentence of Alice Marie Johnson, who had been convicted of drug trafficking, following a request by celebrity Kim Kardashian.^[325] In 2019, Trump pardoned or reversed the sentences of three American soldiers convicted or accused of war crimes in Afghanistan or Iraq.^[326] In 2020, he pardoned four Blackwater mercenaries convicted of killing Iraqi civilians in the 2007 Nisour Square massacre.^[327] He also pardoned white-collar criminals Michael Milken, Bernard Kerik, and Edward J. DeBartolo Jr. and commuted former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich's 14-year corruption sentence.^{[328][329]} In December 2020, he pardoned Charles Kushner, Ivanka Trump's father-in-law, who had served two years in federal prison for witness tampering, tax evasion, and illegal campaign donations.^[319]

Trump pardoned or commuted the sentences for five people convicted as a result of investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential elections.^{[319][327]} In November 2020, Trump pardoned his former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn and, in December, his 2016 campaign adviser George Papadopoulos and lawyer Alex van der Zwaan; all three had pleaded guilty of lying to federal officials during the investigations.^[327] Also in December 2020, Trump pardoned his friend and advisor Roger Stone whose 40-month sentence for lying to Congress, witness tampering, and obstruction he had already commuted in July; and his 2016 campaign manager Paul Manafort who had been sentenced to more than seven years in prison for bank and tax fraud and other crimes.^[330]

In his last full day in office, Trump granted 143 pardons and commutations. He pardoned his former chief strategist Steve Bannon; Trump fundraiser Elliott Broidy; and former Republican congressmen Rick Renzi, Robert Hayes, and Randall "Duke" Cunningham, and commuted the sentences of dozens of people including former Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and sports gambler Billy Walters; the latter had paid tens of thousands of dollars to former Trump attorney John M. Dowd to plead his case with Trump.^[331]

Lafayette Square protester removal and photo op

On June 1, 2020, federal law enforcement officials used batons, rubber bullets, pepper spray projectiles, stun grenades, and smoke to remove a largely peaceful crowd of protesters from Lafayette Square, outside the White House.^{[332][333]} Trump then walked to St. John's Episcopal Church, where protesters had set a small fire the night before; he posed for photographs holding a Bible, with senior administration officials later joining him in photos.^{[332][334]} Trump said on June 3 that the protesters were cleared because "they tried to burn down the church [on May 31] and almost succeeded", describing the church as "badly hurt".^[335]

Religious leaders condemned the treatment of protesters and the photo opportunity itself.^[336] Many retired military leaders and defense officials condemned Trump's proposal to use the U.S. military against anti-police brutality protesters.^[337] The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark A. Milley, later apologized

for accompanying Trump on the walk and thereby "creat[ing] the perception of the military involved in domestic politics."^[338]

In June 2021, the Interior Inspector General, which reviewed U.S. Park Police actions, found that Attorney General William Barr had urged Park Police to clear the park, but concluded that this encouragement did not influence the decision by Park Police, which had already decided to clear the park to install fencing.^[339] The report did not assess if Barr or Trump's planned visit "influenced the Secret Service's actions" in clearing the park.^[340]

Immigration

Trump's proposed immigration policies were a topic of bitter and contentious debate during the campaign. He promised to build a wall on the Mexico–United States border to restrict illegal movement and vowed Mexico would pay for it.^[341] He pledged to deport millions of illegal immigrants residing in the United States,^[342] and criticized birthright citizenship for incentivizing "anchor babies."^[343] As president, he frequently described illegal immigration as an "invasion" and conflated immigrants with the criminal gang MS-13, though research shows undocumented immigrants have a lower crime rate than native-born Americans.^[344]

Trump has attempted to drastically escalate immigration enforcement, including harsher immigration enforcement policies against asylum seekers from Central America than any modern U.S. president.^{[345][346]}

From 2018 onwards, Trump deployed nearly 6,000 troops to the U.S.–Mexico border,^[347] to stop most Central American migrants from seeking U.S. asylum, and from 2020 used the public charge rule to restrict immigrants using government benefits from getting permanent residency via green cards.^[348] Trump has reduced the number of refugees admitted into the U.S. to record lows. When Trump took office, the annual limit was 110,000; Trump set a limit of 18,000 in the 2020 fiscal year and 15,000 in the 2021 fiscal year.^{[349][350]} Additional restrictions implemented by the Trump administration caused significant bottlenecks in processing refugee applications, resulting in fewer refugees accepted compared to the allowed limits.^[351]

Travel ban

Following the 2015 San Bernardino attack, Trump proposed to ban Muslim foreigners from entering the United States until stronger vetting systems could be implemented.^[352] He later reframed the proposed ban to apply to countries with a "proven history of terrorism."^[353]

On January 27, 2017, Trump signed Executive Order 13769, which suspended admission of refugees for 120 days and denied entry to citizens of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen for 90 days, citing security concerns. The order took effect immediately and without warning.^[354] Confusion and protests caused chaos at airports.^[355] Multiple legal challenges were filed against the order, and a federal judge blocked its implementation nationwide.^[356] On March 6, Trump issued a revised order, which excluded Iraq and gave other exemptions, but was again blocked by federal judges in three states.^[357] In a decision in June 2017, the Supreme Court ruled that the ban could be enforced on visitors who lack a "credible claim of a *bona fide* relationship with a person or entity in the United States."^[358]

The temporary order was replaced by Presidential Proclamation 9645 on September 24, 2017, which permanently restricts travel from the originally targeted countries except Iraq and Sudan, and further bans travelers from North Korea and Chad, along with certain Venezuelan officials.^[359] After lower courts partially blocked the new restrictions, the Supreme Court allowed the September version to go into full effect on December 4, 2017,^[360] and ultimately upheld the travel ban in a June 2019 ruling.^[361]

Family separation at border



Children sitting within a wire mesh compartment in the Ursula detention facility in McAllen, Texas, June 2018

The Trump administration separated more than 5,400 children of migrant families from their parents at the U.S.–Mexico border while attempting to enter the U.S, a sharp increase in the number of family separations at the border starting from the summer of 2017.^{[362][363]} In April 2018, the Trump administration announced a "zero tolerance" policy whereby every adult suspected of illegal entry would be criminally prosecuted.^[364] This resulted in family separations, as the migrant adults were put in criminal detention for prosecution, while their children were separated as unaccompanied alien minors.^[365] Administration officials described the policy as a way to deter illegal immigration.^[366]

The policy of family separations was unprecedented in previous administrations and sparked public outrage.^{[366][367]} Trump falsely asserted that his administration was merely following the law, blaming Democrats, despite the separations being his administration's policy.^{[368][369][370]}

Although Trump originally argued that the separations could not be stopped by an executive order, he proceeded to sign an executive order on June 20, 2018, mandating that migrant families be detained together, unless the administration judged that doing so would harm the child.^{[371][372]} On June 26, 2018, a federal judge concluded that the Trump administration had "no system in place to keep track of" the separated children, nor any effective measures for family communication and reunification;^[373] the judge ordered for the families to be reunited, and family separations stopped, except in the cases where the parent(s) are judged unfit to take care of the child, or if there is parental approval.^[374] Despite the federal court order, the Trump administration continued to practice family separations, with more than a thousand migrant children separated.^[363]

Trump wall and government shutdown

In the longest U.S. government shutdown in history, the federal government was partially shut down for 35 days from December 2018 to January 2019.^{[375][376]} The shutdown occurred because Trump refused to extend government funding unless Congress allocated \$5.6 billion in funds for his promised border wall.^[377]

About half of Americans blamed Trump for the shutdown, and Trump's approval ratings dropped.^[378] Trump and Congress ended the shutdown by approving temporary funding that provided no funds for the wall but provided delayed paychecks to government workers.^[375]

The shutdown resulted in around 800,000 government employees either being furloughed or working without pay, estimated congressional aides.^[379] The shutdown resulted in an estimated permanent loss of \$3 billion to the economy, according to the CBO.^[380]

To prevent another imminent shutdown, Congress and Trump in February 2019 approved a funding bill that included \$1.375 billion for 55 miles of border fencing, in lieu of Trump's intended wall.^[381] Wanting even more funds for the wall, Trump simultaneously declared a National Emergency Concerning the Southern Border of the United States in hopes of getting another \$6.7 billion without congressional approval.^[381] In doing so, Trump acknowledged that he "didn't need to" declare a national emergency to "do the wall", but he "would rather do it much faster".^[381] Both the House and the Senate attempted to block Trump's national emergency declaration, but there were not enough votes in Congress for a veto override.^[382] Legal challenges against Trump's fund diversions resulted in \$2.5 billion of wall funding originally meant for anti-drug programs being approved, but \$3.6 billion of wall funding originally meant for military construction was blocked.^[383]



Trump examines border wall prototypes in Otay Mesa, California.

The "Trump wall" that was constructed was an expansion of the Mexico–United States barrier; most of this "wall" was bollard fencing.^[384] Trump's target, from 2015 to 2017, was 1,000 miles of wall.^[385] During his term, the U.S. government built 49 miles of new barriers and around 406 miles of replacement barriers.^[386]

Foreign policy



Trump with the other G7 leaders at the 45th summit in France, 2019

Trump described himself as a "nationalist"^[387] and his foreign policy as "America First."^{[388][389]} He espoused isolationist, non-interventionist, and protectionist views.^{[390][391]} His foreign policy was marked by praise and support of populist, neo-nationalist and authoritarian governments.^[392] Hallmarks of foreign relations during Trump's tenure included unpredictability and uncertainty,^[389] a lack of a consistent foreign policy,^[393] and strained and sometimes antagonistic relationships with the U.S.'s European allies.^[394]

Trump questioned the need for NATO,^[390] criticized the U.S.'s NATO allies, and privately suggested on multiple occasions that the United States should withdraw from the alliance.^{[395][396]}

Trump actively supported the Saudi Arabian-led intervention in Yemen against the Houthis and in 2017 signed a \$110 billion agreement to sell arms to Saudi Arabia,^[397] In 2018, the USA provided limited intelligence and logistical support for the Saudi Arabian-led intervention in Yemen against the Houthis.^{[398][399]} Trump approved the deployment of additional U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates following a 2019 attack on Saudi oil facilities which the United States blamed on Iran.^{[400][401]}

U.S. troop numbers in Afghanistan increased from 8,500 to 14,000, as of January 2017,^[402] reversing his pre-election position critical of further involvement in Afghanistan.^[403] In February 2020, the Trump administration signed a conditional peace agreement with the Taliban, which calls for the withdrawal of foreign troops in 14 months if the Taliban uphold the terms of the agreement.^{[404][405]}



Trump, King Salman of Saudi Arabia, and Egyptian president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi at the 2017 Riyadh summit in Saudi Arabia

Trump supported many of the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.^[406] Under Trump, the U.S. recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel^[407] and Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights,^[408] leading to international condemnation including from the United Nations General Assembly, the European Union and the Arab League.^{[409][410]}

Syria

Trump ordered missile strikes in April 2017 and in April 2018 against the Assad regime in Syria, in retaliation for the Khan Shaykhun and Douma chemical attacks, respectively.^{[411][412]}

In December 2018, Trump declared "we have won against ISIS," contradicting Department of Defense assessments, and ordered the withdrawal of all troops from Syria.^{[413][414]} The next day, Mattis resigned in protest, calling his decision an abandonment of the U.S.'s Kurdish allies who played a key role in fighting ISIS.^[415] One week after his announcement, Trump said he would not approve any extension of the American deployment in Syria.^[416]

In October 2019, after Trump spoke to Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the White House acknowledged Turkey would carry out a military offensive into northern Syria, and U.S. troops in northern Syria were withdrawn from the area, and said that ISIS fighters captured by the U.S. in the area would be Turkey's responsibility.^[417] As a result, Turkey launched an invasion, attacking and displacing American-allied Kurds in the area. Later that month, the U.S. House of Representatives, in a rare bipartisan vote of 354 to 60, condemned Trump's withdrawal of U.S. troops from Syria, for "abandoning U.S. allies, undermining the struggle against ISIS, and spurring a humanitarian catastrophe."^{[418][419]}

Iran

In May 2018, Trump announced the United States' unilateral departure from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a nuclear deal negotiated with the U.S., Iran, and five other world powers in 2015.^[420] After withdrawing from the agreement, the Trump administration applied a policy of "maximum pressure" on Iran via economic sanctions, without support of other parties to the deal.^{[421][422]}

Following Iranian missile tests in January 2017, the Trump administration sanctioned 25 Iranian individuals and entities.^{[423][424][425]} In August 2017, Trump signed legislation imposing additional sanctions against Iran, Russia, and North Korea.^[426]

In January 2020, Trump ordered a U.S. airstrike that killed Iranian general and Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani, Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, and eight other people.^[427] Trump publicly threatened to attack Iranian cultural sites, or react "in a disproportionate manner" if Iran retaliated.^[428] Several days later, Iran retaliated with airstrikes against US airbases in Iraq, accidentally shooting down Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752.^[429]

China

Before and during his presidency, Trump repeatedly accused China of taking unfair advantage of the U.S.^[430] During his presidency, Trump launched a trade war against China, sanctioned Huawei for its alleged ties to Iran,^[431] significantly increased visa restrictions on Chinese students and scholars,^[432] and classified China as a "currency manipulator."^[433] Trump also juxtaposed verbal attacks on China with praise of Chinese Communist Party leader Xi Jinping,^[434] which was attributed to trade war negotiations with the leader.^{[435][436]} After initially praising China for its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic,^[437] he began a campaign of criticism over its response starting in March.^[438]



Donald Trump met with Chinese leader Xi Jinping at 2018 G20 Summit.

Trump said he resisted punishing China for its human rights abuses against ethnic minorities in the northwestern Xinjiang region for fear of jeopardizing trade negotiations.^[439] In July 2020, the Trump administration imposed sanctions and visa restrictions against senior Chinese officials, in response to expanded mass detention camps holding more than a million of the country's Uyghur Muslim ethnic minority.^[440]

North Korea



Trump meets Kim Jong-un at the Singapore summit, June 2018

In 2017, when North Korea's nuclear weapons were increasingly seen as a serious threat,^[441] Trump escalated his rhetoric, warning that North Korean aggression would be met with "fire and fury like the world has never seen."^{[442][443]} In 2017, Trump declared that he wanted North Korea's "complete denuclearization," and engaged in name-calling with leader Kim Jong-un.^{[442][444]} After this period of tension, Trump and Kim exchanged at least 27 letters in which the two men described a warm personal friendship.^{[445][446]}

At Kim's suggestion,^[447] Trump met Kim three times: in Singapore in 2018, in Hanoi in 2019, and in the Korean Demilitarized Zone in 2019.^[448] Trump became the first sitting U.S. president to meet a

North Korean leader or to set foot in North Korea.^[448] Trump also lifted some U.S. sanctions against North Korea.^[449] However, no denuclearization agreement was reached,^[450] and talks in October 2019 broke down after one day.^[451] North Korea continued to build up its arsenal of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.^{[452][453]}

Russia

Trump has repeatedly praised and rarely criticized Russian president Vladimir Putin,^{[454][455]} but has opposed some actions of the Russian government.^{[456][457]} The Trump administration lifted U.S. sanctions imposed on Russia after its 2014 annexation of Crimea.^{[458][459]} Trump also supported a potential return of Russia to the G7,^[460] and did not confront Putin over its alleged bounties against American soldiers in Afghanistan.^[461]



Putin and Trump shaking hands at the G20 Osaka summit, June 2019

Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, citing alleged Russian non-compliance.^{[462][463]} After he met Putin at the Helsinki Summit in July 2018, Trump drew

bipartisan criticism for accepting Putin's denial of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, rather than accepting the findings of U.S. intelligence agencies.^{[464][465][466]}

Personnel

Trump's Cabinet nominations included U.S. senator from Alabama Jeff Sessions as Attorney General,^[467] banker Steve Mnuchin as Treasury Secretary,^[468] retired Marine Corps general James Mattis as Defense Secretary,^[469] and ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State.^[470] Trump also brought on board politicians who had opposed him during the presidential campaign, such as neurosurgeon Ben Carson as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development,^[471] and South Carolina governor Nikki Haley as Ambassador to the United Nations.^[472]

The Trump administration had a high turnover of personnel, particularly among White House staff. By the end of Trump's first year in office, 34 percent of his original staff had resigned, been fired, or been reassigned.^[473] As of early July 2018, 61 percent of Trump's senior aides had left^[474] and 141 staffers had left in the previous year.^[475] Both figures set a record for recent presidents—more change in the first 13 months than his four immediate predecessors saw in their first two years.^[476] Notable early departures included National Security Advisor Michael Flynn (after just 25 days in office), and Press Secretary Sean Spicer.^[476] Close personal aides to Trump including Steve Bannon, Hope Hicks, John McEntee, and Keith Schiller quit or were forced out.^[477] Some, like Hicks and McEntee, later returned to the White House in different posts.^[478] Trump publicly disparaged several of his former top officials, calling them incompetent, stupid, or crazy.^[479]



Cabinet meeting, March 2017

Trump had four White House chiefs of staff, marginalizing or pushing out several.^[480] Reince Priebus was replaced after seven months by retired Marine general John F. Kelly.^[481] Kelly resigned in December 2018 after a tumultuous tenure in which his influence waned, and Trump subsequently disparaged him.^[482] Kelly was succeeded by Mick Mulvaney as acting chief of staff; he was replaced in March 2020 by Mark Meadows.^[480]

On May 9, 2017, Trump dismissed FBI director James Comey. While initially attributing this action to Comey's conduct in the investigation about Hillary Clinton's emails, Trump said a few days later that he was concerned with Comey's roles in the ongoing Trump-Russia investigations, and that he had intended to fire Comey earlier.^[483] According to a Comey memo of a private conversation in February, Trump said he "hoped" Comey would drop the investigation into National Security Advisor Michael Flynn.^[484] In March and April, Trump told Comey the ongoing suspicions formed a "cloud" impairing his presidency,^[485] and asked him to publicly state that he was not personally under investigation.^[486]

Two of Trump's 15 original Cabinet members were gone within 15 months: Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price was forced to resign in September 2017 due to excessive use of private charter jets and military aircraft, and Trump replaced Tillerson as Secretary of State with Mike Pompeo in March 2018 over disagreements on foreign policy.^{[487][477]} In 2018, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke resigned amid multiple investigations into their conduct.^{[488][489]}

Trump was slow to appoint second-tier officials in the executive branch, saying many of the positions are unnecessary. In October 2017, there were still hundreds of sub-cabinet positions without a nominee.^[490] By January 8, 2019, of 706 key positions, 433 had been filled (61 percent) and Trump had no nominee for 264 (37 percent).^[491]

Judiciary

After Republicans won control of the U.S. Senate in 2014, only 28.6 percent of judicial nominees were confirmed, "the lowest percentage of confirmations from 1977 to 2018."^[492] At the end of the Obama presidency, 105 judgeships were vacant.^[493]

Trump appointed 226 Article III federal judges, including 54 federal appellate judges.^{[494][495][496]} Senate Republicans, led by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, rapidly confirmed Trump's judicial appointees, shifting the federal judiciary to the right.^{[495][497]} The appointees were overwhelmingly white men and younger on average than the appointees of Trump's predecessors.^[497] Many were affiliated with the Federalist Society.^{[497][498]}

Trump made three nominations to the Supreme Court: Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett.^[499] Gorsuch was confirmed in 2017 in a mostly party-line vote of 54–45, after Republicans invoked the "nuclear option" (a historic change to Senate rules removing the 60-vote threshold for advancing Supreme Court nominations) to defeat a Democratic filibuster.^[500] Trump's predecessor Obama had nominated Merrick Garland in 2016 to fill the vacancy, left by the death of Antonin Scalia, but Senate Republicans under McConnell refused to consider the nomination in the last year of Obama's presidency, angering Democrats.^[500] Trump nominated Kavanaugh in 2018 to replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy; the Senate confirmed Kavanaugh in a mostly party-line vote of 50–48, after a bitter confirmation battle centered on Christine Blasey Ford's allegation that Kavanaugh had attempted to rape her when they were teenagers, which Kavanaugh denied.^[501] In 2020, weeks before the elections, Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett to fill the vacancy left by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.^[499] On October 26, 2020, the Senate voted 52–48 to confirm her nomination.^[502]

As president, Trump disparaged courts and judges whom he disagreed with, often in personal terms, and questioned the judiciary's constitutional authority. Trump's attacks on the courts have drawn rebukes from observers, including sitting federal judges, who are concerned about the effect of Trump's statements on the judicial independence and public confidence in the judiciary.^{[503][504][505]}

COVID-19 pandemic

In December 2019, COVID-19 erupted in Wuhan, China; the SARS-CoV-2 virus spread worldwide within weeks.^{[506][507]} The first confirmed case in the U.S. was reported on January 20, 2020.^[508] The outbreak was officially declared a public health emergency by Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar on January 31, 2020.^[509]

Trump's public statements on COVID-19 were at odds with his private statements. In February 2020 Trump publicly asserted that the outbreak in the U.S. was less deadly than influenza, was "very much under control," and would soon be over.^[510] At the same time he acknowledged the opposite in a private conversation with Bob Woodward. In March 2020, Trump privately told Woodward that he was deliberately "playing it down" in public so as not to create panic.^{[511][512]}



Trump signs the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act into law on March 6, 2020.

Initial response

Trump was slow to address the spread of the disease, initially dismissing the imminent threat and ignoring persistent public health warnings and calls for action from health officials within his administration and Secretary Azar.^{[513][514]} Instead, throughout January and February he focused on economic and political considerations of the outbreak.^[515] By mid-March, most global financial markets had severely contracted in response to the emerging pandemic.^[516] Trump continued to claim that a vaccine was months away, although HHS and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officials had repeatedly told him that vaccine development would take 12–18 months.^[517] Trump also falsely claimed that "anybody that wants a test can get a test," despite the availability of tests being severely limited.^[518]

On March 6, Trump signed the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act into law, which provided \$8.3 billion in emergency funding for federal agencies.^[519] On March 11, the World Health Organization (WHO) recognized the spread of COVID-19 as a pandemic,^[506] and Trump announced partial travel restrictions for most of Europe, effective March 13.^[520] That same day, he gave his first serious assessment of the virus in a nationwide Oval Office address, calling the outbreak "horrible" but "a temporary moment" and saying there was no financial crisis.^[521] On March 13, he declared a national emergency, freeing up federal resources.^[522]

In September 2019, the Trump administration terminated United States Agency for International Development's PREDICT program, a \$200 million epidemiological research program initiated in 2009 to provide early warning of pandemics abroad.^{[523][524]} The program trained scientists in sixty foreign laboratories to detect and respond to viruses that have the potential to cause pandemics. One such laboratory was the Wuhan lab that first identified the virus that causes COVID-19. After revival in April 2020, the program was given two 6-month extensions to help fight COVID-19 in the U.S. and other countries.^{[525][526]}

On April 22, Trump signed an executive order restricting some forms of immigration to the United States.^[527] In late spring and early summer, with infections and death counts continuing to rise, he adopted a strategy of blaming the states for the growing pandemic, rather than accepting that his initial assessments of the course of the pandemic were overly-optimistic or his failure to provide presidential leadership.^[528]

White House Coronavirus Task Force

Trump established the White House Coronavirus Task Force on January 29, 2020.^[529] Beginning in mid-March, Trump held a daily task force press conference, joined by medical experts and other administration officials,^[530] sometimes disagreeing with them by promoting unproven treatments.^[531] Trump was the main speaker at the briefings, where he praised his own response to the pandemic, frequently criticized rival presidential candidate Joe Biden, and denounced the press.^{[530][532]} On March 16, he acknowledged for the first time that the pandemic was not under control and that months of disruption to daily lives and a recession might occur.^[533] His repeated use of the terms "Chinese virus" and "China virus" to describe COVID-19 drew criticism from health experts.^{[534][535][536]}



Trump conducts a COVID-19 press briefing with members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force on March 15, 2020.

By early April, as the pandemic worsened and amid criticism of his administration's response, Trump refused to admit any mistakes in his handling of the outbreak, instead blaming the media, Democratic state governors, the previous administration, China, and the WHO.^[537] By mid-April 2020, some national news agencies began limiting live coverage of his daily press briefings, with The Washington Post reporting that "propagandistic and false statements from Trump alternate with newsworthy pronouncements from members of his White House Coronavirus Task Force, particularly coronavirus response coordinator Deborah Birx and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony S. Fauci."^[538] The daily coronavirus

task force briefings ended in late April, after a briefing at which Trump suggested the dangerous idea of injecting a disinfectant to treat COVID-19,^[539] the comment was widely condemned by medical professionals.^{[540][541]}

In early May, Trump proposed the phase-out of the coronavirus task force and its replacement with another group centered on reopening the economy. Amid a backlash, Trump said the task force would "indefinitely" continue.^[542] By the end of May, the coronavirus task force's meetings were sharply reduced.^[543]

World Health Organization

Prior to the pandemic, Trump criticized the WHO and other international bodies, which he asserted were taking advantage of U.S. aid.^[544] His administration's proposed 2021 federal budget, released in February, proposed reducing WHO funding by more than half.^[544] In May and April, Trump accused the WHO of "severely mismanaging and covering up the spread of the coronavirus" and alleged without evidence that the organization was under Chinese control and had enabled the Chinese government's concealment of the origins of the pandemic.^{[544][545][546]} He then announced that he was withdrawing funding for the organization.^[544] Trump's criticisms and actions regarding the WHO were seen as attempts to distract attention from his own mishandling of the pandemic.^{[544][547][548]} In July 2020, Trump announced the formal withdrawal of the United States from the WHO effective July 2021.^{[545][546]} The decision was widely condemned by health and government officials as "short-sighted," "senseless," and "dangerous."^{[545][546]}



Poland's president Andrzej Duda visited the White House on June 24, 2020, the first foreign leader to do so since the start of the pandemic.

Testing

In June and July, Trump said several times that the U.S. would have fewer cases of coronavirus if it did less testing, that having a large number of reported cases "makes us look bad."^{[549][550]} The CDC guideline at the time was that any person exposed to the virus should be "quickly identified and tested" even if they are not showing symptoms, because asymptomatic people can still spread the virus.^{[551][552]} In August 2020, however, the CDC quietly lowered its recommendation for testing, advising that people who have been exposed to the virus, but are not showing symptoms, "do not necessarily need a test." The change in guidelines was made by HHS political appointees under Trump administration pressure, against the wishes of CDC scientists.^{[553][554][555]} The day after this political interference was reported, the testing guideline was changed back to its original recommendation, stressing that anyone who has been in contact with an infected person should be tested.^[555]

Pressure to abandon pandemic mitigation measures

In April 2020, Republican-connected groups organized anti-lockdown protests against the measures state governments were taking to combat the pandemic;^{[556][557]} Trump encouraged the protests on Twitter,^[558] even though the targeted states did not meet the Trump administration's own guidelines for reopening.^[559] In April 2020, he first supported, then later criticized, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp's plan to reopen some nonessential businesses.^[560] Throughout the spring he increasingly pushed for ending the restrictions as a way to reverse the damage to the country's economy.^[561]

Trump often refused to wear a face mask at public events, contrary to his own administration's April 2020 guidance that Americans should wear masks in public^[562] and despite nearly unanimous medical consensus that masks are important to preventing the spread of the virus.^[563] By June, Trump had said masks were a "double-edged sword"; ridiculed Biden for wearing masks; continually emphasized that mask-wearing was optional; and suggested that wearing a mask was a political statement against him personally.^[563] Trump's contradiction of medical recommendations weakened national efforts to mitigate the pandemic.^{[562][563]}

Despite record numbers of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. from mid-June onward and an increasing percentage of positive test results, Trump largely continued to downplay the pandemic, including his false claim in early July 2020 that 99 percent of COVID-19 cases are "totally harmless."^{[564][565]} He also began insisting that all states should open schools to in-person education in the fall despite a July spike in reported cases.^[566]

Political pressure on health agencies

Trump repeatedly pressured federal health agencies to take actions he favored,^[553] such as approving unproven treatments^{[567][568]} or speeding up the approval of vaccines.^[568] Trump administration political appointees at HHS sought to control CDC communications to the public that undermined Trump's claims that the pandemic was under control. CDC resisted many of the changes, but increasingly allowed HHS personnel to review articles and suggest changes before publication.^{[569][570]} Trump alleged without evidence that FDA scientists were part of a "deep state" opposing him, and delaying approval of vaccines and treatments to hurt him politically.^[571]

COVID-19 outbreak at the White House

On October 2, 2020, Trump announced that he had tested positive for COVID-19.^{[572][573]} He was treated at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for a severe case of the disease while continuing to downplay the virus. His wife, their son Barron, and numerous staff members and visitors also became infected. ^{[574][41]}



Trump boards helicopter for COVID-19 treatment on October 2, 2020

COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 presidential campaign

By July 2020, Trump's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic became a major issue for the 2020 presidential election.^[575] Democratic challenger Joe Biden sought to make the election a referendum on Trump's performance on the COVID-19 pandemic and the economy.^[576] Polls indicated voters blamed Trump for his pandemic response^[575] and disbelieved his rhetoric concerning the virus, with an Ipsos/ABC News poll indicating 65 percent of Americans disapproving of his pandemic response.^[577] In the final months of the campaign, Trump repeatedly claimed that the U.S. was "rounding the turn" in managing the pandemic, despite increasing numbers of reported cases and deaths.^[578] A few days before the November 3 election, the United States reported more than 100,000 cases in a single day for the first time.^[579]

Investigations

The Crossfire Hurricane FBI investigation into possible links between Russia and the Trump campaign was launched in mid-2016 during the campaign season. After he assumed the presidency, Trump was the subject of increasing Justice Department and congressional scrutiny, with investigations covering his election campaign,

transition, and inauguration, actions taken during his presidency, along with his private businesses, personal taxes, and charitable foundation.^[51] There were 30 investigations of Trump, including ten federal criminal investigations, eight state and local investigations, and twelve Congressional investigations.^[580]

Hush money payments

During the 2016 presidential election campaign, American Media, Inc. (AMI), the parent company of the National Enquirer,^[581] and a company set up by Trump's attorney Michael Cohen paid Playboy model Karen McDougal and adult film actress Stormy Daniels for keeping silent about their alleged affairs with Trump between 2006 and 2007.^[582] Cohen pleaded guilty in 2018 to breaking campaign finance laws, saying he had arranged both payments at the direction of Trump to influence the presidential election.^[583] Trump denied the affairs and claimed he was not aware of Cohen's payment to Daniels, but he reimbursed him in 2017.^{[584][585]} Federal prosecutors asserted that Trump had been involved in discussions regarding non-disclosure payments as early as 2014.^[586] Court documents showed that the FBI believed Trump was directly involved in the payment to Daniels, based on calls he had with Cohen in October 2016.^{[587][588]} Federal prosecutors closed the investigation in 2019,^[589] but the Manhattan District Attorney subpoenaed the Trump Organization and AMI for records related to the payments^[590] and Trump and the Trump Organization for eight years of tax returns.^[591]

Russian election interference

In January 2017, American intelligence agencies—the CIA, the FBI, and the NSA, represented by the Director of National Intelligence—jointly stated with "high confidence" that the Russian government interfered in the 2016 presidential election to favor the election of Trump.^{[592][593]} In March 2017, FBI Director James Comey told Congress "the FBI, as part of our counterintelligence mission, is investigating the Russian government's efforts to interfere in the 2016 presidential election. That includes investigating the nature of any links between individuals associated with the Trump campaign and the Russian government, and whether there was any coordination between the campaign and Russia's efforts."^[594]

The connections between Trump associates and Russia were widely reported by the press.^{[595][596]} One of Trump's campaign managers, Paul Manafort, worked from December 2004 to February 2010 to help pro-Russian politician Viktor Yanukovich win the Ukrainian presidency.^[597] Other Trump associates, including former National Security Advisor Michael T. Flynn and political consultant Roger Stone, were connected to Russian officials.^{[598][599]} Russian agents were overheard during the campaign saying they could use Manafort and Flynn to influence Trump.^[600] Members of Trump's campaign and later his White House staff, particularly Flynn, were in contact with Russian officials both before and after the November election.^{[601][602]} On December 29, 2016, Flynn talked with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak about sanctions that were imposed that same day; Flynn later resigned in the midst of controversy over whether he misled Pence.^[603] Trump told Kislyak and Sergei Lavrov in May 2017 he was unconcerned about Russian interference in U.S. elections.^[604]

Trump and his allies promoted a conspiracy theory that Ukraine, rather than Russia, interfered in the 2016 election—which was also promoted by Russia to frame Ukraine.^[605] After the Democratic National Committee was hacked, Trump first claimed it withheld "its server" from the FBI (in actuality there were more than 140 servers, of which digital copies were given to the FBI); second that CrowdStrike, the company which investigated the servers, was Ukraine-based and Ukrainian-owned (in actuality, CrowdStrike is U.S.-based, with the largest owners being American companies); and third that "the server" was hidden in Ukraine. Members of the Trump administration spoke out against the conspiracy theories.^[606]

2017 FBI counterintelligence inquiry

After Trump fired FBI director James Comey in May 2017, the FBI opened a counterintelligence investigation into Trump's personal and business dealings with Russia. It was discontinued after deputy attorney general Rod Rosenstein gave the bureau the false impression that the incipient Special Counsel investigation would pursue it.^[607]

Special counsel investigation

On May 17, 2017, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein appointed Robert Mueller, a former director of the FBI, to serve as special counsel for the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigating "links and/or coordination" between the Russian government and Trump's campaign and any matters directly arising from the investigation, taking over the existing "Crossfire Hurricane" FBI investigation.^[608] The special counsel also investigated whether Trump's dismissal of James Comey as FBI director constituted obstruction of justice^[609] and the Trump campaign's possible ties to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Qatar, Israel, and China.^[610]

Trump denied collusion between his campaign and the Russian government.^[611] He sought to fire Mueller and shut down the investigation multiple times but backed down after his staff objected or after changing his mind.^[612] He bemoaned the recusal of his first Attorney General Jeff Sessions regarding Russia matters, and believed Sessions should have stopped the investigation.^[613]

On March 22, 2019, Mueller concluded his investigation and gave his report to Attorney General William Barr.^[614] Two days later, Barr sent a letter to Congress purporting to summarize the report's main conclusions. A federal court, as well as Mueller himself, said Barr had mischaracterized the investigation's conclusions, confusing the public.^{[615][616][617]} Trump repeatedly and falsely claimed that the investigation "exonerated" him; in fact, the Mueller report expressly stated that it did not exonerate Trump.^{[618][619]}

A redacted version of the report was publicly released on April 18, 2019. The first volume found that Russia interfered in 2016 to favor Trump's candidacy and hinder Clinton's.^{[620][621]} Despite "numerous links between the Russian government and the Trump campaign," the prevailing evidence "did not establish" that Trump campaign members conspired or coordinated with Russian interference.^{[622][623]} The report revealed sweeping Russian interference^[623] and detailed how Trump and his campaign welcomed and encouraged it, believing they would politically benefit.^{[624][625][626]}

The Mueller report's second volume set forth ten "episodes" of potential obstruction of justice by Trump, but opted not to make any "traditional prosecutorial judgment" on whether Trump broke the law, suggesting that Congress should make such a determination.^{[627][628]} Investigators decided they could not "apply an approach that could potentially result in a judgment that the President committed crimes" as an Office of Legal Counsel opinion stated that a sitting president could not be indicted, and investigators would not accuse him of a crime when he cannot clear his name in court.^[629] The report concluded that Congress, having the authority to take action against a president for wrongdoing, "may apply the obstruction laws."^[630] The House of Representatives subsequently launched an impeachment inquiry following the Trump–Ukraine scandal, but did not pursue an article of impeachment related to the Mueller investigation.^{[631][632]}

Associates



The redacted version of the Mueller report released by the Department of Justice on April 18, 2019

In August 2018, former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort was convicted on eight felony counts of false tax filing and bank fraud.^[633] Trump said he felt very badly for Manafort and praised him for resisting the pressure to cooperate with prosecutors. According to Rudy Giuliani, Trump's personal attorney, Trump had sought advice about pardoning Manafort but was counseled against it.^[634]

In November 2018, Trump's former attorney Michael Cohen pleaded guilty to lying to Congress about Trump's 2016 attempts to reach a deal with Russia to build a Trump Tower in Moscow. Cohen said he had made the false statements on behalf of Trump, who was identified as "Individual-1" in the court documents.^[635]

Five Trump associates pleaded guilty or were convicted in connection with Mueller's investigation and related cases: Manafort, Cohen, deputy campaign manager Rick Gates, foreign policy advisor George Papadopoulos, Michael Flynn.^{[636][637]}

In February 2020, Trump campaign adviser Roger Stone was sentenced to 40 months in prison for lying to Congress and witness tampering regarding his attempts to learn more about hacked Democratic emails during the 2016 election. The sentencing judge said Stone "was prosecuted for covering up for the president."^[638]

First impeachment (2019–2020)

In August 2019, a whistleblower filed a complaint with the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community about a July 25 phone call between Trump and President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, during which Trump had pressured Zelensky to investigate CrowdStrike and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his son Hunter, adding that the White House had attempted to cover-up the incident.^[639] The whistleblower stated that the call was part of a wider campaign by the Trump administration and Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, which may have included withholding financial aid from Ukraine in July 2019 and canceling Vice President Pence's May 2019 Ukraine trip.^[640] Trump later confirmed that he withheld military aid from Ukraine, offering contradictory reasons for the decision.^{[641][642]}



Members of House of Representatives vote on two articles of impeachment (H.Res. 755 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolutions/755>) December 18, 2019

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi initiated a formal impeachment inquiry on September 24, 2019.^[643] The Trump administration subsequently released a memorandum of the July 25 phone call, confirming that after Zelensky mentioned purchasing American anti-tank missiles, Trump asked Zelensky to investigate and to discuss these matters with Giuliani and Attorney General William Barr.^{[639][644]} The testimony of multiple administration officials and former officials confirmed that this was part of a broader effort to further Trump's personal interests by giving him an advantage in the upcoming presidential election.^[645] In October 2019, William B. Taylor Jr., the chargé d'affaires for Ukraine, testified before congressional committees that soon after arriving in Ukraine in June 2019, he found that Zelensky was being subjected to pressure directed by Trump and led by Giuliani. According to Taylor and others, the goal was to coerce Zelensky into making a public commitment to investigate the company that employed Hunter Biden, as well as rumors about Ukrainian involvement in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.^[646] He said it was made clear that until Zelensky made such an announcement, the administration would not release scheduled military aid for Ukraine and not invite Zelensky to the White House.^[647]

On December 13, 2019, the House Judiciary Committee voted along party lines to pass two articles of impeachment: one for abuse of power and one for obstruction of Congress.^[648] After debate, the House of Representatives impeached Trump on both articles on December 18.^[649]

Impeachment trial in the Senate

The Senate impeachment trial began on January 16, 2020.^[650] On January 22, the Republican Senate majority rejected amendments proposed by the Democratic minority to call witnesses and subpoena documents; evidence collected during the House impeachment proceedings was entered into the Senate record.^[651]

For three days, January 22–24, the House impeachment managers presented their case to the Senate. They cited evidence to support charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, and asserted that Trump's actions were exactly what the founding fathers had in mind when they created the Constitution's impeachment process.^[652]

Responding over the next three days, Trump's lawyers did not deny the facts as presented in the charges but said Trump had not broken any laws or obstructed Congress.^[653] They argued that the impeachment was "constitutionally and legally invalid" because Trump was not charged with a crime and that abuse of power is not an impeachable offense.^[653] On January 31, the Senate voted against allowing subpoenas for witnesses or documents; 51 Republicans formed the majority for this vote.^[654] The impeachment trial was the first in U.S. history without witness testimony.^[655]



Trump displaying the front page of *The Washington Post* reporting his acquittal by the Senate

Trump was acquitted of both charges by the Republican Senate majority, 52–48 on abuse of power and 53–47 on obstruction of Congress. Senator Mitt Romney was the only Republican who voted to convict Trump on one of the charges, the abuse of power.^[656]

Following his acquittal, Trump fired impeachment witnesses and other political appointees and career officials he deemed insufficiently loyal.^[657]

2020 presidential election

Breaking with precedent, Trump filed to run for a second term with the FEC within a few hours of assuming the presidency.^[658] Trump held his first re-election rally less than a month after taking office.^{[659][660]} In his first two years in office, Trump's reelection committee reported raising \$67.5 million, allowing him to begin 2019 with \$19.3 million cash on hand.^[661] From the beginning of 2019 through July 2020, the Trump campaign and Republican Party raised \$1.1 billion but spent \$800 million of that amount, losing their cash advantage over the Democratic nominee, former vice president Joe Biden.^[662] The cash shortage forced the campaign to scale-back advertising spending.^[663]

Starting in spring 2020, Trump began to sow doubts about the election, repeatedly claiming without evidence that the election would be "rigged"^[664] and that the expected widespread use of mail balloting would produce "massive election fraud."^{[665][666]} On July 30, Trump raised the idea of delaying the election.^[667] When in August the House of Representatives voted for a US\$25 billion grant to the U.S. Postal Service for the expected surge in mail voting, Trump blocked funding, saying he wanted to prevent any increase in voting by mail.^[668] Trump became the Republican nominee on August 24, 2020.^[669] He repeatedly refused to say whether he would accept the results of the election and commit to a peaceful transition of power if he lost.^{[670][671]}

Trump campaign advertisements focused on crime, claiming that cities would descend into lawlessness if his opponent, Biden, won the presidency.^[672] Trump repeatedly misrepresented Biden's positions during the campaign.^{[673][674][675]} Trump's campaign message shifted to appeals to racism in an attempt to reclaim voters lost from his base.^[676]

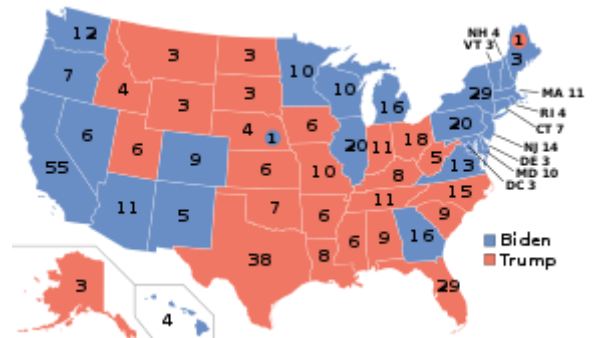


Trump at a 2020 campaign rally in Arizona

Biden won the election on November 3, receiving 81.3 million votes (51.3 percent) to Trump's 74.2 million (46.8 percent)^{[677][678]} and winning the Electoral College by 306 to 232.^{[679][678][677]}

Election aftermath

At 2 a.m. the morning after the election, with the results still unclear, Trump declared victory.^[680] After Biden was projected the winner days later, Trump said, "this election is far from over" and baselessly alleged election fraud.^[681] Trump and his allies filed many legal challenges to the results, which were rejected by at least 86 judges in both the state and federal courts, including by federal judges appointed by Trump himself, finding no factual or legal basis.^{[682][683]} Trump's unsubstantiated allegations of widespread voting fraud were also refuted by state election officials.^[684] After Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) director Chris Krebs contradicted Trump's fraud allegations, Trump dismissed him on November 17.^[685] On December 11, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear a case from the Texas attorney general which asked the court to overturn the election results in four states won by Biden.^[686]



2020 Electoral College results. Trump lost 232–306.

Trump withdrew from public activities in the weeks following the election.^[687] He initially blocked government officials from cooperating in Biden's presidential transition.^{[688][689]} After three weeks, the administrator of the General Services Administration ascertained Biden the "apparent winner" of the election, allowing the disbursement of transition resources to his team.^[690] Trump still did not formally concede while claiming he recommended the GSA begin transition protocols.^[691]

The Electoral College formalized Biden's victory on December 14.^[679] From November to January, Trump repeatedly sought help to overturn the results of the election, personally pressuring various Republican local and state office-holders, Republican state and federal legislators, and Vice President Pence, urging various actions such as replacing presidential electors, or a request for Georgia officials to "find" votes and announce a "recalculated" result.^{[692][693][694]} On February 10, 2021, Georgia prosecutors opened a criminal investigation into Trump's efforts to subvert the election in Georgia.^[695]

Trump did not attend Biden's inauguration, leaving Washington for Florida hours before.^[696]

U.S. Capitol attack

On January 6, 2021, while congressional certification of the presidential election results was taking place in the Capitol, Trump held a rally at The Ellipse, where he called for the election result to be overturned and urged his supporters to "take back our country" by marching to the Capitol to "show strength" and "fight like hell."^{[697][698]} Trump's speech started at noon. By 12:30 p.m., rally attendees had gathered outside the Capitol, and at 1 p.m, his supporters pushed past police barriers onto Capitol grounds. Trump's speech ended at 1:10 p.m., the crowd grew larger as more supporters marched on the Capitol. Around 2:15 p.m. the mob

broke into the building, disrupting certification and causing the evacuation of Congress.^[699] During the violence, Trump posted mixed messages on Twitter and Facebook, eventually tweeting to the rioters at 6 p.m., "go home with love & in peace," but describing them as "great patriots" and "very special," while still complaining that the election was stolen.^{[700][701]} After the mob was removed from the Capitol, Congress reconvened and confirmed the Biden election win in the early hours of the following morning.^[702] There were many injuries, and five people, including a Capitol Police officer, died.^{[703][704][705]}

Second impeachment (2021)

On January 11, 2021, an article of impeachment charging Trump with incitement of insurrection against the U.S. government was introduced to the House.^[706] The House voted 232–197 to impeach Trump on January 13, making him the first U.S. officeholder to be impeached twice.^[707] The impeachment, which was the most rapid in history, followed an unsuccessful bipartisan effort to strip Trump of his powers and duties via Section 4 of the 25th Amendment.^[708] Ten Republicans voted for impeachment—the most members of a party ever to vote to impeach a president of their own party.^[709]



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi signing the second impeachment of Trump

Senate Democrats asked to begin the trial immediately, while Trump was still in office, but then Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell blocked the plan.^[710] On February 13, following a five-day Senate trial, Trump was acquitted when the Senate voted 57–43 for conviction, falling ten votes short of the two-thirds majority required to convict; seven Republicans joined every Democrat in voting to convict, the most bipartisan support in any Senate impeachment trial of a president or former president.^{[711][712]} Most Republicans voted to acquit Trump, though some held him responsible but felt the Senate did not have jurisdiction over former presidents (Trump had left office on January 20; the Senate voted 56–44 the trial was constitutional^[713]). Included in the latter group was McConnell, who said Trump was "practically and morally responsible for provoking the events of the day" but "constitutionally not eligible for conviction."^[714]

Post-presidency

After his term ended, Trump went to live at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida.^{[715][716]} As provided for by the Former Presidents Act,^[717] he established an office there to handle his post-presidential activities.^{[717][718]}

Since leaving the presidency, Trump has been the subject of several probes into both his business dealings and his actions during the presidency. In February 2021, the District Attorney for Fulton County, Georgia, announced a criminal probe into Trump's phone calls to Brad Raffensperger.^[719] Separately, the New York State Attorney General's Office is conducting a civil and criminal investigation into Trump's business activities. The criminal investigation is in conjunction with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.^[720] By May 2021, a special grand jury was considering indictments.^{[721][722]} On July 1, 2021, New York prosecutors charged the Trump Organization with a "15 year 'scheme to defraud' the government". The organization's Chief Financial Officer, Allen Weisselberg was arraigned on grand larceny, tax fraud, and other charges.^{[723][724]}

Trump's false claims concerning the 2020 election were commonly referred to as the "big lie" by his critics and in reporting. In May 2021, Trump and his supporters attempted to co-opt the term, using "lie" to refer to the election itself. The Republican party used Trump's false election narrative as justification to impose new voting restrictions in its favor.^{[725][726][727][728]}

In June 2021, multiple national publications reported that Trump had told several people he could be reinstated as president in August.^{[729][730]} On June 6, 2021, Trump resumed his campaign-style rallies with an 85-minute speech at the annual North Carolina Republican Party convention.^{[729][731]} On June 27, he held his first public rally since his January 6 rally before the riot at the Capitol.^[732]

Public profile

Approval ratings

For much of his term through September 2020, Trump's approval and disapproval ratings were unusually stable, reaching a high of 49 percent and a low of 35 percent.^{[733][734]} He completed his term with a record-low approval rating of between 29 percent and 34 percent (the lowest of any president since modern scientific polling began); his average approval rating throughout his term was a record-low 41 percent.^{[735][736]} Trump's approval ratings showed a record partisan gap: over the course of his presidency, Trump's approval rating among Republicans was 88 percent and his approval rating among Democrats was 7 percent.^[736]

In Gallup's annual poll asking Americans to name the man they admire the most, Trump placed second to Obama in 2017 and 2018, tied with Obama for most admired man in 2019, and was named most admired in 2020.^{[737][738]} Since Gallup started conducting the poll in 1948,^[739] Trump is the first elected president not to be named most admired in his first year in office.^[739]

A Gallup poll in 134 countries comparing the approval ratings of U.S. leadership between the years 2016 and 2017 found that Trump led Obama in job approval in only 29, most of them non-democracies,^[740] with approval of US leadership plummeting among US allies and G7 countries. Overall ratings were similar to those in the last two years of the George W. Bush presidency.^[741] By mid-2020, only 16% of international respondents expressed confidence in Trump according to a 13-nation Pew Research poll, a confidence score lower than those historically accorded to Russia's Vladimir Putin and China's Xi Jinping.^[742]

C-SPAN, which conducted surveys of presidential leadership each time the administration changed since 2000,^[743] ranked Trump fourth-lowest overall in their 2021 President Historians Survey, with Trump rated lowest in the leadership characteristics categories for moral authority and administrative skills.^{[744][745]}

Social media

Trump's social media presence attracted attention worldwide since he joined Twitter in 2009. He frequently tweeted during the 2016 election campaign and as president, until his ban in the final days of his term.^[746] Over twelve years, Trump posted around 57,000 tweets.^[747] Trump frequently used Twitter as a direct means of communication with the public, sidelining the press.^[747] A White House press secretary said early in his presidency that Trump's tweets were official presidential statements, used for announcing policies and personnel changes.^{[748][749][750]}

Trump's tweets often contained falsehoods, eventually causing Twitter to tag some of them with fact-checking warnings beginning in May 2020.^[751] Trump responded by threatening to "strongly regulate" or "close down" social media platforms.^[752] In the days after the storming of the United States Capitol, Trump was banned from Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other platforms.^[753] Twitter blocked attempts by Trump and his staff to circumvent the ban through the use of others' accounts.^[754] The loss of Trump's social media megaphone, including his 88.7 million Twitter followers, diminished his ability to shape events,^{[755][756]} and prompted a dramatic decrease in the volume of misinformation shared on Twitter.^[757] In May 2021, an

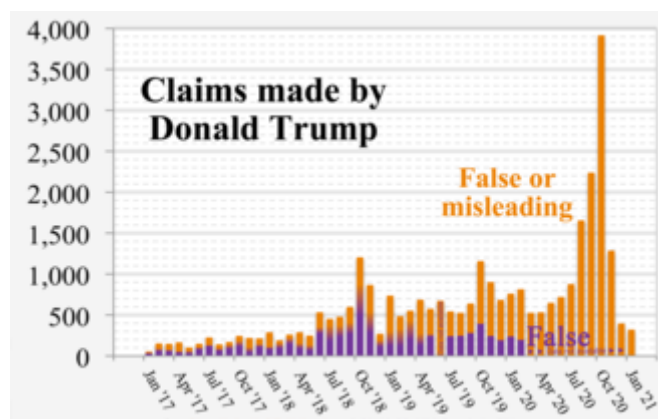
advisory group to Facebook evaluated that site's indefinite ban of Trump and concluded that it had been justified at the time but should be re-evaluated in six months.^[758] In June 2021, Facebook suspended the account for two years.^[759] On June 26, Trump joined the video platform Rumble.^[760]

In July 2021, Trump filed class-action lawsuits in the Southern District of Florida against Facebook, Google, Twitter, and their CEOs, demanding that they rescind their suspension of his accounts as a violation of the First Amendment, and accusing them of censoring conservatives. Legal analysts said the suits have virtually no chance of success, since they are private companies with a right to moderate their platforms.^[761]

False statements

As a candidate and as president, Trump frequently made false statements in public speeches and remarks^{[765][205]} to an extent unprecedented in American politics.^{[766][767][211]} His falsehoods became a distinctive part of his political identity.^[767]

Trump's false and misleading statements were documented by fact-checkers, including at the *Washington Post*, which tallied a total of 30,573 false or misleading statements made by Trump over his four-year term.^[762] Trump's falsehoods increased in frequency over time, rising from about 6 false or misleading claims per day in his first year as president to 16 per day in his second year to 22 per day in his third year to 39 per day in his final year.^[768] He reached 10,000 false or misleading claims 27 months into his term; 20,000 false or misleading claims 14 months later, and 30,000 false or misleading claims five months later.^[768]



Fact-checkers from *The Washington Post*,^[762] the *Toronto Star*,^[763] and CNN^[764] compiled data on "false or misleading claims" (orange background), and "false claims" (violet foreground), respectively.

Some of Trump's falsehoods were inconsequential, such as his claims of a large crowd size during his inauguration.^{[769][770]} Others had more far-reaching effects, such as Trump's promotion of unproven antimalarial drugs as a treatment for COVID-19 in a press conference and on Twitter in March 2020.^{[771][772]} The claims had consequences worldwide, such as a shortage of these drugs in the United States and panic-buying in Africa and South Asia.^{[773][774]} Other misinformation, such as misattributing a rise in crime in England and Wales to the "spread of radical Islamic terror," served Trump's domestic political purposes.^[775] As a matter of principle, Trump does not apologize for his falsehoods.^[776]

Despite the frequency of Trump's falsehoods, the media rarely referred to them as lies.^{[777][778]} Nevertheless, in August 2018 *The Washington Post* declared for the first time that some of Trump's misstatements (statements concerning hush money paid to Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal) were lies.^{[779][778]}

In 2020, Trump was a significant source of disinformation on national voting practices and the COVID-19 pandemic.^[780] Trump's attacks on mail-in ballots and other election practices served to weaken public faith in the integrity of the 2020 presidential election,^{[664][781]} while his disinformation about the pandemic delayed and weakened the national response to it.^{[780][514][782]}

Some view the nature and frequency of Trump's falsehoods as having profound and corrosive consequences on democracy.^[783] James Pfiffner, professor of policy and government at George Mason University, wrote in 2019 that Trump lies differently from previous presidents, because he offers "egregious false statements that

are demonstrably contrary to well-known facts"; these lies are the "most important" of all Trump lies. By calling facts into question, people will be unable to properly evaluate their government, with beliefs or policy irrationally settled by "political power"; this erodes liberal democracy, wrote Pfiffner.^[784]

Promotion of conspiracy theories

Before and throughout his presidency, Trump has promoted numerous conspiracy theories, including Obama birtherism, the Clinton Body Count theory, QAnon, and alleged Ukrainian interference in U.S. elections.^[785] In October 2020, Trump retweeted a QAnon follower who asserted that Osama bin Laden was still alive, a body double had been killed in his place, and that "Biden and Obama may have had SEAL Team Six killed."^[786]

During and since the 2020 United States presidential election, Trump has promoted various conspiracy theories for his defeat including the "dead voter" conspiracy theory,^[787] and without providing any evidence he has created other conspiracy theories such as that "some states allowed voters to turn in ballots after Election Day; that vote-counting machines were rigged to favor Mr Biden; and even that the FBI, the Justice Department and the federal court system were complicit in an attempt to cover up election fraud."^[788]

Relationship with the press

Throughout his career, Trump has sought media attention, with a "love-hate" relationship with the press.^[789] Trump began promoting himself in the press in the 1970s.^[790] Fox News anchor Bret Baier and former House speaker Paul Ryan have characterized Trump as a "troll" who makes controversial statements to see people's "heads explode."^{[791][792]}

In the 2016 campaign, Trump benefited from a record amount of free media coverage, elevating his standing in the Republican primaries.^[204] *New York Times* writer Amy Chozick wrote in 2018 that Trump's media dominance, which enthalls the public and creates "can't miss" reality television-type coverage, was politically beneficial for him.^[793]



Trump talking to the press, March 2017

As a candidate and as president, Trump frequently accused the press of bias, calling it the "fake news media" and "the enemy of the people."^[794] In 2018, journalist Lesley Stahl recounted Trump's saying he intentionally demeaned and discredited the media "so when you write negative stories about me no one will believe you."^[795]

As president, Trump privately and publicly mused about revoking the press credentials of journalists he viewed as critical.^[796] His administration moved to revoke the press passes of two White House reporters, which were restored by the courts.^[797] In 2019, a member of the foreign press reported many of the same concerns as those of media in the U.S., expressing concern that a normalization process by reporters and media results in an inaccurate characterization of Trump.^[798] The Trump White House held about a hundred formal press briefings in 2017, declining by half during 2018 and to two in 2019.^[797]

As president, Trump deployed the legal system to intimidate the press.^[799] In early 2020, the Trump campaign sued *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and CNN for alleged defamation in opinion pieces about Russian election interference.^{[800][801]} Legal experts said that the lawsuits lacked merit and were not likely to

succeed.^{[799][802]} By March 2021, the lawsuits against *The New York Times* and CNN had been dismissed.^{[803][804]}

Racial views

Many of Trump's comments and actions have been considered racist.^[805] He has repeatedly denied this, asserting: "I am the least racist person there is anywhere in the world."^[806] In national polling, about half of Americans say that Trump is racist; a greater proportion believe that he has emboldened racists.^{[807][808][809]} Several studies and surveys have found that racist attitudes fueled Trump's political ascent and have been more important than economic factors in determining the allegiance of Trump voters.^{[810][811]} Racist and Islamophobic attitudes are a strong indicator of support for Trump.^[812]

In 1975, he settled a 1973 Department of Justice lawsuit that alleged housing discrimination against black renters.^[61] He has also been accused of racism for insisting a group of black and Latino teenagers were guilty of raping a white woman in the 1989 Central Park jogger case, even after they were exonerated by DNA evidence in 2002. As of 2019, he maintained this position.^[813]

Trump relaunched his political career in 2011 as a leading proponent of "birther" conspiracy theories alleging that Barack Obama, the first black U.S. president, was not born in the United States.^{[814][815]} In April 2011, Trump claimed credit for pressuring the White House to publish the "long-form" birth certificate, which he considered fraudulent, and later saying this made him "very popular".^{[816][817]} In September 2016, amid pressure, he acknowledged that Obama was born in the U.S. and falsely claimed the rumors had been started by Hillary Clinton during her 2008 presidential campaign.^[818] In 2017, he reportedly still expressed birther views in private.^[819]

According to an analysis in *Political Science Quarterly*, Trump made "explicitly racist appeals to whites" during his 2016 presidential campaign.^[820] In particular, his campaign launch speech drew widespread criticism for claiming Mexican immigrants were "bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists."^{[821][822]} His later comments about a Mexican-American judge presiding over a civil suit regarding Trump University were also criticized as racist.^[823]

Trump's comment on the 2017 far-right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia—that there were "very fine people on both sides"—was widely criticized as implying a moral equivalence between the white supremacist demonstrators and the counter-protesters at the rally.^{[824][825][826]}

In a January 2018 Oval Office meeting to discuss immigration legislation, Trump reportedly referred to El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, and African nations as "shithole countries."^[827] His remarks were condemned as racist.^{[828][829]}

In July 2019, Trump tweeted that four Democratic congresswomen—all minorities, three of whom are native-born Americans—should "go back" to the countries they "came from."^[830] Two days later the House of Representatives voted 240–187, mostly along party lines, to condemn his "racist comments."^[831] White nationalist publications and social media sites praised his remarks, which continued over the following days.^[832] Trump continued to make similar remarks during his 2020 campaign.^[833]



[Play media](#)

Trump answers questions from reporters about the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville.

Misogyny and allegations of sexual misconduct

Trump has a history of insulting and belittling women when speaking to media and on social media. He made lewd comments, demeaned women's looks, and called them names like 'dog', 'crazed, crying lowlife', 'face of a pig', or 'horseface'.^{[834][835][836]}

In October 2016, two days before the second presidential debate, a 2005 "hot mic" recording surfaced in which Trump was heard bragging about kissing and groping women without their consent, saying "when you're a star, they let you do it, you can do anything... grab 'em by the pussy."^[837] The incident's widespread media exposure led to Trump's first public apology during the campaign^[838] and caused outrage across the political spectrum.^[839]

At least twenty-six women have publicly accused Trump of sexual misconduct as of September 2020, including his then-wife Ivana. There were allegations of rape, violence, being kissed and groped without consent, looking under women's skirts, and walking in on naked women.^{[840][841][842]} In 2016, he denied all accusations, calling them "false smears," and alleged there was a conspiracy against him.^[843]

Allegations of inciting violence

Research suggests Trump's rhetoric caused an increased incidence of hate crimes.^{[844][845][846]} During the 2016 campaign, he urged or praised physical attacks against protesters or reporters.^{[847][848]} Since then, some defendants prosecuted for hate crimes or violent acts cited Trump's rhetoric in arguing that they were not culpable or should receive a lighter sentence.^[849] In May 2020, a nationwide review by ABC News identified at least 54 criminal cases from August 2015 to April 2020 in which Trump was invoked in direct connection with violence or threats of violence by mostly white men against mostly members of minority groups.^[850] On January 13, 2021, the House of Representatives impeached Trump for incitement of insurrection for his actions prior to the storming of the U.S. Capitol by a violent mob of his supporters^[707] who acted in his name.^[851]

Popular culture

Trump has been the subject of parody, comedy, and caricature. He has been parodied regularly on *Saturday Night Live* by Phil Hartman, Darrell Hammond, and Alec Baldwin and in *South Park* as Mr. Garrison. *The Simpsons* episode "Bart to the Future"—written during his 2000 campaign for the Reform Party—anticipated a Trump presidency. Trump's wealth and lifestyle had been a fixture of hip-hop lyrics since the 1980s; he was named in hundreds of songs, most often with a positive tone.^[852] Mentions of Trump in hip-hop largely turned negative and pejorative after he ran for office in 2015.^[852]

Notes

- a. Presidential elections in the United States are decided by the Electoral College. Each state names a number of electors equal to its representation in Congress and (in most states) all delegates vote for the winner of the local state vote.
- b. Mueller, Robert (March 2019). "Report on the Investigation into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election" (<https://www.justice.gov/storage/report.pdf>). I. p. 2. "In connection with that analysis, we addressed the factual question whether members of the Trump Campaign 'coordinat[ed]'—a term that appears in the appointment order—with Russian election interference activities. Like collusion, 'coordination' does not have a settled definition in federal criminal law. We understood coordination to require an agreement—tacit or express—between the Trump Campaign and the Russian government on election interference. That requires more than the two parties taking actions that were informed by or responsive to the other's actions or interests. We applied the term coordination in that sense when stating in the

report that the investigation did not establish that the Trump campaign coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities."

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External links

- [Archive of Donald Trump's Tweets \(https://www.thetrumparchive.com/\)](https://www.thetrumparchive.com/)
 - [Trump's news blog \(https://www.donaldjtrump.com/news\)](https://www.donaldjtrump.com/news)
 - [Donald Trump \(https://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/607230\)](https://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/607230) at the *Encyclopædia Britannica*
 - [Donald Trump collected news and commentary \(https://www.nytimes.com/topic/person/donald-trump\)](https://www.nytimes.com/topic/person/donald-trump) from *The New York Times*
 - [Donald Trump appearances \(https://www.c-span.org/person/?donaldtrump\)](https://www.c-span.org/person/?donaldtrump) on C-SPAN
 - [Donald Trump \(https://archive.org/details/trumparchive\)](https://archive.org/details/trumparchive) on the Internet Archive
 - [Talking About Donald Trump \(https://interviews.televisionacademy.com/people/donald-j-trump\)](https://interviews.televisionacademy.com/people/donald-j-trump) at *The Interviews: An Oral History of Television*
 - [Donald Trump's page on WhiteHouse.gov \(https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/donald-j-trump/\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/donald-j-trump/)
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Fred Trump

Frederick Christ Trump Sr. (October 11, 1905 – June 25, 1999) was a prominent American real estate developer in New York City. He was the father of Donald Trump, the 45th president of the United States.

In partnership with his mother, Elizabeth Christ Trump, Fred began a career in home construction and sales. Their real estate development company was incorporated as E. Trump & Son in 1927 (later called the Fred Trump Organization). It grew to build and manage single-family houses in Queens, barracks and garden apartments for U.S. Navy personnel near major shipyards along the East Coast, and more than 27,000 apartments in New York City.

Trump was investigated by a U.S. Senate committee for profiteering in 1954, and again by the State of New York in 1966. Donald became the president of his father's real estate business in 1971, and they were sued by the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division for violating the Fair Housing Act in 1973. Trump and his wife, Mary Anne MacLeod Trump, provided over \$1 billion (in 2018 currency) to their children.^[a]

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Fred Trump



Trump c. 1950

Born	Frederick Christ Trump <div>October 11, 1905</div> New York City, United States
Died	June 25, 1999 (aged 93) <div>New Hyde Park, New York, U.S.</div>
Resting place	Lutheran All Faiths Cemetery, New York City
Education	Pratt Institute <div>Richmond Hill High School</div>
Occupation	Head of Fred Trump Organization
Known for	Real estate career · Being the father of Donald Trump
Net worth	Over US \$1 billion (2018 dollars) ^[1]
Spouse(s)	Mary Anne MacLeod (m.. 1936)
Children	Maryanne · Fred Jr. · Elizabeth · Donald · Robert

[Further reading](#)

[External links](#)

Parent(s) [Frederick Trump](#)
[Elizabeth Christ Trump](#)

Relatives [See Trump family](#)

Early life and career

Trump's father, the German American [Frederick Trump](#) (also known as Friedrich) amassed considerable wealth during the [Klondike Gold Rush](#) by running a restaurant for the miners. Friedrich returned to [Kallstadt](#) in 1901, and by the next year, met and married [Elizabeth Christ](#).^[2] They moved to New York City, where their first child, Elizabeth, was born in 1904.^[3] Later that year, the family returned to Kallstadt.^[4] Fred was conceived in [Bavaria](#), where his parents wished to re-establish residency, but Friedrich was banished for [dodging the draft](#).^{[5][4]} The family returned to New York on July 1, 1905,^[b] and moved to [the Bronx](#), where Frederick Christ Trump was born on October 11.^[6] Fred Trump's younger brother, [John G. Trump](#), was born in 1907. All three children were raised speaking [German](#).^[7]

In September 1908, the family moved to [Woodhaven, Queens](#).^[8] At the age of 10, Fred worked as a delivery boy for a butcher.^[9] About two years later, his father died in the [1918 flu pandemic](#).^[10] From 1918 to 1923, Fred attended [Richmond Hill High School](#) in Queens,^[11] while working as a [caddy](#), [curb whitewasher](#), and delivery boy.^[12] Meanwhile, his mother continued the [real estate](#) business Frederick had begun. Interested in becoming a builder, Fred took night classes in [carpentry](#) and reading blueprints.^[13] He also studied [plumbing](#), [masonry](#), and [electrical wiring](#) via [correspondence courses](#).^[12]

After graduating in January 1923, Trump obtained full-time work pulling lumber to construction sites. He found work as a carpenter's assistant and continued his education at [Pratt Institute](#).^{[14][15]} Trump's mother loaned him \$800 to build his first house construction project, which he completed in 1924.^{[14][16]} Elizabeth Trump held the business in her name because Fred had not reached the [age of majority](#).^[14] "[E. Trump & Son](#)" was established in 1925^[7] and did business as early as 1926.^[17] That year, Trump built 20 homes in Queens, selling some houses before they were complete to finance others.^[16] The company was [incorporated](#) in 1927.^{[18][19]}

1927 arrest

On [Memorial Day](#) in 1927, over a thousand [Ku Klux Klan](#) members marched in a Queens parade to protest "Native-born Protestant Americans" being "assaulted by [Roman Catholic](#) police of New York City".^[20] The 21-year old Trump and six other men were arrested.^{[21][22]} All seven were referred to as "berobed marchers" in the *Long Island Daily Press*.^[21] Trump, detained "on a charge of refusing to disperse from a parade when ordered to do so", was dismissed.^{[20][23]} Another of the men, arrested on the same charge, was a bystander who had had his foot run over by a police car. According to the police, the five remaining men were certainly Klan members.^[24] Multiple newspaper articles on the incident list Trump's address (in [Jamaica, Queens](#)),^{[21][23]} which he is recorded as sharing with his mother in the [1930 census](#)^[20] and a 1936 wedding announcement.^{[21][c]}



[Ku Klux Klan](#) members being confronted by police in Queens on Memorial Day 1927

Rise to success

In 1933 Trump built one of New York City's first modern supermarkets, called Trump Market, in Woodhaven, Queens. It was modeled on Long Island's King Kullen, a self-service supermarket chain. Trump's store advertised "Serve Yourself and Save!" and quickly became popular. After six months, Trump sold it to King Kullen.^{[13][26]}

In 1934, Trump and a partner acquired in federal court the mortgage-servicing subsidiary of Brooklyn's J. Lehrenkrauss Corporation,^[27] which had gone bankrupt and subsequently been broken up. This gave Trump access to the titles of many properties nearing foreclosure, which he bought at low cost and sold at a profit. This and similar real estate ventures quickly thrust him into the limelight as one of New York City's most successful businessmen.^{[28][29]}

Trump made use of loan subsidies created by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) not long after the program was initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934.^[9] By 1936, Trump had 400 workers^[d] digging foundations for houses that would be sold at prices ranging from \$3,000 to \$6,250.^[30] Trump used his father's tactic of listing properties at prices like \$3,999.99. In the late 1930s, he used a yacht called the Trump Show Boat to advertise his business off the shore of Coney Island. It played patriotic music and floated out swordfish-shaped balloons which could be redeemed for \$25 or \$250 towards one of his properties.^[9] In 1938, the Brooklyn Daily Eagle referred to Trump as the "Henry Ford of the home-building industry".^[9]

Personal life

Trump met his future wife Mary Anne MacLeod, an immigrant from Tong, Lewis, Scotland, at a dance party in the early to mid-1930s.^{[31][28]} Trump told his mother the same evening that he had met his future wife.^[32] Trump, a Lutheran, married Mary, a Presbyterian, on January 11, 1936,^[32] at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church with George Arthur Buttrick officiating.^[33] A wedding reception was held at the Carlyle Hotel in Manhattan, and they had a single-night honeymoon in Atlantic City.^[31] The couple settled in Jamaica, Queens,^[34] and had five children: Maryanne Trump Barry (born 1937; a federal judge until her retirement),^[35] Fred Trump Jr. (1938–1981),^[e] Elizabeth Trump Grau (born 1942),^[f] Donald Trump (born 1946; the 45th president of the United States) and Robert Trump (1948–2020;^[38] a top executive of his father's property management company until his retirement).^{[39][40]}

Trump was a teetotaler^[g] and an authoritarian parent, maintaining curfews and forbidding cursing, lipstick, and snacking between meals.^{[41][42]} At the end of his day, Trump would receive a report from Mary on the children's actions and, if necessary, decide upon disciplinary actions.^[42] He took his children to building sites to collect empty bottles to return for the deposits.^[43] The boys had paper routes, and when weather conditions were poor, their father would let them make their deliveries in a limousine.^[43] According to Fred Jr.'s daughter, Mary L. Trump, Trump wanted his oldest son to be "invulnerable" in personality so he could take over the family business, but Fred Jr. was the opposite.^[44] Trump instead elevated Donald to become his business heir, teaching him to "be a killer", and telling him, "You are a king."^{[45][46]} Mary L. Trump states that Fred Sr. "dismantled [Fred Jr.] by devaluing and degrading every aspect of his personality" and mocked him for his decision to become an airline pilot.^[47] In 1981, Fred Jr. died at age 42 from complications due to his alcoholism.^{[48][49]}



Trump in a 1940 edition of the Brooklyn Eagle

After Elizabeth's birth, and with America becoming more involved in World War II, Trump moved his family to Virginia Beach, Virginia.^{[9][50]} In 1944, as Trump's FHA funding lulled, they returned to Jamaica Estates, Queens, where Mary suffered a miscarriage.^[51] By 1946, they were living in a five-bedroom Tudor-style house Trump built in Jamaica Estates,^[52] and Trump purchased a neighboring half-acre lot,^[51] where he built a 23-room, 9-bathroom home. The family moved in in 1951, and Fred and Mary remained there until their deaths.^{[53][54][55]} The couple was also given an apartment on the 63rd (in reality the 55th)^[56] floor of their son Donald's Trump Tower (c. 1983), which they rarely used.^[57]

During the war and until the 1980s, Trump denied that he spoke German and claimed that he was of Swedish origin.^[58] According to Trump's nephew, John Walter, "He had a lot of Jewish tenants and it wasn't a good thing to be German in those days."^[10] In 1973, Trump claimed to have been born in New Jersey in an interview with The New York Times.^[14] Donald Trump's The Art of the Deal (1987) similarly states that Fred Trump was the son of an immigrant from Sweden and born in New Jersey.^{[59][h]} Trump's contributions to Jewish charities led some to believe that he belonged to the Jewish faith.^{[58][i]} During the 1980s, Fred Trump became friends with future prime minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu, who at the time was the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations.^[62]

Later career

During World War II, Trump built barracks and garden apartments for U.S. Navy personnel near major shipyards along the East Coast.^{[j][10]} After the war, he expanded into middle-income housing for the families of returning veterans. From 1947 to 1949, Trump built Shore Haven in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, which included 32 six-story buildings and a shopping center, covering some 30 acres, and procuring him \$9 million in FHA funding.^[63] In 1950, he built the 23-building Beach Haven Apartments over 40 acres near Coney Island, procuring him \$16 million in FHA funds.^[64] The total number of apartments included in these projects exceeded 2,700.^{[10][k]} In 1963–64, he built Trump Village, an apartment complex in Coney Island, for \$70 million – one of his biggest and last major projects.^{[13][67]} He built more than 27,000 low-income apartments and row houses in the New York area altogether.^{[l][10][68]}



Trump c. 1950, *Brooklyn Eagle*

Profiteering investigations

In early 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and other federal leaders began denouncing real estate profiteers. On June 11, The New York Times included Trump on a list of 35 city builders accused of profiteering from government contracts.^[69] He and others were investigated by a U.S. Senate banking committee for windfall gains. Trump and his partner William Tomasello^[m] were cited as examples of how profits were made by builders using the FHA.^[74] The two paid \$34,200 for a piece of land which they rented to their corporation for \$76,960 annually in a 99-year lease, so that if the apartment they built on it ever defaulted, the FHA would owe them \$1.924 million. Trump and Tomasello evidently obtained loans for \$3.5 million more than Beach Haven Apartments had cost.^{[75][76]} Trump argued that because he had not withdrawn the money, he had not literally pocketed the profits.^{[69][77]} He further argued that due to rising costs, he would have had to invest more than the 10% of the mortgage loan not provided by the FHA, and therefore suffer a loss if he built under those conditions.^[78]

In 1966, Trump was again investigated for windfall profiteering, this time by New York's State Investigation Commission. After Trump overestimated building costs sponsored by a state program, he profited \$598,000 on equipment rentals in the construction of Trump Village, which was then spent on other projects. Under testimony on January 27, 1966, Trump said that he had personally done nothing wrong and praised the success of his building project.^[79] The commission called Trump "a pretty shrewd character" with a "talent for getting every ounce of profit out of his housing project", but no indictments were made. Instead, tighter administration protocols and accountability in the state's housing program were called for.^[80]

Son becomes company president

Fred's son Donald joined his father's real estate business around 1968, initially working in Brooklyn,^[81] and rising to become company president in 1971.^[82] He entered the real estate business in Manhattan, while his father stuck to Brooklyn and Queens. Donald later said: "It was good for me. You know, being the son of somebody, it could have been competition to me. This way, I got Manhattan all to myself."^[10] He began calling the company the Trump Organization around 1973.^{[83][n]} In the mid-1970s, Donald received loans from his father exceeding \$14 million.^[88] In 2015–16, during his campaign for U.S. president, Donald claimed that his father had given him "a small loan of a million dollars" which he used to build "a company that's worth more than \$10 billion",^{[89][90]} denying that he had inherited \$200 million from his father. An October 2018 *New York Times* exposé on Fred and Donald Trump's finances concludes that Donald "was a millionaire by age 8", and that he had received \$413 million (adjusted for inflation) from Fred's business empire over his lifetime, including over \$60 million (\$140 million in 2018 currency) in loans, which were largely unreimbursed.^{[1][o]}

Civil rights suit

Minority applicants turned away from renting apartments complained to the New York City Commission on Human Rights and the Urban League, leading these groups to send test applicants to Trump-owned complexes in July 1972. They found that white people were offered apartments, while black people were generally turned away (by being told there were no vacancies);^[p] according to the superintendent of Beach Haven Apartments, this was at the direction of his boss.^[92] Both of the aforementioned advocacy organizations then raised the issue with the Justice Department.^[93] In October 1973, the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) filed a civil rights suit against the Trump Organization (Fred Trump, chair, and Donald Trump, president) for infringing the Fair Housing Act of 1968.^[93] In response, Trump attorney Roy Cohn countersued for \$100 million in damages, accusing the DoJ of false accusations.^{[93][94]}

Some three dozen former Trump employees were interviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).^[94] Some testified that they had no knowledge of any racial profiling practices, and that a small percentage of their apartments were rented to blacks or Puerto Ricans.^{[q][r]} A former doorman testified that his supervisor had instructed him to tell prospective black tenants that the rent was double its actual amount.^[95] Four landlords or rental agents confirmed that applications sent to the Trump organization's head office for approval were coded by the race of the applicant.^[96] One former employee testified that a code – which he believed was used throughout the Brooklyn branch of the company – referred to "low lifes" such as "blacks, Puerto Ricans, apparent drug users, or any other type of undesirable applicant", and nine times out of ten it meant the applicant was black; blacks were also falsely told there were no vacancies.^[94] A rental agent who had worked with the company for two weeks said that when he asked Fred Trump if he should rent to blacks, he was told that it was "absolutely against the law to discriminate",^[97] but after asking again, he was instructed "not to rent to blacks", and was further advised to:^[98]

get rid of the blacks that were in the building by telling them cheap housing was available for them at only \$500 down payment, which Trump would offer to pay himself. Trump didn't tell me where this housing was located. He advised me not to rent to persons on welfare.

A consent decree between the DoJ and the Trump Organization was signed on June 10, 1975, with both sides claiming victory – the Trump Organization for its perceived ability to continue denying rentals to welfare recipients, and the head of DoJ's housing division for the decree being "one of the most far-reaching ever negotiated".^{[93][96]} It personally and corporately prohibited the Trumps from "discriminating against any person in the ... sale or rental of a dwelling", and "required Trump to advertise vacancies in minority papers, promote minorities to professional jobs, and list vacancies on a preferential basis".^[96] Finally, it ordered the Trumps to "thoroughly acquaint themselves personally on a detailed basis with ... the Fair Housing Act of 1968".^{[93][99]}

Later legal trespasses

In early 1976, Trump was ordered by a county judge to correct code violations in a 504-unit property in Seat Pleasant, Maryland. According to the county's housing department investigator, violations included broken windows, dilapidated gutters, and missing fire extinguishers.^[5] After a court date and a series of phone calls with Trump, he was invited to the property to meet with county officials in September 1976 and arrested on site.^[101] Trump was released on \$1,000 bail.^[100]

In 1987, when Donald's loan debt to his father exceeded \$11 million, Fred invested \$15.5 million in Trump Palace Condominiums and sold these shares to his son for \$10,000, thus appearing to avoid millions of dollars of taxes on Donald's behalf by masking a hidden donation and benefiting from an illegal tax write-off.^[1] In late 1990, when an \$18.4 million bond payment for Trump's Castle was due, Fred used a bookkeeper to purchase \$3.5 million in casino chips, placing no bet, helping Donald avoid defaulting on his bonds; this action, illegal in New Jersey, resulted in a \$65,000 fine.^[1]

Philanthropy

Fred and Mary Trump supported medical charities by donating buildings. After Mary received medical care at the Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, they donated the Trump Pavilion.^{[10][102]} Fred was also a trustee of the hospital.^[103] The couple donated a two-building complex in Brooklyn as a home for "functionally retarded adults" and other buildings to the National Kidney Foundation of New York and New Jersey.^{[10][102][t]} The Cerebral Palsy Foundation of New York and New Jersey also received a building.^[10] Fred reportedly also supported the Long Island Jewish Hospital and the Hospital for Special Surgery in Manhattan.^[10]



Trump (left) and other realtors at a New York and Brooklyn federation Jewish charity dinner in 1941

The Trumps were active in The Salvation Army, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Lighthouse for the Blind.^[102]

Fred supported the Kew-Forest School,^[10] where his children attended and he served on the board of directors.^[104] Trump backed both Jewish and Israeli causes,^[58] including Israel Bonds,^[105] donating the land for the Beach Haven Jewish Center in Flatbush, New York,^[106] and serving as the treasurer of an Israel benefit concert featuring American easy-listening performers.^[103]

In 2018, *The New York Times* reported in an exposé on Trump's financial records that they had found no evidence that he had made any significant financial contributions to charities.^[1]

Wealth and death

In 1976, Trump set up trust funds of \$1 million (\$4.5 million in 2020 currency) for each of his five children and three grandchildren, which paid out yearly dividends.^[90] Trump appeared on the initial *Forbes 400* list of richest Americans in 1982 with an estimated \$200 million fortune split with his son Donald.^[107] (It was later revealed that Donald's share of the fortune was closer to \$5 million, although he claimed both the family fortune and his share of it was much higher, even using a false identity to make such arguments in 1984.)^[108]

In December 1990, Donald sought to amend his father's will, which according to Maryanne Trump Barry, "was basically taking the whole estate and giving it to Donald", allowing him to "sell, do anything he wants ... with the properties".^[109] *The Washington Post* wrote that this "was designed to protect Donald Trump's inheritance from efforts to seize it by creditors and Ivana", whom he divorced that month.^[109] Fred Trump rejected the proposal, and in 1991, composed his own final will, which made Donald, Maryanne, and Robert Trump co-executors of his estate.^{[110][111]} Trump's lawyer noted that Fred Jr.'s children, Fred III and Mary L. Trump, would be treated unequally because they would not receive their deceased father's share, and wrote to Trump that "Given the size of your estate, this is tantamount to disinheriting them. You may wish to increase their participation in your estate to avoid ill will in the future."^{[110][u]} In October 1991, Trump was diagnosed with "mild senile dementia", displaying symptoms such as forgetfulness.^[109]

Trump began to suffer from Alzheimer's disease around 1993,^[10] by which time the anticipated shares of Trump's estate amounted to \$35 million for each surviving child.^{[90][114]} In 1997, Trump transferred ownership of most of his apartment buildings, valued at just \$41.4 million, to his four surviving children.^[1] Trump finally fell ill with pneumonia in mid-1999.^[10] He was admitted to Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park, where he died at age 93 on June 25.^[115] His funeral was held at the Marble Collegiate Church,^[115] and was attended by over 600 people.^{[116][v]} His body is buried in a family plot at the Lutheran All Faiths Cemetery in Middle Village, Queens.^[118] Upon his death, Trump's estate was estimated by his family at \$250 million to \$300 million,^[10] though he had only \$1.9 million in cash.^[119] His will divided over \$20 million after taxes among his surviving children and grandchildren.^{[90][111]} His widow, Mary, died on August 7, 2000, in New Hyde Park, New York, at age 88.^[102] Her and Fred's combined estate was then valued at \$51.8 million.^[119]

Following Trump's death, Fred Jr.'s children contested his will, citing his dementia and claiming that the will was "procured by fraud and undue influence" by Donald, Maryanne, and Robert Trump.^{[111][110]} These three had claimed in their legal depositions that Fred Trump was "sharp as a tack" until just before his death,^[120] with Donald specifically denying any knowledge of his father's mental decline, including his 1991 dementia diagnosis.^[109] Barry later privately admitted she knew her father had dementia at the time.^[109] Mary L. Trump recounts that in later years her grandfather forgot people he had known for decades, including her, whom he referred to as "nice lady".^[121] In 2020, she sued Donald, Maryanne, and the estate of Robert Trump for having allegedly conspired to both devalue her inheritance from her grandfather and coerce her to sign a settlement, possibly depriving her of tens of millions of dollars.^[122]

In 2004, Trump's four surviving children sold the apartments they acquired in 1997 (then valued at \$41.4 million) for \$737.9 million (\$705.6 million of which was to Rubin Schron), 16 times their previously declared worth. Hundreds of millions in gift taxes were effectively dodged by undervaluing the assets.^[1] In October 2018, *The New York Times* published an exposé^[w] which shows that Fred and Mary provided their children with over \$1 billion altogether, which should have been taxed at the rate of 55% for gifts and inheritances

(over \$550 million), but records show that a total of only \$52.2 million (about 5%) was paid.^{[1][x]} New York State could prosecute individuals on the basis of intentional tax evasion if a fraudulent return form can be produced as evidence; the statute of limitations does not apply in such cases.^[125]



Fred Trump in old age

Physical appearance

Trump had blue eyes.^[126] As a child, he had blond hair,^[127] which later darkened.^[47] As an adult, he was six feet and one inch tall.^[128] In 2000, journalist Philip Weiss described Trump as a "vigorous and imposing man with a square chest and prominent cheekbones", recounting the story that "Fred would rise just a little on his toes" to look taller when taking pictures with Donald.^[129] Dwight Garner says of Trump as photographed by Fred W. McDarrah: "With ... his acutely white teeth and his tuxedo, Fred Trump resembles a cut-rate magician".^[130] Late in life, he wore a wig and dyed his hair, sometimes turning it red or magenta – mostly noticeably his eyebrows and mustache.^{[131][132]} Photographs of the elderly Fred show a depression in the side of his face^{[133][134]} – possibly betraying damage to his lower jaw.^[135]

Legacy

Singer Woody Guthrie was a tenant in one of Trump's apartment complexes in Brooklyn in 1950.^[75] In his unrecorded song "Old Man Trump", he accused his landlord of stirring up racial hate "in the bloodpot of human hearts".^[136]

In 1993, Harry Hurt III wrote in his book *Lost Tycoon: The Many Lives of Donald J. Trump* that he overheard Fred Trump talking about Donald and his wife Marla Maples as they departed for a flight, saying, "I hope their plane crashes", because then "all my problems will be solved".^[46] Mary L. Trump, in her 2020 book *Too Much and Never Enough*, recounted "the appalling way Donald, Fred Trump's favorite son, dismissed and derided him when he began to succumb to Alzheimer's".^[46] In her book, Mary, a clinical psychologist, diagnoses Fred as a high-functioning sociopath.^{[137][y]}

In October 2016, in response to a Freedom of Information Act request, the FBI released a small file it had on Trump. It includes a 1986 New York Daily News article on Trump Management's campaign donations of over \$350,000 to New York mayor Ed Koch; the bureau was also possibly concerned about ties to organized crime, but much of the relevant information is redacted.^[87] By early 2017, the FBI had also declassified 389 pages from its 1970s investigation of alleged racial discrimination by Trump's company.^[97]

Comedian Seth MacFarlane credits Donald Trump's fortune to his father, comparing their relationship to that of Jaden and Will Smith.^[139] A satirical piece in *McSweeney's* depicts someone who attempts to go back in time to kill Adolf Hitler, but arrives at the hospital room where Fred and Mary Trump are with their newborn baby Donald.^[140] Fred Willard played Trump's ghost on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*,^[141] and an animated Fred Trump appears in episodes of *Our Cartoon President*.^[142] A racist character apparently based on Trump appears in an episode of the 2019 television series *Watchmen*.^{[143][144]} Ronald Reagan's daughter Patti Davis writes for *The Daily Beast* that Fred "was a study in cruelty and tyranny, producing a son [Donald] who, in order to get paternal approval, or even be noticed, had to be at least as cruel".^[145]

Notes

a. According to a New York Times exposé, over \$500 million in taxes were avoided, possibly

- illegally.^[1]
- b. Aboard the SS Pennsylvania^[6]
- c. In September 2015, *Boing Boing* reproduced the article,^[22] and Fred's son Donald Trump, then a candidate for president of the United States, told *The New York Times*, "that's where my grandmother lived and my father, early on." Then, when asked about the 1927 story, he denied that his father had ever lived at that address, and said the arrest "never happened", and, "There was nobody charged."^[25]
- d. Gwenda Blair notes that these were all white but of varying national origin.^[30]
- e. An airline pilot with Trans World Airlines^[36]
- f. A retired executive of Chase Manhattan Bank^[37]
- g. According to Timothy L. O'Brien's review of Mary L. Trump's *Too Much and Never Enough* (2020), "Fred Sr., a teetotaler, kept an elegant bar outfitted with everything but alcohol".^[41]
- h. As president of the United States, Donald Trump has on at least three occasions incorrectly stated that his father was born in Germany.^[60]
- i. Fred Jr., who joined the primarily Jewish fraternity Sigma Alpha Mu, is quoted as saying his father was Jewish.^[61]
- j. Including Chester, Pennsylvania, Newport News and Norfolk, Virginia
- k. The same year, he authored an article advertising his apartments in the real estate section of the *Brooklyn Eagle*,^[65] which frequently featured him and his company.^[66]
- l. Including Coney Island, Bensonhurst, Sheepshead Bay, Flatbush, and Brighton Beach in Brooklyn, and Flushing and Jamaica Estates in Queens
- m. Tomasello, who previously had mafia ties,^[70] was an owner of 25% of Beach Haven Apartments whom Trump called "a brick contractor [and] an old-time property owner".^[71] From 1959–1961, Tomasello sued Trump in the New York Supreme Court as a stockholder of 25% of ten of Trump's corporations, as well as 14 subsidiaries and 4 sub-subsidiaries.^{[72][73]}
- n. Previously, it had no single name but had been called the Fred (C.) Trump Organization,^{[84][85]} and operated subsidiaries such as Trump Management and Trump Construction Corp.^{[86][87]}
- o. When Donald Trump renovated the Grand Hyatt New York in the late 1970s, Fred provided \$2 million to help repay the construction loan. He further assisted his son with a \$35 million line of credit, a \$30 million mortgage, and an additional corporate loan.^[91]
- p. According to Mary L. Trump's 2020 book, Fred called people of color who wished to rent from him "die Schwarze" ("the Black[s]").^[41]
- q. Trump personally requested that a lease agreement not be made unless the tenant had a monthly income four times the rent.^{[94][95]}
- r. Former employees were asked whether Jewish applicants were shown preference; one former employee felt that such applicants "had an easier time of getting an apartment than anyone else".^[94]
- s. According to the vice president of the subsidiary company responsible for the property, it had recently seen an increase in low-income tenants.^[100]
- t. *The New York Times* reported in their 2018 exposé on Trump's financial records that his donation of Patio Gardens, one of his least profitable properties, to the National Kidney Foundation was "one of the largest charitable donations he ever made. The greater the value of Patio Gardens, the bigger his deduction. The appraisal cited in Fred Trump's 1992 tax return valued Patio Gardens at \$34 million."^[1]
- u. Fred Jr.'s children both received \$200,000, the same amount given to each grandchild,^[112] but were excluded from Mary Trump's will.^[113]
- v. Including New York mayor Rudy Giuliani^[117] and Trump family biographer Gwenda Blair^[116]

- w. This drew from interviews with former Trump advisers and employees and over 100,000 pages of tax returns and financial records from Trump businesses.^[1] Mary L. Trump writes in her 2020 memoir that she provided the *Times* with 19 boxes of these financial records.^[123]
- x. Donald Trump's lawyer denied allegations of fraud and tax evasion, claiming that "President Trump had virtually no involvement whatsoever with these matters. The affairs were handled by other Trump family members who were not experts themselves and therefore relied entirely upon [licensed attorneys, Certified Public Accountants and real estate appraisers]" ^[124]
- y. Asked by Chris Wallace if his niece's allegations hurt him, Donald responded:^[138]

It hurts me more about attacking my father ... Let me just tell you, my father was – I think he was the most solid person I've ever met. And he was a very good person. He was a very, very good person. He was strong but he was good. For her to say the kind of things, a psychopath, that he was a psychopath, anybody that knew Fred Trump would call him a psychopath? ... [He was] tough on me, he was tough on all of the kids. But tough in a solid sense, in a really good sense.

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Frederick Trump

Frederick Trump (born **Friedrich Trump** German pronunciation: [fʁiːdʁɪç tʁʊmp]; 14 March 1869 – 30 May 1918) was a German–American barber, businessman, and patriarch of the Trump family.

Born in the village of Kallstadt, in the Kingdom of Bavaria (now in Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany), Trump trained as a barber and then immigrated to the United States at the age of 16 and continued his former trade. Several years later, in 1891, he moved to Seattle and began speculating in real estate. During the Klondike Gold Rush, Trump travelled to the Yukon Territory and made his fortune by operating a restaurant and a brothel for miners in the boomtown of Whitehorse.^{[1][2]} Trump then returned to Bavaria and married Elisabeth Christ, the daughter of a former neighbor. As he had emigrated to America in order to evade conscription, the Bavarian Government stripped Trump of his citizenship and permanently banished him following an investigation. As a result, Trump and his family returned to the United States. He became a U.S. citizen in 1892.

Trump worked as a hotel manager and was beginning to acquire real estate in Queens when he died in the 1918 flu pandemic. He was the father of Frederick C. Trump and John G. Trump, and the paternal grandfather of former 45th U.S. president Donald Trump.

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Early life

Frederick Trump



Trump in 1918

Born	Friedrich Trump <div>14 March 1869</div> Kallstadt, <u>Kingdom of Bavaria</u> (now Germany)
Died	30 May 1918 (aged 49) <div>Woodhaven, <u>Queens</u>, <u>New York</u>, U.S.</div>
Citizenship	Bavarian (1869-1905) <div>American (1892-1918)</div>
Occupation	Barber and operator of restaurants and brothels
Spouse(s)	<u>Elisabeth Christ</u> (m. 1902)
Children	<u>Elizabeth</u> · <u>Fred</u> · <u>John</u>
Family	<u>Trump</u>



Friedrich Trump, 1887

Friedrich Trump was born in Kallstadt, Palatinate, then part of the Kingdom of Bavaria, to Christian Johannes Trump (1829–1877) and Katharina Kober (1836–1922).^{[3]:28} Confessionally, the village was Protestant^{[3]:28–29} in contrast to the Bavarian mainland, which was overwhelmingly Catholic.

Trump's earliest known male ancestor is Johann Philipp Drumpft (1667–1707, parents or place of birth not recorded), who married Juliana Maria Rodenroth.^[4] The couple had a son, Johann Sebastian Trump (1699–1756). Johann Sebastian's son Johann Paul Trump (1727–1792) was born in Bobenheim am Berg.^[5]

The first link to Kallstadt can be established for Johann Sebastian's grandson Johannes Trump (1789–1836) who was born in Bobenheim am Berg and married in Kallstadt, where he also died.^{[6][7]} The Palatinate, then a relatively impoverished region, has been known for its viticulture since the Roman Empire.

From 1816 to 1918, when Bavaria became the Free State of Bavaria, the Palatinate was part of the Kingdom of Bavaria. In 1871, Bavaria became a part of the newly formed German Empire. During periods of war and anti-German discrimination in the United States, Trump's son Fred later denied his German heritage, claiming his father had been a Swede from Karlstad, Sweden.^[8] This version was repeated by Fred's son Donald in his 1987 autobiography.^[9]

After being sick with emphysema for 10 years, Trump's father, Christian Johannes, died on July 6, 1877, at the age of 48, leaving the family in severe debt from medical expenses.^{[3]:28} While five of the six children worked in the family grape fields, Friedrich was considered too sickly to endure such hard labor.^{[3]:29} In 1883, then aged 14, he was sent to nearby Frankenthal by his mother to work as a barber's apprentice and learn the trade.

Trump worked seven days a week for two and a half years under barber Friedrich Lang. After completing his apprenticeship, he returned to Kallstadt, a village with about 1,000 inhabitants. He quickly discovered there was not enough business to earn a living. He was also approaching the age of eligibility for conscription to military service in the Imperial German Army. He quickly decided to emigrate to the United States, later saying, "I agreed with my mother that I should go to America."^{[3]:30} Years later, his family members said that he departed secretly at night, leaving his mother a note.^{[3]:30–31} As a result of Trump fleeing mandatory conscription required of all citizens, a royal decree was later issued banishing him from the country.^[10]

Immigration to the United States

In 1885, at age 16, Trump immigrated via Bremen, Germany, to the United States aboard the steamship *Eider*, departing on October 7^{[3]:32} and arriving at the Castle Garden Emigrant Landing Depot in New York City on October 19. As he had not yet served the mandatory military duty of two years in the Kingdom of Bavaria, this emigration was illegal under Bavarian law.^[11] U.S. immigration records list his name as "Friedr. Trumpf" and his occupation as "none".^[12] He moved in with his older sister Katharina – who had emigrated in 1883^{[3]:31} – and her husband Fred Schuster, also from Kallstadt. Only a few hours after arriving, he met a German-speaking barber who was looking for an employee,^{[3]:25} and began working the following day.^{[3]:34} He worked as a barber for six years.^[2] Trump lived with his relatives on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in a neighborhood with many Palatine German immigrants, at 76 Forsyth Street.^{[3]:33} Because the cost of operating at 76 Forsyth Street was getting expensive, they later moved to 606 East 17th Street^{[3]:37} and to 2012 2nd Avenue.^{[3]:39}

In 1891, Trump moved to Seattle, in the newly admitted U.S. state of Washington. With his life savings of several hundred dollars, he bought the Poodle Dog, which he renamed the Dairy Restaurant, and supplied it with new tables, chairs, and a range.^[2] Located at 208 Washington Street, the Dairy Restaurant was in the

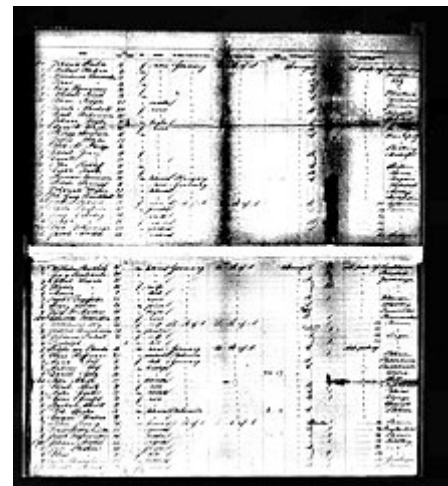
middle of Seattle's Pioneer Square; Washington Street was nicknamed "the Line" and included an assortment of saloons, casinos, and brothels. Biographer Gwenda Blair called it "a hotbed of sex, booze, and money, [it] was the indisputable center of the action in Seattle."^{[3]:41} The restaurant served food and liquor and was advertised to include "Rooms for Ladies", a common euphemism for prostitution.^{[3]:50} Trump lived in Seattle until early 1893^{[3]:59} and voted in Washington's first presidential election in 1892,^{[3]:50} after becoming a U.S. citizen.^{[3]:94}

On February 14, 1894, Trump sold the Dairy Restaurant, and in March, he moved to the emerging mining town of Monte Cristo, Washington in Snohomish County north of Seattle.^[13] After evidence of mineral deposits had been discovered in 1889, Monte Cristo was expected to produce a fortune in gold and silver. Many prospectors moved to the area in hopes of becoming rich. Rumors about financial investments by millionaire John D. Rockefeller in the entire Everett area created an exaggerated expectation of the area's potential.^{[3]:53-58}

Before leaving Seattle, Trump bought 40 acres (16 ha) in the Pine Lake Plateau, twelve miles (19 km) east of the city, for \$200, which was the first major real estate purchase of the Trump family.^{[3]:59} In Monte Cristo, Trump chose a plot of land near the later train station that he wanted to build a hotel on, but could not afford the \$1,000-per-acre fee to purchase it. Instead, he filed a Gold placer claim on the land, which allowed him to claim exclusive mineral rights to the land without having to pay for it,^{[3]:60} even though the land had already been claimed by Everett resident Nicholas Rudebeck. At that time, the U.S. Land Office was known to be corrupt and frequently allowed such multiple claims. Despite the placer's claim providing Trump no right to build any structure on the land, he quickly bought lumber to build a new boarding house and operate it similarly to the Dairy Restaurant. He never tried to mine gold on the land. Blair described Trump as "mining the miners" since they needed a place to sleep at night while they were mining.^{[3]:61} In July 1894, Rudebeck filed to incorporate the land and sent an agent to collect rent; this was apparently unsuccessful since the people of Monte Cristo did not pay attention to legal titles.^{[3]:66} Trump finally bought the land in December 1894.^{[3]:69} While in Monte Cristo, Trump was elected in 1896 as justice of the peace by a 32-to-5 margin.^{[3]:71}

Years of mining had revealed that there was not nearly as much gold and silver in Monte Cristo as had once been believed,^{[3]:68} and in August 1894, Rockefeller pulled out of most of his investment in the area, creating the "Everett bubble burst."^{[3]:67} By the spring of 1896, most of the miners had left Monte Cristo. Trump suffered both from a shortage of workers and reduced business, although he had been one of the few people to make money in Monte Cristo. Trump prepared for the bubble burst by funding two miners in the Yukon, Canada in exchange for them staking a claim for him.^{[3]:72} In July 1897, the Klondike Gold Rush began after boats loaded with gold arrived in San Francisco and Seattle. Thousands of people rushed to the area in hopes of making a fortune.^{[3]:73} Trump sold off most of his property in Monte Cristo a few weeks later and moved back to Seattle.^{[3]:74}

In Seattle, Trump opened a new restaurant at 207 Cherry Street. Business was so good that he paid off the mortgage in four weeks. Meanwhile, on 7 July, the two miners whom Trump had funded staked his claim at Hunker Creek, a tributary of the Klondike. After spending \$15 to register the claim, they sold half of it for \$400 the next day. A week later, another miner sold it for \$1,000.^{[3]:77} On 20 September, they staked a second claim, at Deadwood Creek. Half of it was sold in October for \$150, while the other half was sold in December for \$2,000. It is, however, unknown if Trump ever received any money from there. By early 1898, he had made enough money to go to the Yukon himself.^{[3]:79}



U.S. Immigration records. Line 133 notes "Friedr. Trumpf." age 16, born in Kallstadt, Germany.

He bought all the necessary supplies, sold off his remaining properties in Monte Cristo and Seattle, and transferred his 40 acres in the Pine Lake Plateau to his sister Louise.^{[3]:78} In 1900, Louise sold the property for \$250.^{[3]:80} In the winter following Trump's departure from Monte Cristo, the town suffered some of the worst avalanches and floods in its short history, and this time, Rockefeller refused to reconstruct the almost vital railroad to Everett.^{[3]:79}

Yukon Gold Rush; Trump's Hotels and Brothels

According to Blair's account, when Trump left for the Yukon, he had no plans to do actual mining.^{[3]:81} He likely travelled the White Pass route,^{[3]:83} which included the notorious "Dead Horse trail", so named because drivers whipped animals of transport until they literally dropped dead on the trail and were left to decompose. In the spring of 1898, Trump and another miner named Ernest Levin opened a tent restaurant along the trail. Blair writes that "a frequent dish was fresh-slaughtered, quick-frozen horse".^{[3]:84}

In May 1898, Trump and Levin moved to Bennett, British Columbia,^[14] a town known for prospectors building boats in order to travel to Dawson. In Bennett, Trump and Levin opened the Arctic Restaurant and Hotel, which offered fine dining, lodging and sex in a sea of tents.^{[3]:85} The Arctic was also originally housed in a tent, but demand for the hotel and restaurant grew until it occupied a two-story building.^[3] A letter to the *Yukon Sun* newspaper described the Arctic:

For single men the Arctic has excellent accommodations as well as the best restaurant in Bennett, but I would not advise respectable women to go there to sleep as they are liable to hear that which would be repugnant to their feelings – and uttered, too, by the depraved of their own sex.^[3]

The Arctic House was one of the largest and most extravagant restaurants in that region of the Klondike, offering fresh fruit and ptarmigan in addition to the staple of horse meat. The Arctic was open 24 hours a day and advertised "Rooms for ladies", which included beds and scales for measuring gold dust. The local Canadian Mounties were known to tolerate vice so long as it was conducted discreetly.^{[3]:86}

In 1900, the 111-mile (179 km) White Pass and Yukon Route, a railroad between Skagway, Alaska and Whitehorse, Yukon, was completed. Trump founded the White Horse Restaurant and Inn in White Horse.^{[3]:87–88}^[15] They moved the building by barge, relocated on Front Street, and were operational by June.^{[3]:88–89}

The new restaurant, which included one of the largest steel ranges in the area, prepared 3,000 meals per day and had space for gambling. Despite the enormous financial success, Trump and Levin began fighting due to Levin's drinking. They broke up their business relationship in February 1901, but reconciled in April. Around that time, the local government announced the suppression of prostitution, gambling and liquor, though the crackdown was delayed by businessmen until later that year. In light of this impending threat to his business operation, Trump sold his share of the restaurant to Levin and left the Yukon.^[2]^{[3]:90–91} In the months that followed, Levin was arrested for public drunkenness and sent to jail, and the Arctic was taken over by the Mounties.^{[3]:92} The restaurant burned down in the White Horse fire of 1905.^[16] Blair wrote that "once again, in a situation that created many losers, [Frederick Trump] managed to emerge a winner."^{[3]:93}



Passport application of Friedrich Trump, 1896

Marriage and family

Trump returned to Kallstadt in 1901 as a wealthy man. Biographer Blair said that "the business of seeing to his customers' need for food, drink and female companionship had been good to him."^{[3]:94} He quickly met and proposed to Elisabeth Christ (1880–1966), the daughter of a former neighbor; she was eleven years younger than Trump.^{[17][18]} Trump's mother disapproved of Christ because she considered her family to be of a lower social class. Trump and Christ married on August 26, 1902, and moved to New York City.^{[3]:95}

In New York, Trump found work as a barber and a restaurant and hotel manager. The couple lived at 1006 Westchester Avenue in the German-speaking Morrisania neighborhood of the Bronx. Their daughter Elizabeth was born on April 30, 1904. In May 1904, when Trump applied in New York for a U.S. passport to travel with his wife and his daughter, he listed his profession as "hotelkeeper".^[19] Due to Elizabeth Sr.'s extreme homesickness, the family returned to Germany later that year.^{[3]:96} In Germany, Trump deposited into a bank his life's savings of 80,000 mark, equivalent to \$544,830 in 2020.^{[3]:96}

Soon after the family arrived in Germany, Bavarian authorities determined that Trump had emigrated from Germany to avoid his military-service obligations, and he was classified as a draft dodger.^{[3]:98} On 24 December 1904 the Department of Interior announced an investigation to banish Trump from Germany. Officially, they found that he had violated the Resolution of the Royal Ministry of the Interior number 9916, an 1886 law that punished emigration to North America to avoid military service with the loss of Bavarian and thus German citizenship.^{[3]:99} In February 1905, a royal decree was issued ordering Trump to leave within eight weeks due to having emigrated to evade military service and failing to register his departure with the authorities.^[20] For several months, Trump petitioned the government to allow him to stay but he was unsuccessful.^{[3]:100}



Elizabeth Christ and Frederick Trump, 1902

He and his family returned to New York on 30 June 1905.^{[3]:102} Their son Fred was born on 11 October 1905, in the Bronx, New York.^{[3]:110} The family lived at 539 East 177th Street. In 1907, their second son, John, was born. Later that year the family moved to Woodhaven, Queens. While living in Queens, Trump opened a barber shop at 60 Wall Street in Manhattan.^{[3]:110}

Later life and death

In 1908, Trump bought real estate on Jamaica Avenue in Woodhaven. Two years later, he moved his family into the building on the land, renting out several rooms. He also worked as a hotel manager at the Medallion Hotel on 6th Avenue and 23rd Street.^{[3]:112} Trump intended to continue buying more land, but during World War I he kept a low profile because of the pervasive Germanophobia in the US due to the war. German-born citizens came under suspicion.^{[3]:113–115}

The family story of his death is that "on May 29, 1918, while walking with his son Fred, Trump suddenly felt extremely sick and was rushed to bed. The next day, he was dead. What was first diagnosed as pneumonia turned out to be one of the early cases of the Spanish flu, which caused millions of deaths around the world.^{[3]:116}" At his death his net holdings included a 2-story, 7-room home in Queens; 5 vacant lots; \$4,000 in savings; \$3,600 in stocks; and 14 mortgages. Altogether his net worth was \$31,359 (\$588,207.86 in 2020 dollars).^{[3]:118} His wife and son Fred continued his real estate projects under the Elizabeth Trump & Son moniker.

Earlier recorded forms of the family name

U.S. immigration records from October 1885 list his name as Friedr. Trumpf.^{[21][22]} An early recorded appearance of the name "Trump" appears 25 years later in the 1910 United States census records.^{[23][22]} In her book *The Trumps*, American biographer Gwenda Blair mentions a Hanns Drumpf who settled in Kallstadt in 1608 and whose descendants changed their name from Drumpf to Trump during the Thirty Years' War.^{[24][25]} A 2015 Deutsche Welle article claims Blair said in an interview that Trump's grandfather was named Friedrich Drumpf,^[26] which is no doubt a mistake made by the journalist because this would contradict Blair's book. According to Kallstadt's transportation association, "Drumpf" was the original spelling of the family's surname but that it had already been changed to "Trump" before this spelling was recorded in the population register produced by French annexation of the Left Bank of the Rhine (from 1798 to 1814).^[27] The fact-checking website Snopes presents sources showing the family name was once "Drumpf" and showing the aforementioned contradictory reporting of Blair's opinion on whether Frederick Trump first used "Drumpf" but also showing that neither Donald Trump nor his father ever had the surname Drumpf.^[28]

See also

- *The Trumps: Three Generations That Built an Empire*

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Ivana Trump

Ivana Marie Trump (née **Zelníčková**, Czech: [ˈzɛlɲiːtʃkovaː]; born February 20, 1949) is a Czech-American businesswoman, media personality, fashion designer, author, and former model. She lived in Canada in the 1970s before relocating to the United States where she married Donald Trump in 1977. She held key managerial positions in The Trump Organization^[1] as vice president of interior design, as CEO and president of Trump's Castle casino resort, and as manager of the Plaza Hotel.

Ivana's divorce from Donald Trump, finalized in 1992, was the subject of extensive media coverage in the 1990s. Following the divorce, she developed her own lines of clothing, fashion jewelry, and beauty products which were sold on QVC London and the Home Shopping Network. Ivana wrote an advice column for *Globe* called "Ask Ivana" from 1995 through 2010 and has published several books including works of fiction, self-help, and an autobiography.

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Early life and education

Ivana Zelníčková was born on February 20, 1949, in the Moravian city of Zlín (known between 1949 and 1990 as Gottwaldov), Czechoslovakia, the daughter of Miloš Zelníček (1927–1990) and Marie Zelníčková (née Francová).^{[2][3][4]} Her father was an electrical engineer and her mother worked as a telephone operator.^[5] Her father encouraged her skiing talent, a practice she began at age four.^{[5][6]}

Ivana Trump



Trump in 2004

Born	Ivana Marie Zelníčková February 20, 1949 <u>Gottwaldov</u> , <u>Moravia</u> , <u>Czechoslovakia</u> (now <u>Zlín</u> , <u>Czech Republic</u>)
Citizenship	 Czech Republic United States
Alma mater	<u>Charles University</u>
Occupation	Businesswoman · designer · author · model
Years active	1970–present
Notable work	<i>Raising Trump</i> , 2017
Television	<i>Ivana Young Man</i> , 2006
Spouse(s)	Alfred Winklmayr (m. 1971; div. 1973) Donald Trump (m. 1977; div. 1992)

After developing skills as a skier, she joined the junior national ski team, which offered her opportunities to travel beyond the Soviet-era communist boundaries of what was then the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.^[5] She attended Charles University in Prague and earned a master's degree in physical education in 1972.^{[7][6]}

In 1970, Trump appeared on Czechoslovak Television in the children's television series Pan Tau.^[8]

Accounts differ as to Trump's history of skiing competitively.^[9] It was reported that she was selected as an alternate on the Czechoslovak ski team during the 1972 Winter Olympics, specializing in downhill and slalom.^{[10][6]} However, in 1989, Petr Pomezný, Secretary General of the Czechoslovak Olympic Committee, refuted the claim and stated that despite searching extensively, no record could be found of her involvement.^[7]

	Riccardo Mazzucchelli (m. 1995; div. 1997) Rossano Rubicondi (m. 2008; div. 2009)
Partner(s)	Roffredo Gaetani (1997–2005; his death)
Children	<u>Donald Trump Jr.</u> <u>Ivanka Trump</u> <u>Eric Trump</u>
Family	<u>Trump</u>

Emigration to Canada

In 1971, Zelníčková married Alfred Winklmayr, an Austrian ski instructor and her platonic friend, in order to obtain Austrian citizenship.^{[11][12]} The marriage granted her the freedom to leave Communist Czechoslovakia without defection so she could retain the right to return to visit her parents.^{[13][14][11][15]} Ivana Winklmayr received her Austrian passport in March 1972.^[12] The following year, she obtained an absentee divorce from Alfred Winklmayr in Los Angeles, California, where he had moved to teach skiing.^{[13][14][12]}

Zelníčková was romantically involved with the lyricist and playwright George (Jiří) Staidl who was killed in a car accident in 1973.^[16] After Staidl's death, Trump moved to Canada where she lived with George (Jiří) Syrovatka whom she had dated since 1967; Syrovatka had defected to Canada in 1971 and owned a ski boutique in Montreal.^{[13][14][15]}

Trump worked as a ski instructor while living in Canada.^[17] She lived in Montreal for two years where she continued to improve her English by taking night courses at McGill University and also worked as a model.^[15] In 1975, Trump told the Montreal Gazette that she considered modeling to be a job, rather than a career.^[18] Her modeling clients included Eaton's department store and the designer Auckie Sanft, along with promotional work for the 1976 Summer Olympics that were being hosted in Montreal.^[15]

Marriage to Donald Trump

Ivana was in New York City with a group of models in 1976 when she met Donald Trump.^[15] On April 7, 1977, they were married at Marble Collegiate Church in a wedding officiated by Norman Vincent Peale.^{[19][20][21][22]} The couple became tabloid figures in New York society during the 1980s. They worked together on several large projects, including the Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, the renovation of the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City, and the construction of the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey.^{[23][24]}

Ivana and Donald Trump have three children: Donald Trump Jr. (born December 31, 1977), Ivana Marie Trump, better known as Ivanka Trump, (born October 30, 1981), and Eric Trump (born January 6,



Ivana and Donald Trump in receiving line of state dinner for King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in 1985, with U.S. president Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan

1984). Donald Jr. learned to speak fluent Czech (with the help of his maternal grandfather), while Ivanka gained only a basic understanding of her mother's native tongue, and Eric was not exposed to the language since, by the time of his birth, his grandparents were comfortable using English.^{[25][26]}

A reviewer of the 2018 Netflix documentary miniseries on Donald Trump, *Trump: An American Dream*, described Ivana as a “charismatic workaholic, a career woman, an equal”, and a life partner deliberately chosen by Trump to “work beside him and challenge him.”^[27]

The Trumps' troubled marriage became the subject of public interest over the Christmas holiday in 1989 when—on vacation in Aspen, Colorado— they were observed fighting after Ivana encountered Donald Trump's mistress Marla Maples.^[28] The *Chicago Tribune* reported that by February 1990, Donald Trump had locked Ivana out of her office at the Plaza Hotel, and a legal battle ensued over the legitimacy of the four prenuptial agreements the pair had successively negotiated over the years.^[28]

In October 1990, Trump's 63-year-old father, Miloš Zelníček, died suddenly from a heart attack. According to *The Guardian*, her father was an informer for Czechoslovakia's *Státní bezpečnost* (StB) intelligence service who relayed information from his daughter, including a prediction that George H. W. Bush would win the 1988 presidential election.^[29] Despite their marital troubles and pending divorce, Ivana stood side by side with Donald Trump at her father's funeral in Zlín^[30] held in November 1990.^[29] The service was also attended by Jaroslav Jansa, secret collaborator to the StB.^[29]

The Trumps' divorce proceedings received worldwide publicity.^[31] Front-page coverage appeared in New York tabloid newspapers for eleven days in a row, and the story was the subject of Liz Smith's entire news coverage for three months.^[32] In a deposition relating to their divorce, Ivana accused Donald Trump of rape and of pulling out handfuls of her hair.^[33] In Harry Hurt III's book *Lost Tycoon: The Many Lives of Donald J. Trump*, she confirmed that she had "felt violated". However, in a statement provided by Donald Trump and his lawyers, she said that she had used the word "rape", but she did not "want [her] words to be interpreted in a literal or criminal sense."^[34] The uncontested divorce was granted in December 1990 on the grounds of cruel and inhumane treatment by Donald Trump.^{[31][35]} Ivana had to sign a non-disclosure agreement as a condition of the divorce settlement, and she was required to seek Donald Trump's permission before publicly discussing their marriage.^{[34][36]} *The New York Times* reported in 1991 that Ivana's divorce settlement included \$14 million, a 45-room Connecticut mansion, an apartment in the Trump Plaza, and the use of Mar-a-Lago for one month a year.^[35] The divorce was finalized in 1992.^[33]

Career

During her marriage to Donald Trump, Ivana took on major roles in The Trump Organization, working as a senior executive for seven years,^[37] including executive vice president for interior design.^{[1][24]} She led the interior design of Trump Tower with its signature pink marble.^[1] Ivana was appointed CEO^{[38][39]} and president of the Trump Castle Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City and later became the manager of the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan.

Business ventures

Soon after the divorce, Trump developed lines of clothing, fashion jewelry and beauty products that have been sold through television shopping channels, including the Home Shopping Network^[40] and QVC London.^[41] In 1995, she presided over the House of Ivana, a fashion and fragrance company with a showroom located on



Ivana and Donald Trump at state dinner for King Fahd

Park Avenue in New York.^[40]

In 1998, she pursued business interests in Croatia (a vacation destination her parents frequently visited), which included the purchase of 33% of the nation's second largest daily newspaper.^{[42][43]}

In 2004, the Ivana-branded Bentley Bay development in Miami, Florida, filed for bankruptcy.^[44] In 2005, Trump was involved in several proposed condominium projects, including the never-built Ivana Las Vegas.^{[44][45]}

In 2010, she sued Finnish fashion company Ivana Helsinki, accusing it of selling women's clothing that incorporated her name without permission.^[46]

Writing

Trump has published several books, including *For Love Alone* (1992), *Free to Love* (1993) and a self-help book called *The Best Is Yet to Come: Coping with Divorce and Enjoying Life Again* (1995).

Trump wrote an advice column about love and life for Globe, titled Ask Ivana, from June 1995 through January 2010.^{[47][48]}

In February 1999, Trump launched her own lifestyle magazine titled *Ivana's Living in Style*.^[49] In 2001, she contributed an advice column for *Divorce Magazine*.^[50]

In 2017, she released an autobiography, *Raising Trump*, that covers her own upbringing and the early years of raising her children with Donald Trump.^{[51][52]}

Media appearances

Ivana and Donald Trump made several appearances together on TV programs including *The Oprah Winfrey Show* in April 1988,^[53] followed by the BBC's *Wogan* in May 1988.^[54] After her divorce from Donald Trump, Ivana was interviewed by Barbara Walters for ABC's *20/20*. In 1991, Donald Trump cut off her alimony payments after the interview and announced his intention to sue Ivana for monetary damages.^[55]

Trump returned to *The Oprah Winfrey Show* in 1992 after her divorce from Donald and stated "I will not let men dominate me anymore."^[56]

She had a cameo role in the Hollywood film *The First Wives Club* (1996) with the line, "Ladies, you have to be strong and independent. And remember, don't get mad, get everything."^[57]

Trump was the host of a reality TV special titled *Ivana Young Man*, which aired on Oxygen Network in 2006.^[58] In the reality dating program, she helped a wealthy, middle-aged woman find a younger partner.^[17]

In 2010, Trump appeared in the UK version of *Celebrity Big Brother*.^[17]

Personal life



Trump at the Life Ball 2009 in Vienna

Trump has been married four times. Her first marriage to Alfred Winklmayr was for the goal of obtaining an Austrian passport.^[9] She was married to Donald Trump from 1977 to 1992 and had three children with him: Donald Jr. in 1977, Ivanka in 1981 and Eric in 1984.^[59] She became a U.S. citizen in 1988.^[59]

Trump married Italian entrepreneur and international businessman Riccardo Mazzucchelli in November 1995.^{[60][61]} They divorced in 1997.^[62] That same year, she filed a \$15 million breach of contract suit against Mazzucchelli for violating the confidentiality clause in their prenuptial agreement,^[63] while Mazzucchelli sued Ivana and Donald Trump in a British court for libel.^[61] The suit was later settled under undisclosed terms.^[62]

In the summer of 1997, she began dating Italian aristocrat Count Roffredo Gaetani. The relationship continued until his death in 2005.^[64]

Trump dated Italian actor and model Rossano Rubicondi for six years before they married on April 12, 2008.^{[65][66][67]} The marriage to Rubicondi, 36, was the fourth union for Ivana, then 59.^[67] The couple's \$3 million wedding for 400 guests was hosted by ex-husband Donald Trump at Mar-a-Lago with daughter Ivanka as her maid of honor.^[68] The wedding was officiated by Maryanne Trump Barry.^[67] Although Ivana and Rubicondi divorced less than a year later, their on-again, off-again relationship continued until 2019, when Ivana announced they had once again "called it quits".^{[17][69]}

As of August 2019, Trump had ten grandchildren.^[70] In the late 2010s, she reportedly split her time between New York, Miami, and Saint-Tropez.^[17]

Trump stated that she is fluent in German, French, Czech, and Russian.^[1] She became a naturalized US citizen in 1988.^{[71][72]}

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External links

- [Ivana Trump \(https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005506/\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005506/) at [IMDb](#)
 - [Ivana and Donald Trump video clip \(http://www.oprah.com/own-oprahshow/donald-trump-ultimately-ivana-does-exactly-as-i-tell-her-to-do\)](http://www.oprah.com/own-oprahshow/donald-trump-ultimately-ivana-does-exactly-as-i-tell-her-to-do) from *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, on April 24, 1988
 - [Ivana and Donald Trump video clip \(https://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/donald-trump-dame-edna-wogan/zjxcf4j\)](https://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/donald-trump-dame-edna-wogan/zjxcf4j) appearance with [Dame Edna](#) on *Wogan*, BBC, on May 23, 1988
-

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Donald Trump Jr.

Donald John Trump Jr. (born December 31, 1977) is an American political activist, businessman, author, and former television presenter. He is the eldest child of the 45th president of the United States, Donald Trump, and businesswoman Ivana Trump.

Trump serves as a trustee and executive vice president of The Trump Organization, running the company alongside his younger brother Eric.^[2] During their father's presidency, the brothers continued to do deals and investments in foreign countries, as well as collect payments in their U.S. properties from foreign governments, despite a pledge that they would not do so.^[3] Trump also served as a boardroom judge on his father's TV show *The Apprentice*. He authored *Triggered* in 2019 and *Liberal Privilege* in 2020.

Trump was active in his father's 2016 presidential campaign. He cooperated with Russia in their interference in the 2016 United States elections and had a meeting with a Russian lawyer who promised damaging information about the campaign of Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election.^{[4][5][6]} He has promoted several conspiracy theories.^{[7][8][9][10]} Trump has engaged in attempts to overturn the 2020 United States presidential election following his father's electoral defeat; he has promoted the stolen election conspiracy theory and advocated "total war" instead of completion of vote counting.^{[11][12]} He spoke at the rally that led to the storming of the Capitol, where he threatened Trump's opponents that "we're coming for you."^[13] On January 11, 2021, Attorney General for the District of Columbia Karl Racine said that he is looking at whether to charge Donald Trump Jr. with inciting the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol in the criminal investigation into the attack.^[14]

Donald Trump Jr.



Trump in 2019

Born	Donald John Trump Jr. December 31, 1977 <u>New York City</u> , <u>New York</u> , U.S.
Nationality	<u>American</u>
Citizenship	<u>American</u>
Education	<u>The Hill School</u>
Alma mater	<u>University of Pennsylvania</u> (BS)
Occupation	Businessman · activist · television presenter · author
Known for	Executive in the <u>Trump Organization</u> Former boardroom judge on <i>The Apprentice</i>
Political party	<u>Republican</u> ^[1]
Spouse(s)	<u>Vanessa Haydon</u> (m. 2005; div. 2018)
Children	5

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Parent(s)	<u>Donald Trump</u> <u>Ivana Zelníčková</u>
Family	<u>Trump</u>
Website	<u>www.donjr.com (http://www.donjr.com)</u>

Early life

Trump was born on December 31, 1977, in Manhattan, New York City, to Ivana and Donald Trump.^[15] He has two younger siblings, Ivanka and Eric. He also has two half siblings, Tiffany, from his father's marriage to Marla Maples, and Barron, from his father's current marriage to Melania Trump. Through his father, Trump is a grandson of Fred Trump and great-grandson of Elizabeth Trump, who founded what became the Trump Organization. As a boy, Trump found a role model in his maternal grandfather, Miloš Zelníček, who had a home near Prague, where he spent summers camping, fishing, hunting and learning the Czech language.^[16]

His parents divorced when he was 13 years old; his mother told him his father was having an extramarital affair. Trump was estranged from his father for one year after the divorce, furious at his actions which broke up the family.^[17]

Trump was educated at Buckley School^[18] and The Hill School, a college preparatory boarding school in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, followed by the University of Pennsylvania's (Penn) Wharton School, where he graduated in 2000 with a B.S. in Economics.^[19]

Career

After graduating from Penn in 2000, Trump moved to Aspen, Colorado, where he hunted, fished, skied, lived in a truck, and worked as a bartender for a year, before returning to join the Trump Organization in New York. Trump has supervised building projects, which included 40 Wall Street, Trump International Hotel and Tower, and Trump Park Avenue.^[20] In 2006 he helped launch Trump Mortgage, which collapsed less than a year later.^[15] In 2010 he became a spokesperson for Cambridge Who's Who, a public relations firm that had

received hundreds of complaints filed with the Better Business Bureau.^[15] He appeared as a guest adviser and judge on many episodes of his father's reality television show *The Apprentice*, from season 5 in 2006 to his father's last season in 2015.^[21]



Trump Jr. in 2009

Trump Organization

On January 11, 2017, Trump's father announced that he and his brother Eric would oversee a trust that included the Trump Organization's assets while his father was president, to avert a conflict of interest.^[22]

Amid the Trump–Ukraine scandal – where Trump asked the Ukrainian president to investigate Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden – Trump Jr. strongly criticized Hunter Biden, accusing him of nepotism and leveraging his father as a means to get financial benefits. Trump Jr. said, "When you're the father and your son's entire career is dependent on that, they own you." Trump Jr. was widely ridiculed for these remarks by Trevor Noah and others. Trump Jr. is a high-level executive in his father's business and has continued to operate and promote the family's businesses across the world during Trump's presidency.^{[23][24][25][26][27][28]} The Associated Press wrote of Trump Jr.'s, remarks that he was "showing no self-awareness that he, too, has at least in part been successful because of a famous father".^[29] According to *The Washington Post* fact-checker, Trump Jr.'s assertion that he and his family members had gotten out of foreign business deals after Trump became president is false.^[3] *The Washington Post* reported that after Trump became president, "Trump's sons have been busy selling assets to foreign individuals, expanding or adding onto their existing deals and investments in foreign countries, and collecting payments in U.S. properties from foreign governments."^[3]

In February 2018, advertisements in Indian newspapers promoted a deal whereby anyone who purchased Trump Organization apartments in Gurgaon before February 20 would be invited to have a "conversation and dinner" with Trump Jr. The ads were criticized by corruption watchdogs as unethical.^{[30][31]}

Involvement in politics

2016 presidential campaign

Ahead of the 2016 presidential election, Trump Jr. was a central member of his father's campaign,^[32] characterized by *The New York Times* as a "close political adviser".^[33] He spoke at the Republican National Convention, along with his siblings Ivanka, Eric and Tiffany.^[33]

Trump Jr. influenced his father's choice of Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke during the presidential transition.^{[34][35]} Since his father's victory in the 2016 election, Trump Jr. has developed what *The Washington Post* calls a "public persona as a right-wing provocateur and ardent defender of Trumpism".^[36] *The Atlantic* reported in 2019 that Trump had described Trump Jr. in 2017 as "not the sharpest knife in the drawer."^[37] Trump Jr. earned the nickname "Fredo" among some Trump campaign staffers, a reference to a character in *The Godfather*.^{[38][39]}



Trump Jr. campaigning for his father in Iowa, November 2016

Veselnitskaya meeting

On June 9, 2016, Trump Jr. attended a meeting arranged by publicist Rob Goldstone on behalf of Azerbaijani-Russian businessman Emin Agalarov.^[40] The meeting was held in Trump Tower in Manhattan, among three members of the presidential campaign: Trump Jr., Jared Kushner, and Paul Manafort – and Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya, her translator Anatoli Samochornov, Russian-American lobbyist Rinat Akhmetshin, and Ike Kaveladze, a Georgian-American, U.S.-based senior vice president at Crocus Group, the real estate development company run by Aras Agalarov.^[40]

Approximately a year later, Trump Jr. initially told the media that adoption of Russian children was the main subject of the meeting.^[41] On July 8, 2017, Trump Jr. tweeted his email exchange with Goldstone. It revealed that Trump Jr. had agreed to attend the meeting with the understanding he would receive information damaging to Hillary Clinton, which he considered opposition research.^[42] Goldstone also wrote in one of Trump Jr.'s publicly disclosed emails that the Russian government was involved.^[42] Robert Mueller, the special counsel of the Department of Justice in charge of Russia-related investigations, investigated the emails and the meeting.^[43] Although the White House lauded Trump Jr. for his transparency, he released the e-mails only after *The New York Times* had informed him that they had them and were going to publish a story about them.^[44]

In June 2019, Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee made a criminal referral of Trump Jr. to federal prosecutors on suspicions that he misled the committee with his testimony.^[45]

Meeting with Gulf states emissary

Trump Jr. had a meeting in August 2016 with an emissary for the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia who offered help to the Trump presidential campaign.^[46] The meeting included Joel Zamel, an Israeli specialist in social media manipulation; George Nader, an envoy representing the crown princes of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia; and American businessman Erik Prince.^{[47][46]}

Correspondence with WikiLeaks

In November 2017, news broke that Julian Assange had used the WikiLeaks Twitter account to correspond with Donald Trump Jr. during the 2016 presidential election. Trump Jr. had already provided this correspondence to congressional investigators who were looking into Russian interference in the 2016 election.^{[48][49][50]}

The correspondence showed that WikiLeaks actively solicited the cooperation of Trump Jr., who was a campaign surrogate and advisor in the campaign of his father. WikiLeaks urged the Trump campaign to reject the results of the 2016 presidential election at a time when it appeared the Trump campaign would lose. WikiLeaks asked Trump Jr. to share an unsubstantiated^[51] claim that Hillary Clinton had wanted to attack Assange with drones. WikiLeaks also shared a link to a website that would help people search through Clinton campaign manager John Podesta's hacked e-mails, which Wikileaks had recently made public. Trump Jr. shared both.^{[48][49]}

2018 midterm election campaigns

During the 2018 midterms election cycle, Trump actively campaigned on behalf of Republican candidates, including for Matt Rosendale, Patrick Morrisey, Mike Braun, Ron DeSantis, Lee Zeldin and Matt Gaetz.^[52] He raised millions of dollars for Republican candidates, was second only to his father in his ability to draw crowds to campaign events, and is credited with helping Republican candidates win.^[37]

Other political activities

In 2007, Trump Jr. gave \$4,000 to then-Senator Hillary Clinton's campaign to be the Democratic presidential nominee.^[53]

In 2011, Trump Jr. responded to criticism of the Tea Party movement by Florida representative Frederica Wilson by confusing Wilson with California representative Maxine Waters and saying her colorful hats made her look like a stripper.^[54]

In April 2017, he campaigned for Montana congressional candidate Greg Gianforte,^[55] and in May met with Republican National Committee officials to discuss the party's strategy and resources.^[56]

In September 2017, Trump Jr. asked to have his Secret Service detail removed, telling friends he wanted more privacy. The request was criticized by former Secret Service agents.^[57] Trump Jr.'s protection was restored later that month.^[58]

In October 2020, it was reported that Pennsylvania Republicans were suggesting Trump Jr. run for the vacant Senate seat in Pennsylvania in 2022 after two-term incumbent Pat Toomey announced he would not be seeking re-election.^[59]

In October 2020, Trump Jr. held a crowded indoor rally where attendees did not wear masks, contradicting public health guidelines.^[60]

In an October 29 interview with Fox News's Laura Ingraham, Trump Jr. asserted that the coronavirus death rate has dropped to "almost nothing", adding "(b)ecause we've gotten control of this thing. We understand how it works – they have the therapeutics to be able to deal with this. If you look at that, look at my Instagram, it's gone down to almost nothing."^[61] On that day, the number of coronavirus deaths in the U.S. was 1,063.^[62]

Speculation of 2024 presidential run

Trump has been the subject of speculation for a 2024 run for president.^{[63][64]} In October 2020, Trump posted a photo of a "Don Jr. 2024" flag to his Instagram account.^{[65][66]}

Views and controversies

Race and immigration

During his father's presidential campaign, Trump Jr. caused controversy in 2016 when he posted an image that compared refugees to Skittles, saying "If I had a bowl of skittles and I told you just three would kill you. Would you take a handful? That's our Syrian refugee problem."^{[33][67][68]} The makers of Skittles condemned the tweet, saying "Skittles are candy. Refugees are people. We don't feel it's an appropriate analogy."^{[68][33]} The Cato Institute claimed that year that the chances "an American would be killed in a terrorist attack committed by a refugee was one in 3.64 billion" per year.^[69]

On March 1, 2016, an interview with white supremacist James Edwards and Trump Jr. was aired. The campaign initially denied the interview had taken place; later Trump Jr. claimed it was unintentional.^[70] As a consequence of the interview, mainstream media outlets have accused Trump Jr. of being either a believer in the white genocide conspiracy theory,^[71] or pretending to be an advocate for political gain.^[72]

In September 2016, Trump Jr. cited Holocaust imagery to criticize what he perceived as the mainstream media's uncritical coverage of Hillary Clinton during her campaign, by "letting her slide on every discrepancy", while also accusing Democrats involved in the 2016 campaign of lying. Trump Jr. said if the Republicans were committing the same offences mainstream outlets would be "warming up the gas chamber right now".^{[73][74]} Also that month, Trump Jr. shared an image on Instagram depicting a cross between his father and Pepe the Frog. When asked on Good Morning America about Pepe the Frog and its associations with white supremacy, Trump Jr. said he had never heard of Pepe the Frog and thought it was just a "frog with a wig".^[75]

In April 2017, Trump Jr. lauded conspiracy theorist Mike Cernovich, who has promoted the debunked white genocide and Pizzagate conspiracy theories,^[76] saying, "In a long gone time of unbiased journalism he'd win the Pulitzer".^{[77][78]}

In August 2020, the Southern Poverty Law Center reported that Trump appeared at a far-right "We Build the Wall" event with Neo-Nazi collaborator Jack Posobiec in July 2019.^[79]



Trump Jr. speaking in 2020

Promotion of conspiracy theories

Trump Jr. retweeted conspiratorial remarks by white supremacist Kevin B. MacDonald about alleged favors exchanged by Hillary Clinton and Switzerland's largest bank.^[33] On the campaign trail, Trump Jr. promoted Alex Jones' conspiracy theory that Hillary Clinton wore an earpiece to a presidential forum^{[80][81][82]} and that official unemployment rates were manipulated for political purposes.^[83]

In March 2017, Trump Jr. criticized the mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, after the 2017 Westminster attack, which in turn led British lawmakers to criticize Trump Jr.^{[84][85][86]} British journalists said Trump Jr. had quoted Khan out of context when he criticized him.^{[85][86]} Khan did not respond to the criticism, saying he had "far more important things" to do.^[84]

In May 2017, Trump Jr. promoted what CNN called the "long-debunked, far-right conspiracy theory" that Bill Clinton was linked to Vince Foster's death.^[87] In November, Trump Jr. again promoted the conspiracy theory that the Clintons had murdered people.^[88]

In February 2018, Trump Jr. liked two tweets promoting a conspiracy theory that survivors of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting were coached into propagating anti-Trump rhetoric.^{[89][90]}

In May 2018, Trump Jr. retweeted a false and antisemitic conspiracy theory that George Soros, the Jewish Hungarian-American businessman and philanthropist, was a "nazi [*sic*] who turned in his fellow Jews to be murdered in German concentration camps & stole their wealth".^{[91][15][92]} The tweets originated from Roseanne Barr, whose TV show Roseanne was cancelled the same day after she had posted a series of racist and antisemitic tweets.^[91] A spokesperson for Soros responded to the tweets, "George Soros survived the Nazi occupation of Hungary as a 13-year-old child by going into hiding and assuming a false identity with the help of his father, who managed to save his own family and help many other Jews survive the Holocaust."^[92]

In June 2018, Trump Jr. liked a tweet suggesting that the migrant children separated from their parents due to the Trump administration family separation policy were actually actors.^[93]

In August 2018, Trump Jr. shared on Instagram a doctored image which had been crudely edited to falsely state that CNN had reported President Trump's approval rating as 50%. The actual CNN report had Trump at 40%, below Barack Obama's 45% at the same point of his presidency. Trump Jr. deleted the image two days later.^{[94][95]}

In September 2018, when Hurricane Florence was affecting the United States, Trump Jr. tweeted a picture of CNN journalist Anderson Cooper waist-deep in floodwaters when another man in the same picture was standing knee-deep a distance away. In the same tweet, Trump Jr. included a link to a Breitbart News article claiming that CNN's ratings had dropped by 41%, and proposed a conspiracy theory that CNN was "lying to try to make [his father, President Trump] look bad". In actuality, the picture of Cooper was about ten years old, taken during 2008's Hurricane Ike before Trump became president, and Cooper was videoed talking about how the floodwaters were receding.^[96]

In May 2020, Trump Jr. falsely accused Joe Biden of being a pedophile.^[97]

In August 2020, he shared a Breitbart News article about more than 800 dead people voting in Michigan which was framed to suggest that the ballots were not legitimately cast and thus evidence of extensive voter fraud. However, the voters in question died *after* submitting the ballots, and the ballots were rejected by Michigan authorities who knew the voters had died before the election date.^[98] In September 2020, he again pushed false claims about voter fraud by asserting, "The radical left are laying the groundwork to steal this election from my father," adding, "Their plan is to add millions of fraudulent ballots that can cancel your vote and overturn the election," asking "able-bodied" people to join an election security "army" for his father.^[99]

COVID-19 misinformation

Trump Jr. was given a 12-hour restriction by Twitter in July 2020 after he promoted misinformation about COVID-19 by retweeting a video showing Houston doctor Stella Immanuel promoting hydroxychloroquine as a cure despite conflicting studies, and claiming that masks are unnecessary. Twitter later said that it restricted the ability to tweet or retweet for twelve hours for violating its COVID-19 misinformation policy.^{[100][101][102][103]}

On October 29, 2020, a day registering roughly 1,000 COVID-19 deaths in the U.S., Trump Jr. criticized the focus on new infections rather than on deaths, saying on Fox News, "why aren't they talking about deaths? Oh, oh, because the number is almost nothing. Because we've gotten control of this, and we understand how it works."^[104]

Other

On October 31, 2017, Trump Jr. tweeted that he would take away half his three-year-old daughter's Halloween candy because, he wrote, "it's never too early to teach her about socialism."^[105]

On November 7, 2017, he posted tweets urging voters in Virginia's gubernatorial election to vote "tomorrow", the day after the election.^[106]

In November 2019, Trump Jr. tweeted the name of the alleged whistleblower who brought to light the Trump-Ukraine scandal. Whistleblower conventions are intended to protect the identity of individuals who expose wrongdoing in government. Agence France-Presse attempted to independently verify the identity that Trump Jr. tweeted, but was unable to do so.^[107]

In June 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Trump Jr. accused liberals of hypocrisy, for imposing restrictive measures and social distancing guidelines on businesses while holding the "Action for Black Trans Lives" protest for the rights of African-American transgender people.^[108]

Attempts to overturn the 2020 election

Trump has had a prominent role in his father's attempts to overturn the 2020 United States presidential election since November 2020. He has threatened Republican lawmakers who did not help his father overturn the election.^[109] In November 2020, he advocated "total war" instead of completion of vote counting in the 2020 United States elections.^[12]



Trump in 2018

Relation to the 2021 Capitol attack

Together with his father and other speakers, on January 6, 2021, Trump Jr. spoke to an audience and, speaking about reluctant GOP lawmakers saying, "If you're gonna be the zero and not the hero, we're coming for you."^[110] President Trump further incited the crowd which then marched to the US Capitol building, where they forced entry, broke windows and vandalized the building. One police officer and four marchers were killed.^[111]

Television host and former congressman Joe Scarborough called for the arrest of Trump, along with his father and Rudolph Giuliani for insurrection against the United States.^[112] Following his father's permanent ban from Twitter on January 8, 2020, Donald Trump Jr. claimed that free speech "no longer exists in America."^[113]

On January 18, 2021, Forbes reported that Trump Jr. had used a shirt with the logo of the Three Percenters in May 2019, a far-right militia group involved in the attack on Congress.^[114]

Criminal investigation

On January 11, 2021, D.C. attorney general Karl Racine said that Donald Trump Jr. is a person of interest in the criminal investigation of the attack on the U.S. Capitol and that he is looking at whether to charge him along with Rudy Giuliani and Mo Brooks with inciting the violent attack.^[14]

Fraud investigation

On January 14, 2021, it became known that Trump Jr. is a person of interest in the criminal investigation into misuse of his father's inaugural funds in Washington D.C., and that prosecutors intend to interview him over his role in "grossly overpaying" for use of event space at the Trump Hotel in Washington for the 2017 inauguration.^[115]

Books

Triggered: How the Left Thrives on Hate and Wants to Silence Us

In 2019, Trump Jr. released the book, *Triggered: How the Left Thrives on Hate and Wants to Silence Us*. The book is critical of political correctness, and argues that the American left has a victimhood complex.^[116] *The Washington Post* commented: "yet, in his telling, the real victim is often him, his father or another Trump family member."^[116] In the book, Trump Jr. pushes conspiracy theories about how the intelligence community has attempted to harm President Trump, comparing President Trump's experiences with the FBI harassment campaign against civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.^[117] Trump Jr. wrote of a visit to Arlington National Cemetery (a military cemetery), commenting that he got emotional looking at the graves and that it reminded him of "all the sacrifices" the Trump family had made, including "voluntarily giving up a huge chunk of our business and all international deals to avoid the appearance that we were 'profiting off of the office'" ^{[116][117]} Fact-checkers have reported that Trump still owns the family business, and that the Trump family have continued to engage in international business deals since Trump became president.^[116] In a review for *The Washington Post*, Carlos Lozada said, "fails as memoir and as polemic: Its analysis is facile, its hypocrisy relentless, its self-awareness marginal. (The writing is wretched, even by the standards of political vanity projects.)"^[118]

The book was a New York Times best-seller. The book was purchased in bulk by at least nine Republican organizations, candidates or advocacy groups, including N.R.C.C. and the RNC which bought \$75,000 and \$100,000 worth of the books, respectively. Turning Point USA and the National Republican Senatorial Committee purchased approximately 2,000 and 2,500 books, respectively.^[119]

Liberal Privilege: Joe Biden and the Democrats' Defense of the Indefensible

In 2020, Trump Jr. self-published the book *Liberal Privilege: Joe Biden and the Democrats' Defense of the Indefensible*. Trump Jr. reportedly hired three researchers to collect information about Joe Biden and spent three months writing the book.^[120] Trump Jr. explained to *The New York Times* his reasons: "While I had no plans for a book this year, I was stuck indoors like the rest of the nation during the pandemic," he said, adding that he "decided to highlight Biden's half century of being a swamp monster, since the media wouldn't do it." The same article stated that he decided to self-publish because he could count on the publicity of "his own platform — and the promise of bulk purchases from the RNC".^[120]

The book was indeed bought in bulk by the RNC.^[121] On October 28, 2020, the RNC paid over \$300,000 of donor money to Pursuit Venture LLC, a company owned by Trump Jr., for "donor mementos." It was the most money the RNC had ever paid for this purpose.^[122] The hardcover retails for \$29.99, which suggests roughly how many copies might have been purchased, and the RNC's intent was to give a copy to people who donated \$50–\$100.^[123]

Personal life

Family

In 2003, Trump Jr. began dating model Vanessa Kay Haydon at his father's suggestion.^[15] The couple married on November 12, 2005, at his father's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida; the service was officiated by Trump Jr.'s aunt, Judge Maryanne Trump Barry.^[124] Haydon's grandfather was Danish jazz musician Kai Ewans.^{[125][126][127][128]} They have five children.^{[129][130]}

On March 15, 2018, it was announced that the couple had separated and she had filed for uncontested divorce in Manhattan Supreme Court.^{[131][132][133]} However, later it was revealed that the divorce was contested.^[134] The complaint was secret except for the title of the case.^[135] On February 22, 2019, they announced that they settled their divorce at the end of 2018.^[136]

Since 2018, Trump Jr. has been dating Kimberly Guilfoyle.^{[37][137]} Guilfoyle had been friends with the Trump family for years.^[138]

Hunting

Trump Jr. is an enthusiastic hunter. Controversy erupted in 2012 when the pictures he had taken of his hunting trophies in 2010 were published, including by Mia Farrow, who reposted them in 2015.^[139] Trump Jr. responded by saying "I'm not going to run and hide because the peta [*sic*] crazies don't like me."^[139] In one photo, Trump Jr. has his arms around a dead leopard; in another, he is holding a knife in one hand and a bloody elephant tail in the other.^[139] Although the hunt was legal, anti-hunting activists criticized him. At least one sponsor dropped his father's TV show *The Celebrity Apprentice*.^[140] On Earth Day in 2017, Trump Jr. legally hunted prairie dogs in Montana with GOP Congressional candidate Greg Gianforte.^[141] Controversy over Trump Jr.'s big game hunting exploits surfaced again in November 2017, following the Trump administration's decision to allow "importing elephant heads, feet and other body parts severed as trophies after the animals are shot for sport in Zimbabwe."^[142] Within hours, President Trump reversed the decision to allow elephant trophies imported from Zambia and Zimbabwe, pending further review.^[143] By March 2018 President Trump quietly lifted the ban again, allowing elephant trophies to be imported.^[144]



Trump Jr. with Kimberly Guilfoyle in July 2019

ProPublica revealed on December 11, 2019, that the government of Mongolia retroactively granted Trump Jr. a hunting permit for the endangered Argali mountain sheep.^[145] The sheep hunt and travel to Ulaanbaatar for a private meeting with Mongolian president Khaltmaagiin Battulga cost US taxpayers \$76,859.36 for United States Secret Service protection,^[146] according to two Freedom of Information Act requests by the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW).^{[147][148]} Humane Society International wildlife vice president Teresa Telecky said, "For trophy hunters to travel to Mongolia to kill a beautiful and endangered ram is an absolute outrage."^[149]

The opportunity to go hunting in Alaska with Trump Jr. was a prize at a fundraising auction for Safari Club International in 2020.^[150]

Health

On November 20, 2020, Trump Jr. tested positive for COVID-19.^[151] After testing positive, Trump Jr. went into isolation.^[152]

See also

- Business projects of Donald Trump in Russia
- Mueller report
- Karen McDougal § Affair with Donald Trump
- Stormy Daniels–Donald Trump scandal
- Timeline of Russian interference in the 2016 United States elections
 - Timeline of Russian interference in the 2016 United States elections (July 2016–election day)
- Timeline of investigations into Donald Trump and Russia

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External links

- [Trump Organization biography](https://www.trump.com/leadership/donald-trump-jr-biography) (<https://www.trump.com/leadership/donald-trump-jr-biography>)
- [Donald Trump Jr.](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2162560/) (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2162560/>) at [IMDb](#)
- [Appearances](https://www.c-span.org/person/?donaldtrump02) (<https://www.c-span.org/person/?donaldtrump02>) on [C-SPAN](#) 

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Ivanka Trump

Ivana Marie "Ivanka" Trump Kushner (/ɪˈvɑːŋkə/; born October 30, 1981)^[1] is an American businesswoman who, under her father former President Donald Trump's administration, worked as a senior advisor to him and as the director of the Office of Economic Initiatives and Entrepreneurship.^{[3][4][5]} She is the daughter of Trump's first wife, Ivana, and is the first Jewish member of a first family, having converted before marrying her husband, Jared Kushner.^[6]

She was an executive vice president of the family-owned Trump Organization. She was also a boardroom judge on her father's TV show The Apprentice.^{[7][8][9]} Starting in March 2017, Trump left the Trump Organization, becoming a senior adviser in her father's presidential administration alongside Jared Kushner. After ethics concerns were raised about her having access to classified material while not being held to the same restrictions as a federal employee, Trump agreed to voluntarily file "financial disclosure forms required of federal employees and be bound by the same ethics rules".^{[10][11]} While serving in the White House, she continued to operate her clothing brand business until July 2018, which also raised ethics concerns, specifically conflicts of interest.^[12] Trump was considered part of the president's inner circle even before becoming an official employee in his administration.^[13]

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Social and political causes

Philanthropy

Ivanka Trump Kushner



Official portrait, 2020

Director of the Office of Economic Initiatives and Entrepreneurship

In office

c. April 2017 – January 20, 2021

President Donald Trump

Preceded by *Position established*

Succeeded by *Position abolished*

Advisor to the President^[n 1]

In office

March 29, 2017 – January 20, 2021

President Donald Trump

Preceded by Brian Deese
Valerie Jarrett
Shailagh Murray

Succeeded by Mike Donilon
Cedric Richmond

Personal details

Born Ivana Marie Trump
October 30, 1981^[1]
New York City, U.S.

Political party Republican (2018–present)^[2]

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	Democratic (until 2018)^[2]
Spouse(s)	Jared Kushner (m. 2009)
Children	3
Parents	Donald Trump Ivana Trump
Relatives	Trump family
Education	University of Pennsylvania (BSc)

Early life

Trump was born in Manhattan, New York City, as the second child and first daughter of Czech-American model Ivana (née Zelníčková)^[14] and Donald Trump^[15]. Her father has German^[16] and Scottish ancestry^[17]. For most of her life, she has been nicknamed "Ivanka", a Slavic diminutive form of Ivana^{[18][19]}. Her parents divorced in 1992 when she was ten years old.^{[15][20]} She has two brothers, Donald Jr. and Eric, a half-sister, Tiffany, and a half-brother, Barron.

She attended the Chapin School in Manhattan until she was 15 when she switched to Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut. Trump characterized Choate's "boarding-school life" as being like a "prison", while her "friends in New York were having fun".^[21] When Trump was attending boarding school as a teenager, she began modeling "on weekends and holidays and absolutely not during the school year," according to her mother, Ivana Trump^[22]. She was featured in print advertisements for Tommy Hilfiger and Sasson Jeans^{[23][24]} and walked fashion runways for Versace, Marc Bouwer and Thierry Mugler^[22]. In May 1997, she was featured on the cover of Seventeen which ran a story on "celeb moms & daughters".^{[25][22]}

After graduating from Choate in 2000,^[26] Trump attended Georgetown University for two years before transferring to the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, from which she graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in economics in 2004.^{[27][28]}

Career

Business

After graduating from Wharton, Trump briefly worked for Forest City Enterprises as a real estate project manager before joining the Trump Organization as Executive Vice President of Development & Acquisitions in 2005.^{[29][30]}

Soon after joining the Trump Organization in an executive position, she started her jewelry, shoe, and apparel lines, and appeared in advertisements promoting the Trump Organization and her products. Trump was also featured in women's and special interest publications in "soft-hitting" profiles focusing on "looks, lifestyles, and product lines" and was featured on the cover of some, such as Harper's Bazaar, Forbes Life, Golf Magazine, Town & Country, and Vogue^{[31][32]}.

She was featured on the cover of Stuff in August 2006 and again in September 2007.^[33]

In 2007, Trump formed a partnership with Dynamic Diamond Corp., the company of diamond vendor Moshe Lax, to create **Ivanka Trump Fine Jewelry**, a line of diamond and gold jewelry sold at her first flagship retail store in Manhattan.^{[34][35]} In November 2011, her flagship moved from Madison Avenue to 109 Mercer Street, a larger space in the SoHo district.^{[36][37]}

In December 2012, members of 100 Women in Hedge Funds elected Trump to their board.^[38]

On October 2, 2015, it was reported that "Ivanka Trump's flagship store on Mercer Street appear[s] to be closed" and, noting that the shop had been "stripped clean".^[39] In October 2016, the only dedicated retail shop and flagship boutique for Ivanka Trump Fine Jewelry was located at Trump Tower in Manhattan, with her brand also being available at Hudson's Bay and fine-jewelry stores throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.^[40]

She also had her own line of **Ivanka Trump** fashion items, which included clothes, handbags, shoes, and accessories, available in U.S. and Canadian department stores including Macy's and Hudson's Bay.^[41] Her brand was criticized for allegedly copying designs by other designers,^{[42][43]} and by PETA and other animal rights activists for using rabbit fur.^{[44][45][46][47][48]} Ivanka Trump-brand shoes have been supplied by Chengdu Kameido Shoes in Sichuan and Hangzhou HS Fashion (via G-III Apparel Group) in Zhejiang.^[49]

On February 2, 2017, after months of customers boycotting and poor sales,^[50] department store chains Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom dropped Trump's fashion line, citing "poor performance."^[51] Other retailers such as Marshall's, TJ Maxx and the Hudson's Bay Company stopped selling her products.^{[52][53]} In June 2017, three people with the organization called China Labor Watch were arrested by Chinese authorities while investigating Huajian International, which makes shoes for several American brands, including Trump's brand. The Trump Administration called for their release.^{[54][55]}

On July 24, 2018, Trump announced that she shut down her company after deciding to pursue a career in public policy instead of returning to her fashion business.^{[56][57][12]}

Television

The Apprentice

In 2006, Trump filled in for Carolyn Kepcher on five episodes of the fifth season of her father's television program *The Apprentice*, first appearing to help judge the Gillette task in week 2.^[58] Like Kepcher, Trump visited the site of the tasks and spoke to the teams.^[33] Trump collaborated with season 5 winner Sean Yazbeck on his winner's project of choice, Trump SoHo Hotel-Condominium.^{[59][60][61]}

She replaced Kepcher as a primary boardroom judge during the sixth season of *The Apprentice* and its follow-up iteration, *Celebrity Apprentice*.^[62]

Other TV appearances

In 1997, at the age of 15, Trump co-hosted the Miss Teen USA Pageant, which was partially owned by her father, Donald Trump, from 1996 to 2005.^[22]

In 2006, she was a guest judge on Project Runway's third season and on season 4 of Project Runway All Stars.^{[63][64][65]}



Trump in July 2007

In 2010, Trump and her husband briefly portrayed themselves in Season 4 Episode 6 of *Gossip Girl*.^[66]

Books

In October 2009, Trump's first self-help book, *The Trump Card: Playing to Win in Work and Life*, was published; according to ghostwriter Daniel Paisner, he co-wrote the book.^{[67][68]}

In May 2017, her second self-help book, *Women Who Work: Rewriting the Rules for Success*, was published; she used the services of a writer, a researcher, and a fact-checker.^{[69][70][71]} The book debuted in the number four spot in the "Advice, How-To and Misc." category of *The New York Times* Best Seller list, received a great deal of negative criticism^[50] and was absent from the list two weeks later.^{[72][73]}

Trump campaign and administration

2016 presidential campaign and election

In 2015, she publicly endorsed her father's presidential campaign. She was involved with the campaign by making public appearances to support and defend him.^{[74][75][76]} However, she admitted mixed feelings about his presidential ambitions, saying in October 2015, "As a citizen, I love what he's doing. As a daughter, it's obviously more complicated."^[77] In August 2015, Donald Trump stated that she was his leading advisor on "women's health and women" and said it was she who propelled him to elaborate on his views of women.^[78]



Trump speaks at her father's presidential campaign in September 2016

In January 2016, Trump was featured in a radio ad that aired in the early voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire, in which she praised her father.^{[79][80]} She appeared by his side following the results of early voting states in 2016, in particular briefly speaking in South Carolina.^{[81][82]} She was not able to vote in the New York primary in April 2016 because she had missed the October 2015 deadline to change her registration to Republican.^[83]

Trump introduced her father in a speech immediately before his own speech at the 2016 Republican National Convention (RNC) in July.^[84] The George Harrison song "Here Comes the Sun" was used as her entrance music. She stated, "One of my father's greatest talents is the ability to see the potential in people", and said he would "Make America Great Again."^[85] Her speech was well received as portraying Donald Trump "in a warmer-than-usual light", according to *The Washington Post*.^[86] An earlier *Post* article had questioned whether the policy positions Ivanka Trump espoused were closer to those of Hillary Clinton than to those of her father.^[87] After the speech, the George Harrison estate complained about the use of his song as being offensive to their wishes.^[88] The next morning, Ivanka's official Twitter

account tweeted, "Shop Ivanka's look from her #RNC speech" with a link to a Macy's page that featured the dress she wore.^[89]

After her father's election, Trump wore a bracelet on a family appearance with the president-elect on *60 Minutes*. Her company then used an email blast to promote the bracelet. After critiques for "monetization", the company quickly apologized, calling the publicity the work of "a well-intentioned marketing employee at one of our companies who was following customary protocol." A spokeswoman said the company was, post-election, "proactively discussing new policies and procedures with all of our partners going forward."^{[90][91]} Trump has collected the work of artists who have protested to her directly following her father's election

victory. In January 2017, artist Richard Prince returned a \$36,000 payment he received for a work featuring Ivanka and disavowed its creation.^[92] Other artists joined behind a movement created by the Halt Action Group called @dear_ivanka, which aimed to change Trump's policies by appealing to Ivanka.^[93] Among its supporters were contemporary artist Alex Da Corte who told Trump to stay away from his paintings after she appeared in front of one on a social media post.^{[94][93]}

On Friday, January 20, 2017, she attended the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 45th president of the United States, at the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Ivanka Trump partly negotiated rates of hotel rooms, rental spaces, and meals at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C., on which her father's inaugural committee spent funds, WNYC and ProPublica reported in December 2018.^[95] She has been mentioned with regard to the links between Trump associates and Russian officials.^{[96][97]}

As of May 20, 2019, she is under investigation by the United States attorney for the District of Columbia for her role in her father's inauguration,^[98] although Trump did not have "any official role in running the committee".^[99]

Advisor to the President of the United States

In January 2017, Trump resigned from her position at the Trump Organization.^[100] The organization also removed images of Trump and her father from their websites, in accordance with official advice on federal ethics rules.^[101] In the early months of her father's presidency, some commented that she was filling a quasi-first lady role^[102] while First Lady Melania Trump remained in New York City (her son Barron completed the school year in New York before the first lady moved to Washington);^[102] Trump stated that she had no intention of being the first lady.^{[103][104]}



Trump (fourth from right) attending the signing ceremony for the INSPIRE Women Act on February 28, 2017, in the Oval Office of the White House

After advising her father in an unofficial capacity for the first two months of his administration, Trump was appointed "First Daughter and Advisor to the President,"^{[105][106]} a government employee, on March 29, 2017;^{[107][108][n 1]} According to the administration, she takes no salary.^{[105][107]} Prior to becoming a federal employee, she used a personal email for government work.^[112] She also became the head of the newly-established Office of Economic Initiatives and Entrepreneurship.^{[4][5]}

Amid the contentious early months of her father's administration, some commentators compared her role in the administration to that of Julie Nixon Eisenhower, daughter of President Richard Nixon. Nixon Eisenhower was one of the Nixon administration's most vocal defenders, and Trump defended the Trump administration and her father personally against a myriad of allegations.^{[113][114]} *Washington*

Post opinion columnist Alyssa Rosenberg wrote, "Both daughters served as important validators for their fathers."^[113]

In early April 2017, the government of China extended trademarks to Trump's businesses.^[115] On the same day, Donald Trump hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago and Trump and Kushner sat next to the Chinese leader and his wife Peng Liyuan^[116] at the state dinner.^{[117][118]}

In late April 2017, Trump hired Julie Radford as her chief of staff. Before the end of the month, Trump and Radford had plans to travel with Dina Powell and Hope Hicks to the first W20 women's summit. The W20 was organized by the National Council of German Women's Organizations and the Association of German Women Entrepreneurs^[119] as one of the preparatory meetings leading up to the G20 head-of-state summit in

July. At the conference, Trump spoke about women's rights. The US media reported that when she praised her father as an advocate for women, the audience hissed and booed in response. Although the audience can be clearly heard hissing in video footage of the event, German newspaper *Bild* claimed US reports were simply false; instead, they reported, she "made a sophisticated and level-headed impression".^{[120][121][122]}



Christine Lagarde, Angela Merkel and Ivanka at the W20 Conference Gala Dinner in Berlin, April 2017



Ivanka, Kushner and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attend the opening of the U.S. Embassy to Israel in Jerusalem on May 14, 2018

It was announced by Donald Trump in August 2017 that his daughter would lead the U.S. delegation to India in the fall in global support of women's entrepreneurship. In response to the announcement, an Indian diplomat was quoted as stating, "We regard Ivanka Trump the way we do half-wit, Saudi princes. It's in our national interest to flatter them."^[123] The majority of reactions to her actual performance alongside Indian Prime Minister Modi at the event were substantial. Anu Acharya, the founder of a medical diagnosis company, said: "What mattered to me is that she has been an entrepreneur, and she is an adviser to the president of the U.S." Shveta Raina, who runs Talerang, a startup that prepares Indian

college graduates for the workplace, said Trump exceeded her expectations. "She was poised and was able to answer questions that were seemingly off-script. I think she is young and represents young women, so I think she was the right choice."^[124] Still, the local media dubbed hers "a royal visit."^[50]

Two days after Trump's announcement about his daughter's trip to India, the terror attack in Charlottesville occurred, and she and Jared flew off into Trump Organization helicopter for a two-day getaway in Vermont.^[50]

Biographer and journalist Michael Wolff wrote a book released in January 2018 based on numerous interviews with members of Donald Trump's circle. In it, Wolff claims—but cites no sources—that Trump and her husband reached a deal that "[i]f sometime in the future the opportunity arose, she'd be the one to run for president".^[125]

She was criticized by some in March 2018 after the firing of Rex Tillerson for meeting with the South Korean foreign minister Kang, even though Kang primarily met with Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan and congressmen including Speaker Paul Ryan; Kang's lunch with Trump followed several meetings during the Olympics in South Korea.^{[126][127][128]}

In November 2018, *The Washington Post* reported that Trump shared her schedule with childcare providers—a form of official government business—through her personal email, a possible technical violation of federal records rules, which require communications to be sent within 20 days to a work account for permanent archival. A spokesman for Trump's ethics counsel stated that the improperly handled emails were sent before she was briefed on the rules: "Trump sometimes used her personal account, almost always for logistics and scheduling concerning her family", and that the emails did not have classified information. The spokesman also stated, "no emails were ever deleted, and the emails have been retained in the official account in conformity with records preservation laws and rules."^{[129][130]}



President Trump, Ivanka and British prime minister Theresa May attend a business roundtable event at St James's Palace in London, June 4, 2019

She and her father attended the 2019 G20 Osaka summit in late June 2019; the French government released a video of her awkwardly inserting herself into a conversation with world leaders, leading to online parodies and memes.^{[131][132]}

On June 30, 2019, Trump participated in talks between her father and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un inside the Korean peninsula's demilitarized zone.^{[133][134]} She described the experience as "surreal."^[133]

Trump went in a worldwide tour in 2019 to promote her "Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative",^{[135][136]} in which she traveled to Ethiopia^[137] and Ivory Coast,^[138] in sub-Saharan Africa, in April; and to Argentina, Colombia and Paraguay, in South America, in September,^[139] and to Morocco, in northern Africa, in November.^[140] She also attended the 74th United Nations General Assembly to promote her initiative.^[141] In 2021, a Government Accountability Office audit concluded that Trump's initiative, which spent \$265 million a year of taxpayer money on 19 women's empowerment projects, failed to target the money towards projects that related to women's empowerment, and did not measure the impact of the spending.^[142]

In June 2020, Trump was credited with proposing the controversial photo opportunity for President Donald Trump holding a bible in front of St. John's Church, which required violently clearing peaceful protesters.^{[143][144]} She walked with her father to the site and carried the bible in her Max Mara purse.^[145]

In July 2020, Trump tweeted a picture of herself with a Goya Foods bean can, endorsing the product. The owner of Goya Foods had days prior praised President Trump, leading to a backlash against the company. Trump's tweet raised ethics concerns, given that Trump is an official adviser in the White House, and employees in public office are not permitted to endorse products.^[146]

While serving in her father's administration, Trump retained ownership of businesses, which drew criticism from government ethics experts who said it created conflicts of interest.^[147] It is not possible to determine the exact amount of Trump's outside income while working in her father's administration because she is only required to report the worth of her assets and liabilities in ranges to the Office of Government Ethics.^[147] The incomes of Trump and her husband Jared Kushner ranged from \$36.2 million to \$157 million in 2019, at least \$29 million in 2018, and at least \$82 million in 2017.^[147] In 2019, she earned \$3.9 million from her stake in the Trump hotel in Washington, D.C.^[147]

2020 presidential campaign

On August 27, 2020, Trump introduced her father at the 2020 Republican National Convention, by which he proceeded on the front lawn of the White House to accept the party's nomination before a crowd of supporters. Prior to that, she defended her tenure as advisor in the administration.^[148]

Capitol riot and post-presidential career

On January 6, 2021, during the riot at the U.S. Capitol, Ivanka encouraged her father to make a video on Twitter condemning the riots, acting as an intermediary between besieged U.S. officials and the President. (Donald Trump's video resulted in him being banned from the platform as he said "we love you" to the rioters.)^[149] She tweeted a request for "peaceful" behavior in which she addressed the rioters as "American Patriots." Minutes later, she deleted the tweet.^[150] Her pushing for an apology was seen as an attempt to



President Trump, Ivanka and Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the G20 Summit in Osaka, June 28, 2019

salvage the Trump brand and allow for post-presidential careers for the family, possibly political ones, as possible legal threats or impeachment may damage the family's reputation.^{[149][151]}

Social and political causes

In 2007, Ivanka Trump donated \$1,000 to the presidential campaign of then-Senator Hillary Clinton.^[152] In 2012, she endorsed Mitt Romney for president.^[153] In 2013, Trump and her husband hosted a fundraiser for Democrat Cory Booker, and the couple bundled more than \$40,000 for Booker's U.S. Senate campaign.^[154]

During her father's presidency, Trump transformed from a liberal to an "unapologetically" pro-life, "proud Trump Republican."^[155] At the 2016 Republican National Convention, she said of her political views: "Like many of my fellow millennials, I do not consider myself categorically Republican or Democrat."^[156] In 2018, Trump changed her New York voter registration from Democratic to Republican.^{[2][157]}

Philanthropy

Trump was a member of the Donald J. Trump Foundation board^[158] until the foundation was dissolved after then New York attorney general Barbara Underwood filed a civil lawsuit against the foundation, alleging "persistently illegal conduct" with respect to the foundation's money.^{[159][160][161]} In November 2019, Trump's father was ordered to pay a \$2 million settlement for misusing the foundation for his business and political purposes.^[162] The settlements also included mandatory training requirements for Ivanka Trump, Donald Trump Jr., and Eric Trump.^[163]

Trump also has ties to a number of Jewish charities, including Chai Lifeline, a charity which helps to look after children with cancer.^[164] Other charities she supports include United Hatzalah, to which her father, Donald Trump, has reportedly made six-figure donations in the past.^{[165][166]}

After she was appointed advisor to the president, Trump donated the unpaid half of the advance payments for her book *Women Who Work: Rewriting the Rules for Success* to the National Urban League and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. She further said that any royalties exceeding the advances would also be given to charity.^[69]

Personal life

Trump has a close relationship with her father, who has publicly expressed his admiration for her on several occasions, to the point that he has controversially said he would date her were she not his daughter.^{[167][168][169]} Ivanka has likewise praised her father, complimenting his leadership skills and saying he empowers other people.^[170] In an interview following her trip to the Olympics, she told NBC's Peter Alexander that it was "inappropriate" for Alexander to ask her about the sexual-abuse allegations against her father.^[50]



Trump campaigning for her father in October 2020.



Trump (second from left in first row) at Seeds of Peace in New York City in 2009

According to her mother, Ivanka speaks French and understands Czech.^[171] Sarah Ellison, writing for *Vanity Fair* in 2018, indicated Ivanka Trump was the family member that "everyone in the family seems to acknowledge" is her father's "favorite" child.^[172] This had been confirmed by the family members themselves in a 2015 interview with Barbara Walters on network television where the siblings were gathered and acknowledged this.^[173]

In January 2017 it was announced that she and Kushner had made arrangements to establish a family home in the Kalorama neighborhood of Washington, D.C.^[174] Federal filings implied that, in 2017, Trump and her husband may have assets upwards of \$740 million.^[175] They had previously shared an apartment on Park Avenue in New York City, which Trump chose due to its proximity to her work with the Trump Organization. The residence was featured in *Elle Decor* in 2012 with Kelly Behun as its interior decorator. The apartment included work by American artists John Baldessari and Rob Wynne.^[176]

She has an estimated net worth of \$300 million.^[177]

Relationships

In college, Trump was in a nearly four-year relationship with Greg Hersch, an investment banker at Salomon Brothers, Bear Stearns, and UBS.^{[178][179]} From 2001 to 2005, she dated James "Bingo" Gubelmann.^{[21][26][178]}

In 2005, she started dating real estate developer Jared Kushner, whom she met through mutual friends.^{[180][181]} The couple broke up in 2008 due to the objections of Kushner's parents^[180] but got back together and married in a Jewish ceremony on October 25, 2009.^{[180][182]} They have three children, a daughter born in July 2011^[183] and two sons born in October 2013^[184] and March 2016.^[185] In an interview on *The Dr. Oz Show*, Trump revealed that she had suffered from postpartum depression after each of her pregnancies.^[186]

Religion

Raised as a Presbyterian Christian,^[187] Trump converted to Orthodox Judaism in July 2009,^{[188][189]} after studying with Elie Weinstock from the Modern Orthodox Ramaz School.^[190] Trump took the Hebrew name "Yael" (Hebrew: יאֵל, lit. 'ibex').^[191] She describes her conversion as an "amazing and beautiful journey" which her father supported "from day one", adding that he has "tremendous respect" for the Jewish faith.^[192] She attests to keeping a kosher diet and observing the Jewish Sabbath, saying in 2015: "We're pretty observant... It's been such a great life decision for me... I really find that with Judaism, it creates an amazing blueprint for family connectivity. From Friday to Saturday we don't do anything but hang out with one another. We don't make phone calls."^[193] When living in New York City, she used to send her daughter to Jewish



Kushner and Trump at an event in North Charleston, South Carolina, February 2017



Trump (far right) with (from center to right) her father, second stepmother, and husband at the Western Wall at Temple Mount in Jerusalem in May 2017

kindergarten. She said: "It's such a blessing for me to have her come home every night and share with me the Hebrew that she's learned and sing songs for me around the holidays."^[192]

Trump and her husband made a pilgrimage to the grave of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, a popular prayer site, shortly before her father's election victory.^{[188][194]} On May 22, 2017, the couple also traveled with her father on the first official visit to Israel by his administration, when her father made the first visit to the Western Wall by a sitting U.S. president.^[195] Ivanka also visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in western Jerusalem and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem during the trip.^[196]

Awards and nominations

In 2012, the Wharton Club of New York, the official alumni association of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania for the New York metropolitan area,^[197] gave Trump the Joseph Wharton Award for Young Leadership, one of their four annual awards for alumni.^[198]

In 2016, she was presented with the Fashion Award for Excellence in Accessory Design.^[199]

Cultural depictions

Footnotes

1. The original designation of "First Daughter" was later dropped from the official title.^[109] Ivanka Trump is sometimes also called a 'Senior Advisor to the President' (or sometimes a 'senior advisor to the President', without the upper case 'S' and 'A'),^{[110][111]} even though that is actually the title of her husband Jared Kushner, while her own title is 'Advisor to the President'.^[108]

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Eric Trump

Eric Frederick Trump^[3] (born January 6, 1984)^[4] is an American businessman, philanthropist, activist, and former reality television presenter. He is the third child and second son of the 45th president of the United States, Donald Trump, and his first wife, Ivana Trump.

Trump is a trustee and executive vice president of his father's business, the Trump Organization, running it alongside his brother Donald Jr.^[5] He also served as a boardroom judge on his father's TV show *The Apprentice*. During their father's presidency, the brothers continued to do deals and investments in foreign countries, as well as collect payments in their U.S. properties from foreign governments, despite having pledged not to do so.^[6]

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Early life

Eric Trump was born in New York City and attended Trinity School.^[3] His parents divorced in 1992, when he was eight years old. As a boy, Trump spent his summers in the Czech countryside near Zlin with his maternal grandparents. His grandfather, Milos Zelnicek, who died in 1990, was an engineer; his grandmother, Maria, worked in a shoe factory. His grandfather taught Trump to hunt and fish.^[7]

Eric Trump



Trump in February 2018

Born	Eric Frederick Trump <div>January 6, 1984</div> <div>New York City, U.S.</div>
Education	<u>The Hill School</u>
Alma mater	<u>Georgetown University</u> (BS)
Occupation	Businessman · philanthropist · television presenter · activist
Years active	2006–present
Known for	Executive at the <u>Trump Organization</u> Former boardroom judge on <i>The Apprentice</i>
Political party	<u>Republican</u> (2016–present) ^[1] <u>Independent</u> (until 2016) ^[2]
Spouse(s)	<u>Lara Yunaska</u> (m. 2014)
Children	2
Parent(s)	<u>Donald Trump</u>

In 2002, Trump graduated from the Hill School.^[8] He graduated with a degree in finance and management from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.^{[9][10]}

Trump started accompanying his father to job sites and negotiations from a young age. He has said he mowed lawns, laid tile, and did other work on his father's properties in his youth. Trump briefly considered other careers but decided to join the family business while a high school student.^[10]

	Ivana Zelníčková
Family	Trump
Website	<u>erictumpfoundation.com</u> (<u>http://erictumpfoundation.com</u>)

Career

The Trump Organization

Trump is the Trump Organization's executive vice president of development and acquisitions.^[10] He worked with his sister, Ivanka, to redesign and renovate Trump National Doral and its Blue Monster course in Miami, Florida.^[11]

In 2013, Trump received *Wine Enthusiast Magazine's* "Rising Star of the Year" Award.^[12]

Amid the Trump–Ukraine scandal—where President Trump asked the Ukrainian president to investigate Joe Biden and his son, Hunter—Eric Trump strongly criticized Hunter, accusing him of nepotism. Eric claimed that, unlike Hunter, "When my father became president, our family stopped doing international business deals." But when Donald Trump became president, rather than place his assets in a blind trust, he made Eric a top executive in the family business, which continues to operate and promote deals across the world.^{[13][14][15][16][17][18]} PolitiFact and the *Washington Post* fact-checker rated Eric Trump's assertion that the Trump family "got out of all international business" false.^{[19][20]} PolitiFact noted that not only had the Trump family engaged in international business dealings since Trump became president, but that some of the president's children, including Eric, had openly celebrated their international business activities during that time.^[19]



Eric Trump, c. 2009

In October 2019, Eric Trump complained of the Bidens, "Why is it that every family goes into politics and enriches themselves?" Shortly before he made that statement, President Trump had decided that the G-7 summit would be held at the Trump Doral resort, owned by the Trump Organization. President Trump reversed his decision amid bipartisan condemnation.^{[21][22]}

Russian funding

In 2017 it was reported that Eric Trump had said that "we don't rely on American banks. We have all the funding we need out of Russia" and that "we've got some guys that really, really love golf, and they're really invested in our programmes. We just go there all the time."^[23] In 2008 Trump said that "in terms of high-end product influx into the US, Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of a lot of our assets" and that "we see a lot of money pouring in from Russia."^{[24][25]}

Television

Trump was a boardroom judge on his father's reality television series *The Apprentice* (2010–2015). He appeared in 23 episodes.

The Eric Trump Foundation

In 2007, Trump established the Eric Trump Foundation, a public charity to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Tennessee.^{[26][27]} On November 30, 2012, the foundation committed to raising \$20 million over ten years for the naming rights to the new Eric Trump Foundation Surgery & ICU Center in the Kay Research and Care Center, a \$198 million tower that opened on February 19, 2015, on the St. Jude campus.^{[28][29]}

St. Jude stated in 2013 that the 7th Annual Eric Trump Foundation Golf Invitational on September 9, 2013, at the Trump National Golf Club in Briarcliff, New York, had "... raised \$1.5 million for the kids of St. Jude", for a total of \$6 million since 2006.^[30] On December 30, 2016, Richard C. Shadyac Jr., the president of the fundraising organization of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, wrote the Eric Trump Foundation a letter stating that the foundation and "... related efforts, such as an Eric Trump Foundation-affiliated team that participates in the New York City Marathon", had raised \$16.3 million for the hospital since the charity's inception ten years earlier.^[26]

On December 21, 2016, Trump announced that he would stop active fundraising for the Eric Trump Foundation as of December 31. The move came to avoid the appearance that donors were using him to gain access to his father after he won the presidential election.^[31]

The foundation's 2016 tax return, filed under its alternative name **the Curetivity Foundation**, shows that the contributions it received increased from \$1.8 million in 2015 to \$3.2 million in 2016. The foundation gave \$2,910,000 in donations to St. Jude and several smaller donations to other charities while paying a total of \$145,000 to various for-profit properties the Trump family owned.^{[32][33][34]}

Controversy about funds usage

In 2016, the fundraising president of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital stated that the Eric Trump Foundation had raised and donated \$16.3 million to the hospital since the charity's foundation.^[35]

In June 2017, *Forbes* reported that the Eric Trump Foundation shifted money intended to go to cancer patients to the Trumps' businesses.^{[36][37][38][39]} Eric Trump had asserted that his foundation got to use Trump Organization assets for free ("We get to use our assets 100% free of charge"), but that appears not to be true.^[36] According to *Forbes*, more than \$1.2 million of the donations went to the Trump Organization for the use of Trump's Westchester golf course, and "Golf charity experts say the listed expenses defy any reasonable cost justification for a one-day golf tournament."^[36] According to a former foundation director, "We did have to cover the expenses. ...The charity had grown so much that the Trump Organization couldn't absorb all of those costs anymore." *Forbes* acknowledged that the charity has done a great deal of good, including an intensive-care unit that opened in 2015 at St. Jude and funding cancer research.^[36] According to Trump, the Foundation's expense ratio is 12.6%, and "at no time did the Trump Organization profit in any way from the foundation or any of its activities".^[40]

Forbes also reported that more than \$500,000 of the money donated for cancer patients "was re-donated to other charities, many of which were connected to Trump family members or interests, including at least four groups that subsequently paid to hold golf tournaments at Trump courses."^[36] According to *Forbes*, "All of this seems to defy federal tax rules and state laws that ban self-dealing and misleading donors. It also raises

larger questions about the Trump family dynamics and whether Eric and his brother, Don Jr., can be truly independent of their father."^[36] The foundation says that relevant donors were informed that donations would be redirected.^[41]

The Eric Trump Foundation has advertised that its golf charity events raised money exclusively for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, with 95–100% of the money raised going toward the charity. Public tax records show that the foundation applied significant amounts of the funds raised to pay costs of the events to the Trump Organization for use of its facilities.^[42] Additionally, the foundation donated to charitable causes other than St. Jude and made grants to several other charities, including at least three animal welfare organizations and the American Society for Enology and Viticulture, a California wine industry organization.^[42]

Trump said in July 2016 that Donald Trump had made "hundreds of thousands of dollars in personal donations" to the Eric Trump Foundation in the past, but there is no evidence of that. When The Washington Post requested evidence, Trump appeared to backtrack and refused to give details.^[43]

In June 2017, the New York State Attorney General's Office confirmed that it had begun an inquiry into the Eric Trump Foundation, based on issues the *Forbes* investigation raised.^{[44][45]} The investigation was reported as ongoing in December 2018.^[46]

Trump presidential campaigns

2016 presidential campaign

Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign was formally launched on June 16, 2015, at Trump Tower in New York City. Eric was a key advisor, fundraiser, and campaign surrogate during the campaign. He and his wife made campaign appearances in numerous states on his father's behalf.^[47]

On August 2, 2016, in a television appearance on CBS This Morning, Trump was asked to comment on his father's controversial statement to USA Today the previous day in which he said that if his daughter were ever subjected to sexual harassment in the workplace, he hoped she would find another company to work for or switch careers. Trump said, "Ivanka is a strong, powerful woman; she wouldn't allow herself to be objected [*recte* subjected] to it."^[48]

Attempts to overturn the 2020 presidential election

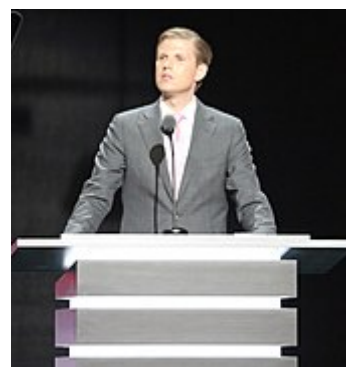
Trump has promoted several conspiracy theories.^{[49][50]}

In May 2020, Trump said on Fox News that stay-at-home orders to combat the spread of COVID-19 were a strategy by the Democrats and the Joe Biden campaign intended to prevent his father's reelection by depriving him of the ability to conduct large campaign rallies. Trump said that after election day, "coronavirus will magically all of a sudden go away and disappear and everybody will be able to reopen."^{[51][52]}

In September 2020, Trump spread a false video that appeared to show Biden "being caught red-handed using a teleprompter" when he was not.^{[53][54]}



Trump and his wife at a campaign event in 2016



Trump speaking at the 2016 RNC

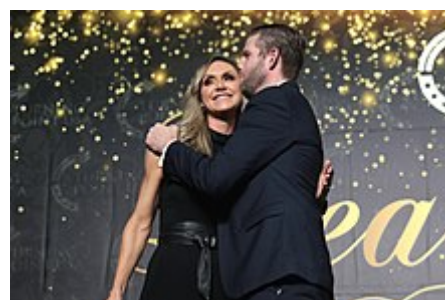
Following his father's electoral defeat Eric Trump has engaged in attempts to overturn the 2020 United States presidential election, falsely calling the election result a "fraud" and threatening Republican lawmakers to overturn the result.^{[55][56]}

While ballots were being counted in the 2020 election, Trump made baseless claims intended to cast doubt on Pennsylvania's ballot-counting process.^[57] He shared a fake video that purported to show Trump ballots being burned.^{[58][59][60]}

Following the storming of the United States Capitol by his father's supporters in January 2021, Trump was among those who advanced the conspiracy theory that people associated with antifa were responsible for the attack.^[61]

Personal life

On July 4, 2013, Trump became engaged to his longtime girlfriend Lara Lea Yunaska, an associate producer on the syndicated television news program *Inside Edition*. They married on November 8, 2014, at Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Florida.^{[62][63][64]} In 2017, the couple's first child, Eric "Luke" Trump, was born.^[65] In 2019, Lara gave birth to Carolina Dorothy Trump, the couple's second child.^[66]



Eric and Lara Trump in 2020

Big game hunting

In 2010, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) criticized Trump, a big game hunter, for an African hunting trip he took with his older brother. PETA condemned the brothers after photos showed them on an organized safari in Zimbabwe, where they killed elephants and leopards.^[67] The director general of the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, V. Chandenga, issued an official response supporting the brothers and calling any allegations of illegality "baseless" and "false".^[68] The brothers defended their safari on Twitter, affirming their actions as hunters and longtime advocates of the outdoors.^[69] Donald Trump also addressed the controversy, saying on TMZ that he fully supported his sons' actions.^[69]

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External links

- [Appearances \(https://www.c-span.org/person/?erictrump02\)](https://www.c-span.org/person/?erictrump02) on [C-SPAN](#)
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Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Eric_Trump&oldid=1031961325"

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Marla Maples

Marla Ann Maples (born October 27, 1963)^[2] is an American actress, television personality, presenter, and model. She was the second wife of the 45th US president Donald Trump; they married in 1993, had one daughter, Tiffany, and divorced in 1999.^{[3][4]}

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Early life

Maples was born on October 27, 1963, in Cohutta, Georgia. Her mother, Ann Locklear Maples, was a homemaker and model, and her father, Stanley Edward Maples, a real estate developer, county commissioner, singer, and songwriter.^{[5][6][7]}

Maples attended Northwest Whitfield High School in Tunnel Hill, Georgia, where she played basketball, served as class secretary and was crowned the 1980–1981 homecoming queen during her senior year (she returned for the 1991 homecoming to crown the school's new queen).^{[8][9][10]}

After graduating from high school in 1981, Maples competed in beauty contests and pageants. In 1983, she won the Miss Resaca Beach Poster Girl Contest, in 1984 she was the runner-up to Miss Georgia USA, and in 1985 she won the Miss Hawaiian Tropic.^{[11][12]}

She entered the University of Georgia in 1981 but left college before graduating.^[5]

Marla Maples	
 <div>Maples in 2007</div>	
Born	<div>Marla Ann Maples</div> October 27, 1963 <div><u>Cohutta, Georgia</u>, U.S.</div>
Other names	Marla Maples Trump ^[1]
Occupation	Actress · television personality · presenter · model
Years active	1981–present
Spouse(s)	<u>Donald Trump</u> (m. 1993; div. 1999)
Children	<u>Tiffany Trump</u>

Career

Film, television, and theater

In 1991, Maples appeared as a celebrity guest at WWF WrestleMania VII, serving as special guest timekeeper in the main event match between Hulk Hogan and defending WWF Champion Sgt. Slaughter. In that year, Maples also made a special appearance in the hit television series Designing Women as herself. In August 1992, Maples joined the cast of the Tony Award winning Broadway musical The Will Rogers Follies as "Ziegfeld's Favorite", a role originated by Cady Huffman when the show opened in May 1991.^{[13][14]}

In 1994, Maples appeared alongside then-husband Donald Trump in a cameo appearance in an episode of The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air^[15] and the television series Something Wilder in 1994.

Maples co-hosted the 1996 and 1997 Miss Universe Pageant and the 1997 Miss USA Pageant.^[16]

Maples appeared in the films Maximum Overdrive (1986), Executive Decision (1996), For Richer or Poorer (1997), Happiness (1998), Richie Rich's Christmas Wish (1998), Black and White (1999), Two of Hearts (1999), Loving Annabelle (2006), A Christmas Too Many (2007), and A Nanny for Christmas (2010).

In 2011, she returned to New York for Love, Loss and What I Wore, an off-Broadway production.^[17] In 2013, Maples was featured on Oprah: Where Are They Now?^[18]

Since then, she appeared in Switching Lanes, directed by Thomas Mikal Ford.^{[19][20]}

On March 8, 2016, Maples was announced as one of the celebrities who would compete on season 22 of Dancing with the Stars alongside her Switching Lanes co-star, Kim Fields.^[21] She was partnered with professional dancer Tony Dovolani.^[22] Maples and Dovolani were eliminated on Week 4 of competition and finished in 10th place. Maples also joined the women of ABC's morning talk show, The View, as a guest co-host on March 11, 2016.^[23]

Maples is a keynote speaker with the London Speakers Bureau, focusing on inspiring women, wellness, spirituality, and motivation.^[24]

Maples was featured in the Summer of Peace Summit 2018 with the opportunity to discuss topics of peace and finding common ground.^[25]

Maples spoke at the 2018 Global Summit on Science, Spirituality, and Environment in India; the event brought together speakers from around the world to discuss the integration of science and spirituality, as well as self-transformation and world-transformation.^[26]

Maples was a guest speaker on the Journeys of Faith podcast with Paula Faris in 2018.^[27]

Radio and music

Maples hosted her own talk radio show, Awakening with Marla, on Contact Talk Radio. Her guests included naturopathic doctors, authors, and astrologers.^[28] Maples' album The Endless, released in August 2013, is a musical journey of spiritual awakening and transformational energy, featuring thought leaders such as the Dalai Lama, Michael Beckwith, and Deepak Chopra. In December 2012, Maples won a "Hollywood Music in Media Award" for best New Age/Ambient song, for "House of Love", from that album.^{[29][30]}

Other

In 1990, Maples starred in an advertising campaign for No Excuses jeans.^[31] In 1993, she designed a line of maternity clothes, sold in several major department stores.^[32] In January 2000, a memoir by Maples, *All That Glitters Is Not Gold*, was announced by the ReganBooks division of HarperCollins Publishers. In February 2002, a spokeswoman for the publishing company said, "The author and publisher by mutual consent have agreed not to publish the book."^[33]

Maples makes personalized videos through the website Cameo.^[34]

Philanthropy

Maples is committed to supporting charities and non-profit organizations and is a long-time vocal advocate of Kids Creating Peace, an organization uniting Israeli and Palestinian children.^[35]

Maples is involved with AWARENYC.org as an advisory board member. AWARE (Assisting Women through Action, Resources & Education) is a grassroots organization dedicated to promoting awareness and generating funds in order to make meaningful improvements in the lives of women and girls in the New York City community and worldwide.^[36]

Maples also supports and is on the Steering Committee for The Louis Armstrong Center for Music and Medicine.^[37]

Personal life

Relationships

Maples is best known for her marriage to Donald Trump, beginning with a relationship initiated while Trump was married to his first wife, Ivana; the two divorced in December 1991.^[38] Maples met Trump in 1989 and had a highly publicized relationship^[39] with at least one breakup.^[40] Trump appeared on the front page of the New York Post eight days in a row; one headline reported that, according to Maples, she had the "best sex I've ever had" with Trump.^{[41][42][43]} The couple had one daughter, Tiffany Trump, born on October 13, 1993.^[44]

According to Maples, the 1993 Long Island Rail Road shooting, on December 7, caused Trump to reevaluate his life and propose to her.^[45] The couple married on December 20, 1993, at New York City's Plaza Hotel, in a ceremony reportedly attended by 1,000 guests, including Rosie O'Donnell and O. J. Simpson.^[46]

In 1996, Trump fired his bodyguard Spencer Wagner after a police officer found Maples and the bodyguard together under a lifeguard stand on a deserted beach at 4:00 a.m.^[47] Both Maples and Trump denied that she was having an affair, despite reports in the National Enquirer and other tabloids; the bodyguard himself told conflicting stories about the incident.^{[47][44]} Maples and Trump separated in May 1997^[48] and divorced on June 8, 1999.^[33] Under the terms of their prenuptial agreement and divorce settlement, Maples is bound by a confidentiality agreement regarding their marriage.^{[33][44]}

Health and wellness

Maples is an advocate of health and wellness. Her daughter Tiffany Trump has described Maples making her healthy homemade chocolate in Trump Tower; meanwhile her father would sneak her downstairs to the candy store to buy her Almond Joys.^[49] Maples describes herself as a "mostly-vegan" who avoids dairy, eats

organic, and chooses to be gluten free.^{[50][51]} During the COVID-19 pandemic, Maples used her social media platforms to promote treatments that have not been proven effective, such as vitamin C drips. She also joined Children's Health Defense's Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in amplifying discredited conspiracy theories about the disease.^{[52][53]}

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1986	<i>Maximum Overdrive</i>	2nd Woman	
1987	<i>Funland</i>	Mother	
1996	<i>Executive Decision</i>	Nancy	
1997	<i>For Richer or Poorer</i>	Cynthia	
1998	<i>Happiness</i>	Ann Chambeau	
1999	<i>Black and White</i>	Muffy	
2006	<i>Loving Annabelle</i>	Lauren	
2021	<i>Switching Lanes</i>	Stacey Jefferson	
2021	<i>The Birthday Cake</i>	Aunt Emma	

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1989	<i>Dallas</i>	Maggie	Episode: "Cally on a Hot Tin Roof"
1991	<i>P.S. I Luv U</i>	Leslie	Episode: "Where There's a Will, There's a Dani"
1994	<i>The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air</i>	Herself	Episode: "For Sale by Owner"
1994	<i>Something Wilder</i>	Donna	Episode: "Love Native American Style"
1996	<i>Clueless</i>	Buyer #2	Episode: "Cher, Inc."
1997	<i>The Big Easy</i>	Grace Belvedere	Episode: "Platinum Blonde"
1997	<i>Spin City</i>	Jennifer	Episode: "The Goodbye Girl"
1997	<i>The Christmas List</i>	Faith	Television film
1998	<i>The Nanny</i>	Herself	Episode: "The Best Man"
1998	<i>Richie Rich's Christmas Wish</i>	Mrs. Van Dough	Television film
1999	<i>Two of Hearts</i>	Joan Michaelson	Television film
1999	<i>Sunset Beach</i>	Barbara Birch	Episode #1.559
2007	<i>A Christmas Too Many</i>	June	Television film
2010	<i>A Nanny for Christmas</i>	Brandy	Television film
2014	<i>Liv and Maddie</i>	Amy Becker	Episode: "BFF-A-Rooney"
2019	<i>The Righteous Gemstones</i>	Gay Nancy	3 episodes

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- [Marla Maples \(https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005185/\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005185/) at [IMDb](#)
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Tiffany Trump

Tiffany Ariana Trump (born October 13, 1993)^[1] is the fourth child of former U.S. president Donald Trump, and the only child with his second wife, Marla Maples.

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Early life and education

Tiffany Ariana Trump was born on October 13, 1993, at St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, two months before her parents married.^[2] She is Donald Trump's only child with his second wife, actress and television personality Marla Maples, whom he married in December 1993.^[3] She was named after jeweler Tiffany & Company; her father purchased the air rights above the company's Fifth Avenue flagship store in the 1980s while building Trump Tower next door. Her parents divorced in 1999 after being separated for two years.^[4] She was raised by her mother in California.^{[5][6]}

She has three older half-siblings, Don Jr., Ivanka and Eric, from Donald Trump's first wife, Ivana,^{[7][8]} and a younger half-brother, Barron, from Trump's third wife, Melania.^[9]

Trump attended Viewpoint School in Calabasas, California, where she graduated in 2012. She then attended University of Pennsylvania (her father's alma mater), graduating in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology with a concentration in law and society, and was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.^{[10][11][12]} After graduating, she began attending Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. in 2017^[13] and graduated in May 2020.^[14]

Career

Tiffany Trump



Trump speaking at the 2016 Republican National Convention

Born	<u>Tiffany Ariana Trump</u> <div>October 13, 1993</div> <u>West Palm Beach, Florida, U.S.</u>
Education	<u>University of Pennsylvania</u> (BA) <u>Georgetown University</u> (JD)
Political party	<u>Republican</u>
Partner(s)	<u>Ross Mechanic</u> (2015–2018) <u>Michael Boulos</u> (2018–present)
Parent(s)	<u>Donald Trump</u> <u>Marla Maples</u>
Family	<u>Trump</u>

In 2011, Trump released a music single called "Like a Bird". She later told *The Oprah Winfrey Show*^[15] that she was evaluating whether to take her music career "to the next level as a professional".^[16]

"Like a Bird" received little media attention after its appearance on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. Following Trump's speech at the 2016 Republican National Convention, the song received renewed public interest.

In 2015, Trump worked as an intern for *Vogue*, and, in 2016, modeled for an Andrew Warren fashion show during New York Fashion Week.^[17]

2016 and 2020 presidential campaigns

Trump made numerous appearances during her father's 2016 presidential campaign.^[18]

She spoke at the 2016 Republican National Convention on the second night of the convention.^{[19][20][21]}

Trump again campaigned for her father in 2020, including speaking at the 2020 Republican National Convention. She spoke at a number of in-person campaign events in the weeks before the election.^[22]



Tiffany, half-brother Barron, and stepmother Melania Trump at the 2016 RNC

Professional career

Trump has remained with Georgetown Law after graduating in 2020, and is currently a research assistant for professor Shon Hopwood.^{[23][24]}

Personal life

While studying at the University of Pennsylvania, Trump met fellow student Ross Mechanic, with whom she was in a relationship from about October 2015 to March 2018.^{[25][26]}

In summer 2018, while on vacation in Greece with actress Lindsay Lohan, Trump met Michael Boulos, a Nigerian-American billionaire heir and business executive whose family owns Boulos Enterprises and SCOA Nigeria in Nigeria. Trump has been in a relationship with Boulos since 2018.^{[27][28]} In January 2021, Trump announced her engagement to Boulos.^[29]

Trump is a frequent poster on Instagram, where she has 1.4 million followers as of January 2021.^{[30][31]} Her Instagram posts have frequently included photographs of herself with friends or with descendants of famous parents or grandparents, such as: Kyra Kennedy, Gaia Jacquet-Matisse, Reya Benitez, Ezra J. William, and EJ Johnson. The group has been named the "rich kids of Instagram" by the New York Post and the "Snap Pack" by The New York Times and New York magazine.^{[12][32][33][34]}

See also

- List of Kappa Alpha Theta sisters
- List of children of the presidents of the United States

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Early life, family, and education

Melanija Knavs was born in Novo Mesto, Slovenia, then part of Yugoslavia, on April 26, 1970.^{[3][4]} Her father, Viktor Knavs (born March 24, 1944), was from the nearby town of Radeče and managed car and motorcycle dealerships for a state-owned vehicle manufacturer.^{[5][6]} Her mother Amalija (née Ulčnik) (born July 9, 1945) came from the village of Raka and worked as a patternmaker at the children's clothing manufacturer Jutranjka in Sevnica.^{[7][8]} As a child, Melanija and other children of workers at the factory participated in fashion shows that featured children's clothing.^[9] She has an older sister, Ines, who is an artist and her "longtime confidant",^{[10][11][12]} and an older half-brother—whom she reportedly has never met—from her father's previous relationship.^{[13][14]}


Knavs grew up in a modest apartment in a housing block in Sevnica, in the Lower Sava Valley.^{[15][16]} Her father was in the League of Communists of Slovenia, which espoused a policy of state atheism.^[17] As was common, however, he had his daughters secretly baptized as Catholic. When the Trumps met Pope Francis at the Vatican in 2017, Melania brought her rosary and asked the Pope to bless it.^{[18][19]}

When Knavs was a teenager, she moved with her family to a two-story house in Sevnica.^[20] As a high-school student, she lived in a high-rise apartment in Ljubljana. She attended the Secondary School of Design and Photography in the city^[21] and studied architecture and design at the University of Ljubljana for one year before she dropped out.^{[22][23][24]}

Career

Knavs began modeling at five years old and started doing commercial work at sixteen when she posed for the Slovenian fashion photographer Stane Jerko.^{[25][26]} When she began working as a model, she adapted the Slovene version of her last name "Knavs" to the German version "Knauss".^[27] At eighteen, Knauss signed with a modeling agency in Milan, Italy.^[28] In 1992, she was named runner-up in the *Jana Magazine* "Look of the Year" contest, held in Ljubljana, which promised its top three contestants an international modeling contract.^{[3][29]} After attending the University of Ljubljana for one year,^[30] Knauss modeled for fashion houses in Paris and Milan, where in 1995 she met Metropolitan Models co-owner Paolo Zampolli, a friend of her future husband Donald Trump, who was on a scouting trip in Europe. Zampolli urged her to travel to the U.S., where he said he would like to represent her.^[9] In 1996, Knauss moved to Manhattan.^{[9][29][28][31]} He arranged for her to share an apartment with photographer Matthew Atanian in Zeckendorf Towers in Union Square.^[9]

Knauss was featured in a sexually explicit photo shoot for the January 1996 issue of *Max*, a now-defunct French men's magazine, with another female model.^[32] She also posed nude for the January 2000 UK edition of *GQ* magazine, appearing on the cover naked except for diamond jewelry, reclining on fur, aboard Trump's custom-fitted Boeing 727.^[33] Asked about the photos in 2016, Donald Trump said: "Melania was one of the most successful models, and she did many photo shoots, including for covers and major magazines. [The *Max* photo] was a picture taken for a European magazine prior to my knowing Melania. In Europe, pictures like this are very fashionable and common".^{[34][35]}

	Viktor Knavs Amalija Ulčnik
Residence	<u>Mar-a-Lago</u>
Signature	



Melania Trump at QVC Red Carpet Style Party, 2011

In 2010, Melania launched her own line of jewelry, Melania Timepieces and Jewelry, for sale on QVC.^[36] She also marketed a Melania Marks Skin Care Collection at high-end department stores.^{[37][38]} According to a financial filing in 2016, her businesses brought in between US\$15,000 and US\$50,000 in royalties that year.^[39] In 2017, the two manufacturers of her jewelry and skincare products under license said they had terminated their relationship with her.^[38] On inauguration day her companies and products were listed in her official White House biography but were quickly removed.^[36] A White House spokesperson said her companies are no longer active and "the First Lady has no intention of using her position for profit and will not do so".^[38]

Acquisition of United States citizenship

Knauss came to the United States from Slovenia in 1996, residing briefly on a visitor's visa and then obtained H-1B work visas. In 2000, she petitioned for a right to permanent residency under the EB-1 program, a program designed for people with "extraordinary abilities" and was approved by March 2001.^{[40][41]} According to information from the Migration Policy Institute, only 2 percent of people in their field would be expected to qualify.^[42] The Washington Post in 2018 reported that at that time Knauss's credentials included "runway shows in Europe, a Camel cigarette billboard ad in Times Square and—in her biggest job at the time—a spot in the swimsuit edition of Sports Illustrated, which featured her on the beach in a string bikini, hugging a six-foot inflatable whale".^{[41][42][43]} In the analysis by Joel Gunter of the BBC, "[Melania Trump] does not appear at the time to have excelled in a niche area of modelling, nor won awards or had her work written about in significant publications"; Gunter reports a conjecture that



Donald Trump and Melania Knauss in 1999

"[S]he may have been boosted by high-profile testimonial letters, said Nita Upadhye, a U.S. immigration specialist at NNU Immigration Law. Testimonials form part of the application, and the more high-profile the reference the more weight it carries. If Mrs. Trump, already dating Mr. Trump at the time she applied, secured letters from luminaries in fashion, that would be significant, Ms. Upadhye said".^[41]

During the months that she campaigned with her husband prior to his successful bid for the presidency, Melania Trump defended his hard-line on immigration practices and laws by stating that her own path and achievement of citizenship had been legal, unlike those of the individuals her husband was campaigning against. However, investigative reporting done by the Associated Press revealed that she had been paid for 10 modeling jobs she had done before she had obtained her H1-B work visa and was still living in the U.S. using her visitor visa. The Associated Press wrote that

"Foreigners are not allowed to use a visitor visa to work for pay in the United States for American companies. Doing so would violate the terms of that visa and could prohibit a foreigner from later changing his or her immigration status in the United States or bar the foreigner from the United States again without special permission to come back".^[40]

After her July^[1] 2006 acquisition of citizenship, Mrs. Trump sponsored her parents, Viktor and Amalija Knavs, who went through the immigration process using "chain migration", a route that her husband later repeatedly criticized.^{[44][45]} The Knavs became citizens in August 2018,^[46] meaning they were permanent residents prior to September 2013.

Relationship with Donald Trump

Early relationship

In September 1998, Knauss met then-real estate mogul Donald Trump at a party, and the couple began dating^[47] while the latter was in the process of divorcing his second wife, Marla Maples. The divorce was finalized in 1999.^{[48][49]} Knauss continued her modeling career^[9] with her American magazine cover shoots, including *In Style Weddings*,^[50] *New York* magazine, *Avenue*,^[51] *Philadelphia Style*,^[52] and *Vanity Fair Spain*.^[53] In 1999, the couple gained attention after a lewd interview with shock jock Howard Stern on his show.^{[6][54]}

They appeared together while Trump campaigned for the 2000 Reform Party presidential nomination. When asked by *The New York Times* what her role would be were he to become president, she replied: "I would be very traditional, like Betty Ford or Jackie Kennedy".^[55]



Kylie Bax, Donald Trump, Bill Clinton (at that time the President of the United States), and Melania Knauss (future Trump) at the US Open in 2000, Flushing, New York.

Marriage

The two became engaged in 2004. On January 22, 2005, they married in an Anglican service at the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach, Florida, followed by a reception in the ballroom at her husband's Mar-a-Lago estate.^{[56][57]} The marriage was her first and his third. The event was attended by celebrities such as Katie Couric, Matt Lauer, former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, Heidi Klum, Star Jones, P. Diddy, Shaquille O'Neal, Barbara Walters, Conrad Black, Regis Philbin, Simon Cowell, Kelly Ripa, Senator Hillary Clinton, and former President Bill Clinton.^{[57][58]} At the reception, Billy Joel serenaded the crowd with "Just the Way You Are" and supplied new lyrics to the tune of "The Lady Is a Tramp".^[57] The bride wore a US\$200,000 dress made by John Galliano of the house of Christian Dior,^[57] and the ceremony and reception were widely covered by the media,^[31] including a Vogue cover which featured her in her wedding gown.^[59]

On March 20, 2006, she gave birth to their son, Barron William Trump.^[60] She chose his middle name, while her husband chose his first name.^[61]

Role in 2016 presidential campaign

In November 2015, she was asked about her husband's presidential campaign and replied: "I encouraged him because I know what he will do and what he can do for America. He loves the American people, and he wants to help them".^[62] She played a relatively small role in the campaign, which is atypical of spouses of presidential candidates.^{[63][64][65]} According to *Washington Post's* Mary Jordan, however, Melania was one of Trump's biggest supporters and continues to be a sounding board to him.^[66]

In 2016, Melania told CNN her focus as first lady would be to help women and children. She also said she would combat cyberbullying, especially among children.^[67] In July 2016, her official website was redirected to trump.com. On Twitter, she stated that her site was outdated and did not "accurately reflect [her] current business and professional interests".^[68]

2016 RNC and plagiarism concerns

On July 18, 2016, Melania Trump gave a speech at the 2016 Republican National Convention. It contained a paragraph that was nearly identical to a paragraph of Michelle Obama's speech at the 2008 Democratic National Convention.^{[69][70][71]} When asked about it, Melania said she wrote the speech herself "with as little help as possible".^[72] Two days later, Trump staff writer Meredith McIver took responsibility and apologized for the "confusion".^[73] Melania was again accused of plagiarizing Michelle Obama's speeches when, as part of her "Be Best" campaign in 2018, she gave a speech that appeared to closely echo remarks by Michelle Obama in 2016 and also distributed a written pamphlet that was nearly identical to one published by the Obama administration in 2014.^{[74][75]}

Lawsuit against Daily Mail and General Trust

In February 2017, she sued Daily Mail and General Trust, the owner of the Daily Mail, a British tabloid, seeking US\$150 million in damages over an August 2016 article that alleged that she had worked for an escort service during her modeling days. The lawsuit stated the article had ruined her "unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to establish "multimillion dollar business relationships for a multi-year term during which Plaintiff is one of the most photographed women in the world".^[76] Her claim raised potential ethical questions with its implication that she intended to profit from being first lady.^[77] On February 18, 2017, the lawsuit was amended, removing the language about her earning potential and focusing instead on emotional distress.^[78] In April 2017, the parties settled the lawsuit and the Daily Mail issued a statement that said, "We accept that these allegations about Mrs. Trump are not true and we retract and withdraw them." The Mail agreed to pay her US\$2.9 million.^{[79][80]}

Statement on bullying

Five days before the election, she told a crowd of supporters in Pennsylvania: "Our culture has gotten too mean and too rough, especially to children and teenagers. It is never okay when a 12-year-old girl or boy is mocked, bullied, or attacked. It is terrible when that happens on the playground. And it is absolutely unacceptable when it is done by someone with no name hiding on the Internet".^[81] Regarding the contrast of her platform with her husband's use of Twitter during his campaign, Melania said shortly after the election that she had rebuked him "all the time" but that "he will do what he wants to do in the end".^[82]

Role in 2020 presidential campaign

Although Melania was mostly silent about her husband Donald Trump's 2020 campaign she appeared in its later stages. 3 weeks before the election she appeared for a brief time of 18 minutes in Atglen, Pennsylvania, on October 27, 2020. She later spoke in Huntersville, North Carolina for almost 25 minutes on November the 2nd, one day before the 2020 United States election. She also appeared a few times to introduce her husband before he took the stage to do his rally. On October 31 she said, "We have made great progress in our fight



Melania gives the thumbs up at a campaign event with her husband Donald and son Barron, November 2015.

against COVID-19," the first lady said. "I watched Donald continue to work hard to keep people informed and calm, to protect our economy and make hard and unpopular decisions to do all he could to keep us all safe." She also criticised the media for being "biased" against her husband and his agenda as well as the Democrats for trying to advance their agenda "against Americans' well being".

First Lady of the United States



Donald and Melania at the Liberty Ball on Inauguration Day, January 20, 2017

She assumed the role of first lady of the United States on January 20, 2017,^{[83][84]} continuing to live in Manhattan at the Trump Tower with their son, Barron, until the end of his 2016–2017 school year at Columbia Grammar & Preparatory School.^{[85][86]} A 2020 biography by *Washington Post* reporter Mary Jordan revealed that Melania stayed in New York to negotiate more favorable terms from Trump for her and their son.^[66]

After Louisa Adams, she is the second first lady to have been born outside the country (not counting those born in U.S. territory before the country existed),^[87] the first one to be a naturalized citizen^[88] and the first whose native language is not English.^[89]

Of Trump's inauguration, *Vogue* compared Melania's wardrobe to that of Jacqueline Kennedy and Nancy Reagan, writing that Trump closely works with her stylist, designer Hervé Pierre, preferring "strongly tailored pieces" in bold colors and wearing almost exclusively high-end designers.^{[90][91]}

She and Barron moved into the White House in Washington, D.C., on June 11, 2017.^[92] Her Secret Service code name is "Muse" (beginning with the same letter as Trump's code name, "Mogul", per Secret Service tradition).^[93] She is the second foreign-born woman to hold the title of first lady, after Louisa Adams, wife of John Quincy Adams, who was born in 1775 in London to a father from Maryland and an English mother.^{[94][95]} She is also the first naturalized citizen (rather than birthright citizen) to hold the title, and the first whose native language is not English.^[96] Though it has frequently been reported that Trump speaks up to five foreign languages fluently, evidence has shown that when speaking French or Italian, she only used basic greetings.^[97]

She is well-liked by her staffers, is cordial to Ivanka Trump, and is not close to Mike Pence's wife, Karen Pence.^[98]

On March 8, 2017, she hosted her first White House event, a luncheon for International Women's Day. She spoke to an audience of women about her life as a female immigrant, and about working towards gender equality both domestically and abroad, noting the role of education as a tool against gender inequality.^{[99][100][101]}

In January 2018, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that during a three-month period when she lived in New York in 2017, she took Air Force jet flights between New York City, Florida, and Washington at a cost of more than US\$675,000 to taxpayers.^{[102][103]} In comparison, former first lady Michelle Obama's solo travel cost an average of about US\$350,000 per year.^{[102][103]}

On March 13, 2018, Trump scheduled a March 20, 2018 meeting with policy executives from technology companies, including Amazon, Facebook, Google, Snap, and Twitter, to address online harassment and Internet safety, with a particular focus on how those issues affect children.^[104] Trump's office has avoided the

use of the term "cyberbullying",^[104] and Trump has come under criticism for championing Internet civility while her husband's Internet behavior has been noted as uncivil.^{[104][105]} Trump attended the roundtable event, focusing on how children are affected by modern technology. Trump said: "I am well aware that people are skeptical of me discussing this topic", but "that will not stop me from doing what I know is right".^[106]



Melania Trump express her condolences to the family of El Paso shooting victims Jordan and Andre Anchondo on August 7, 2019.

Melania took an active role in planning the Trump administration's first state dinner on April 23, 2018, to honor French president Emmanuel Macron.^[107] With Brigitte Macron, the French president's wife, Trump visited a Paul Cézanne exhibit at the National Gallery of Art in Washington the day before.^{[108][109][110]}

On June 17, 2018, Melania referred to the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy at the border with Mexico, where children were being separated from their parents. She stated that she "hates to see children separated from their families" and wants there to be "successful immigration reform".^[111] On June 21, 2018, she made a hastily planned trip to Texas to one of the locations at which the Trump Administration's family separation policy was being carried out. She attended a roundtable with doctors, medical staff, social workers and other experts at Upbring New Hope Children's Shelter.^[112]

In October 2018, Trump took a four-nation, solo tour of Africa, without her husband, focusing on conservation and children and families, visiting Ghana, Malawi, Kenya, and Egypt.^[113]

On November 13, 2018, Trump issued an "extraordinary" public statement calling for the firing of Deputy National Security Advisor Mira Ricardel. She had reportedly been privately pushing for her ouster for weeks. The next day it was announced that Ricardel would "transition to a new role within the Administration".^[114] It was described as unusual for a first lady to be publicly involved in White House personnel decisions.^[115]

In December 2018, Melania attended the funeral of George H.W. Bush along with her husband.^[116]

After the El Paso shooting in Texas on August 3, 2019, in which a lone gunman killed 23 people and injured 23 others, Melania and President Trump visited the hospital where eight of the survivors were being cared for. The couple met with the families of survivors, hospital staff, and first responders, and posed with a baby who had been orphaned when both of his parents were killed. The White House had asked that the child be brought in and he was accompanied by his uncle.^{[117][118][119]}

Melania ended her tenure by agreeing with Donald that he was the legitimate winner of the 2020 election, despite his loss. She did not contact incoming first lady Jill Biden to make transition arrangements or provide her the traditional tour of the White House.^[120] Melania never felt comfortable in Washington, reported *The New York Times*, citing people who knew her.^[120]

On October 1, 2020, Stephanie Winston Wolkoff, a former friend and senior adviser to the first lady released audiotapes, on the CNN show Anderson Cooper 360°, of Melania allegedly expressing controversial and profane statements regarding her frustration with her image and role as first lady.^{[121][122]} The Trump Justice Department filed a civil suit against Wolkoff in October 2019, alleging breach of a nondisclosure agreement, which the Biden Justice Department dropped in February 2021.^[123]

Be Best campaign

On May 7, 2018, Trump formally started the Be Best public awareness campaign, which focused on well-being for youth and advocated against cyberbullying and drug use.^[124] The campaign was accompanied by a booklet that was promoted as having been written "By First Lady Melania Trump and the Federal Trade Commission [FTC]", but it was nearly identical to a document first published in 2014 by the FTC.^[125] The similarities prompted accusations of plagiarism, to which her office responded by admonishing the press for reporting on the issue.^[126] The fact-checking site Snopes found the charge of plagiarism "Mostly False" saying, "Melania Trump did not claim she had written the pamphlet herself, and she contributed an introduction to a slightly revised version of the booklet. The FTC was always credited for the creation of the booklet and supported its inclusion in the first lady's 'Be Best' campaign."^[127]



The Trumps at the announcement of the First Lady's Be Best initiative, May 2018

In December 2019, Be Best became a trending topic on Twitter, after Melania's husband Donald used Twitter to mock teenage environmental activist Greta Thunberg. A week before the incident, Melania had criticized academic Pamela Karlan for making comments about Barron, stating that: "A minor child deserves privacy and should be kept out of politics".^[128]

Approval ratings

During her husband's 2016 campaign, Trump was the least popular presidential candidate spouse in modern polling.^[129] As First Lady, she managed to improve her favorability ratings from 2016 to mid-2018.^[130] She reached a peak of 57% approval in May 2018 per CNN polling, shortly after her first state dinner, and her presence at the funeral of former first lady Barbara Bush without her husband Donald.^[131] In December 2018, CNN reported that Melania's strongest base of support came from older, white, male Republicans and conservatives, while she had the least approval from women who were young or college-educated.^[132]

In March 2019, YouGov reported that Melania, with 51% approval, was polling more popularly among the American public than other members of her family: her husband Donald, step children Donald Jr., Eric, and Ivanka, and her stepson-in-law Jared Kushner.^[133] In August 2020, Morning Consult, in conjunction with Politico, reported that Melania, with 45% approval, was polling more favorably among the American public than any other Republican figures listed in the survey, including her family members, Vice President Mike Pence, Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell, and House minority leader Kevin McCarthy.^[134]

In Gallup's annual poll of the most admired women, Trump ranked in the top ten each of her years as first lady, but never topped the list. She joins Bess Truman and Lady Bird Johnson as the only American first ladies who have never been named the most admired woman in this survey since Gallup began conducting the annual survey in the 1940s.^[135]

Melania finished her tenure in 2021 as the least popular first lady ever polled, according to polling by CNN, SRSS, and Gallup. Her final approval rating was 42%, and her final disapproval rating was 47%; she was the only first lady who finished with a net disapproval rating. Previous first ladies since the 1970s had final popularity ratings of 71% on average. The second-least popular first lady polled was Hillary Clinton, with a final approval rating of 52% and a final disapproval rating of 39%.^[136]

Personal life

Religion

When the president and first lady visited Vatican City in May 2017, she identified as Catholic. She was the first Catholic to live in the White House since President John F. Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline and was the second Catholic first lady of the United States.^{[137][138]} When she visited the Vatican, Pope Francis blessed her rosary beads, and she placed flowers at the feet of a statue of Mary at the Vatican's children's hospital.^[139]



Melania Trump with Pope Francis, the Vatican, May 2017

Health

On May 14, 2018, she underwent an embolization, which is a minimally invasive procedure that deliberately blocks a blood vessel,^[140] in order to treat a benign kidney condition. The procedure was reported successful and without complications.^[141]

On October 2, 2020, President Trump tweeted that both he and Melania had tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 and would immediately quarantine.^{[142][143][144]} Later that day, she said that she was experiencing "mild symptoms" but "overall feeling good."^[145]

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- White House website (<https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/first-lady-melania-trump>)
- Official website (<https://web.archive.org/web/20120301112807/http://www.melaniatrump.com/>) (archived March 1, 2012)
- Melania Trump (https://www.fashionmodeldirectory.com/models/melania_knauss/) at [Fashion Model Directory](#)
- Melania Trump (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1514936/>) at [IMDb](#)
- Appearances (<https://www.c-span.org/person/?melaniatrump>) on [C-SPAN](#)

Honorary titles		
Preceded by <u>Michelle Obama</u>	<u>First Lady of the United States</u> 2017–2021	Succeeded by <u>Jill Biden</u>

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Melania_Trump&oldid=1032300608"

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Family of Donald Trump

The **family of Donald Trump**, the owner of The Trump Organization and 45th president of the United States, is a prominent American family active in real estate, entertainment, business, and politics. Trump's immediate family circle was the first family of the United States from 2017 to 2021. They are part of the broader Trump family originating from Germany. Donald Trump's mother, Mary Anne MacLeod, came from the Hebridean Isle of Lewis, off the west coast of Scotland.^[1] Trump has five children from three wives, and ten grandchildren.

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Family of Donald Trump



Donald, Melania, Donald Jr., Barron, Ivanka, Eric, and Tiffany Trump. Chief Justice John Roberts administered the oath of office.

Current region Manhattan, New York City, New York / Mar-a-Lago, Palm Beach, Florida, United States of America

Members Donald Trump · Melania Trump · Donald Trump Jr. · Ivanka Trump · Eric Trump · Tiffany Trump · Barron Trump

Connected members Ivana Trump
Marla Maples
Fred Trump
Mary Anne MacLeod Trump
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References

Works cited

Immediate family

Wives

Ivana Trump

Ivana Marie Trump (née Zelníčková), the first wife of Donald Trump, was born on February 20, 1949, in Zlín, Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic). She is a former fashion model and a businesswoman. They were married from 1977 until 1992.

Ivana Trump took a major role in the Trump Organization. She became the vice president of interior design for the company, leading the signature design of Trump Tower. Afterwards, her then-husband appointed her to head up the Trump Castle Hotel and Casino as president. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1988.^[2]

Marla Maples

Marla Ann Maples, the second wife of Donald Trump, was born on October 27, 1963, in Dalton, Georgia, making her Donald Trump's only wife who was an American citizen at the time of their marriage. She is an actress and television personality. They were married from 1993 to 1999.

Melania Trump

Melania Trump (née Knave), the third wife of Donald Trump, was born on April 26, 1970, in Novo Mesto, Yugoslavia (present-day Slovenia). She had a lengthy modeling career and is the second foreign-born first lady of the United States, the first being Louisa Adams.^[3] They were married in 2005.

Children

Trump has five children from three marriages: Don Jr., Ivanka, and Eric Trump with Ivana Trump; Tiffany Trump with Marla Maples; and Barron Trump with First Lady Melania Trump.

Children with Ivana

Donald Jr., Ivanka, and Eric are Trump's three eldest children, from his first marriage with Ivana Trump.

Prior to the election, each of the siblings held the title of executive vice president at the Trump Organization. During the campaign, they served as surrogates for their father on national news programs. Following Trump's election victory, all three were named to the presidential transition team.^[4]

Following the inauguration, Donald Jr. and Eric took charge of the family's real estate empire. Ivanka moved to Washington, D.C., with her husband Jared Kushner, who was appointed to a senior White House advisory position.^[5]

Tiffany Trump

Tiffany Ariana Trump (born October 13, 1993) is Donald Trump's only child with Marla Maples. In 2016, she participated little in her father's campaign because she was studying sociology and urban studies at the University of Pennsylvania.^[6] Shortly after graduating, she made a supportive speech for her father at the Republican National Convention at age 22.^[7]

Barron Trump

Barron William Trump (born March 20, 2006)^[8] is Trump's youngest child and his only child with Melania Trump. In May 2006, Barron Trump was baptized at the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach, Florida.^{[9][10]} He attended the Columbia Grammar & Preparatory School in Manhattan. In addition to English, Barron is fluent in Slovene.^[11] During his early childhood, Barron made several television appearances, including on The Apprentice and a May 16, 2006, episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show at only two months old.^[12] He appeared at a campaign rally in South Carolina, and was present for his father's 2016 RNC acceptance speech, presidential victory speech,^[13] and inauguration ceremony in January 2017. He also attended some of his father's subsequent events.^[14]

Barron did not immediately move into the White House when his father became president, but remained at Trump Tower with his mother until the end of the 2016–2017 school year.^[15] He and his mother moved to the White House on June 11, 2017. Having joined St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Maryland, in June 2017,^[16] he was scheduled to start the ninth grade there in the fall of 2020.^[17]

Barron is known to be a fan of soccer. He appeared in an Arsenal F.C. jersey and met D.C. United players at the White House Easter Egg Roll in April 2017.^[18] In September 2017, he was selected to join the U-12 team for D.C. United's Development Academy for the 2017–2018 season.^[19] As of February 2019, Barron played with the Arlington Soccer Association.^[20]

On October 14, 2020, Melania Trump confirmed that Barron had tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, without exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.^[21]

In January 2021, Barron's mother was reportedly selecting schools for him in the Palm Beach area.^[22]

Grandchildren

Donald Trump has ten grandchildren. Donald Trump Jr. and his former wife Vanessa have five children: daughters Kai Madison (born May 12, 2007)^[23] and Chloe Sophia (born June 16, 2014),^[24] and sons Donald John III (born February 18, 2009),^[25] Tristan Milos (born October 2, 2011),^{[26][27]} and Spencer Frederick (born October 21, 2012).^[28]

Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner have three children: daughter Arabella Rose (born July 17, 2011),^{[29][30]} and sons Joseph Frederick (born October 14, 2013)^[31] and Theodore James (born March 27, 2016).^[32] Eric Trump and his wife Lara have a son, Eric "Luke" (born September 12, 2017), and a daughter, Carolina Dorothy (born August 19, 2019).^{[33][34]}



Barron Trump in August 2019

Ancestry

Donald Trump's paternal ancestry is traceable to Bobenheim am Berg, a village in the Palatinate, Germany, in the 18th century. Johann Trump, born in Bobenheim in 1789, moved to the nearby village of Kallstadt where his grandson, Friedrich Trump, the grandfather of Donald Trump, was born in 1869.^{[35][36]} This German heritage was long concealed by Donald Trump's father, Fred Trump, who had grown up in a mainly German-speaking environment until he was ten years old;^[37] after World War II and until the 1980s, he told people he was of Swedish ancestry.^[38] Donald Trump repeated this version in *The Art of the Deal* (1987) but later said he is "proud" of his German heritage, and served as grand marshal of the 1999 German-American Steuben Parade in New York City.^{[39][40]}

Parents

Fred Trump

Donald Trump's father, Fred Trump (1905–1999), born in New York, was a successful real estate developer in New York City.^{[41][42]} Using their inheritance, Fred Trump and his mother Elizabeth founded E. Trump & Son by 1927.^[43] The company grew to build and manage single-family houses in Queens, barracks and garden apartments for U.S. Navy personnel near major shipyards along the East Coast, and more than 27,000 apartments in New York City.^[44] Trump was investigated by a U.S. Senate committee for profiteering in 1954,^[45] and again by the State of New York in 1966.^[46]

Donald Trump became the president of his father's real estate business in 1971 and renamed it the Trump Organization around 1973.^[47] That year, Donald and his father were sued by the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division for violating the Fair Housing Act.^[48] In the mid-1970s, Donald received loans from his father exceeding \$14 million (later claimed by Donald to have been only \$1 million).^[49] Donald served as the Trump Organization's chairman and president until assuming the office of U.S. president.^[50]



Fred Trump c. 1950

Mary Anne MacLeod Trump

Born as Mary Anne MacLeod (1912–2000) in Tong, a small village near Stornoway, in the Western Isles of Scotland, she was the daughter of fisherman Malcolm MacLeod and Mary MacLeod (née Smith).^[51] At age 17, she immigrated to the United States with \$50 (equivalent to \$772 in 2020), and moved in with a sister before starting work as a maid in New York.^{[51][52]} Mary and Fred Trump met in New York and married in 1936, settling together in Queens. Mary became a U.S. citizen in 1942.^{[51][53]} While visiting Scotland in June 2008, Donald Trump said in part, "I think I do feel Scottish."^{[39][40]}

Grandparents

Frederick Trump

In 1885, Donald Trump's grandfather, Friedrich Trump, emigrated from Kallstadt, Palatinate (then part of the Kingdom of Bavaria), to the United States at age 16. He anglicized his name to *Frederick* in 1892 when he became a U.S. citizen.^[41] During the Klondike Gold Rush, he amassed a fortune by opening a restaurant and hotel in Bennett and later Whitehorse, serving gold seekers on their way to the region; one biographer wrote that the business included a brothel, a portrayal Donald Trump has said was "totally false".^[54] Frederick Trump died in the first wave of the Spanish flu pandemic. After his death, his fortune was passed on to his wife and son.

Frederick Trump was a second cousin of Henry J. Heinz, founder of H. J. Heinz Company, whose father also came from Kallstadt.

Elizabeth Christ Trump

Donald Trump's grandmother, Elizabeth Christ Trump, was born in 1880 and died on June 6, 1966. She married Frederick Trump in 1902 and moved to the United States with him. Like her husband, she was a native of Kallstadt, born as the daughter of Philipp and Marie Christ. Philipp Christ was descended from Johannes Christ (1626–1688/9) of Flörsheim, Hesse. Elizabeth Christ Trump was a descendant of organ builder Johann Michael Hartung (1708–1763) through her paternal grandmother Sabina Christ.^[55]

Siblings

Maryanne Trump Barry

Maryanne Barry (born 1937) is Donald Trump's eldest sister. She was a senior federal judge on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals,^[56] became inactive in 2017 after her brother took office, and retired in 2019.^[57]

Fred Trump Jr.

Frederick "Freddy" Crist *[sic]* Trump Jr. (1938–1981)^{[58][59]} was Donald Trump's older brother. On September 26, 1981,^[59] at the age of 42, he died from a heart attack.^{[60][61][a]}

Elizabeth Trump Grau

Elizabeth Trump Grau (born 1942) is an older sister of Donald Trump.^[63] In 1989, she married film producer James Grau.^[64] She worked as an administrative assistant for Chase Manhattan Bank,^[64] before retiring to Florida.^[65]

Robert Trump

Robert Trump (1948–2020) was Donald Trump's younger brother.^[66] He was a business executive who managed Trump Management Inc, the Trump Organization's real estate holdings outside Manhattan.^{[67][68]} He was an investor in SHiRT LLC, one of two owners of Virginia-based CertiPathx which was awarded a \$33 million government contract in 2019.^[69]

Robert Trump married Blaine Beard in 1980.^[70] They were divorced in 2009 after Trump had left his wife for Trump Organization employee Ann Marie Pallan. He married Pallan in early 2020.^[71] Trump died on August 15, 2020, at the age of 71.^{[72][73]} According to *The New York Times*, he had been having brain bleeds after a

recent fall.^[74]

Other relatives

John G. Trump

Donald Trump's paternal uncle John George Trump (1907–1985) was an electrical engineer, inventor and physicist who developed rotational radiation therapy, and, together with Robert J. Van de Graaff, one of the first million-volt X-ray generators. He was a recipient of Ronald Reagan's National Medal of Science and a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

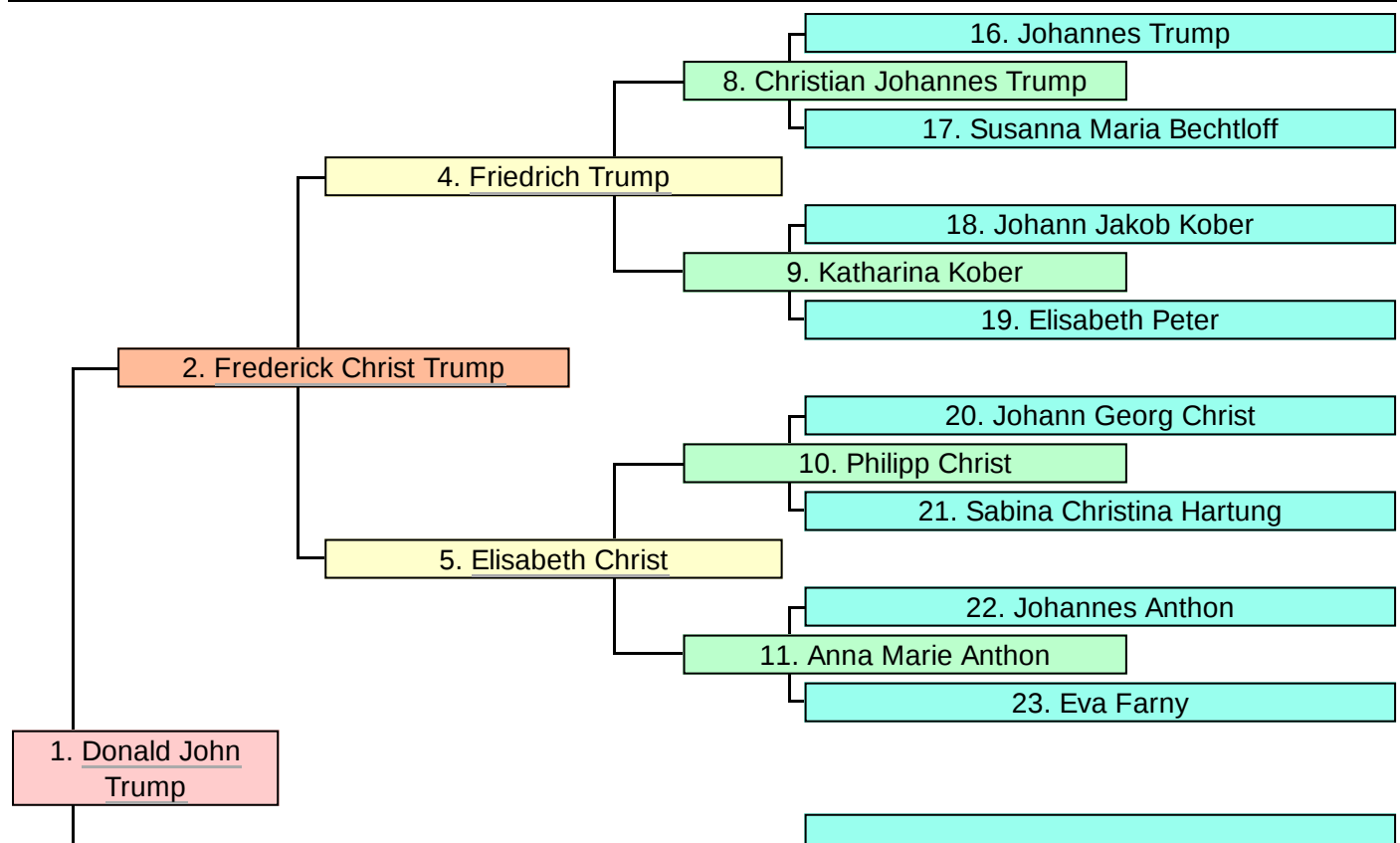
John W. Walter

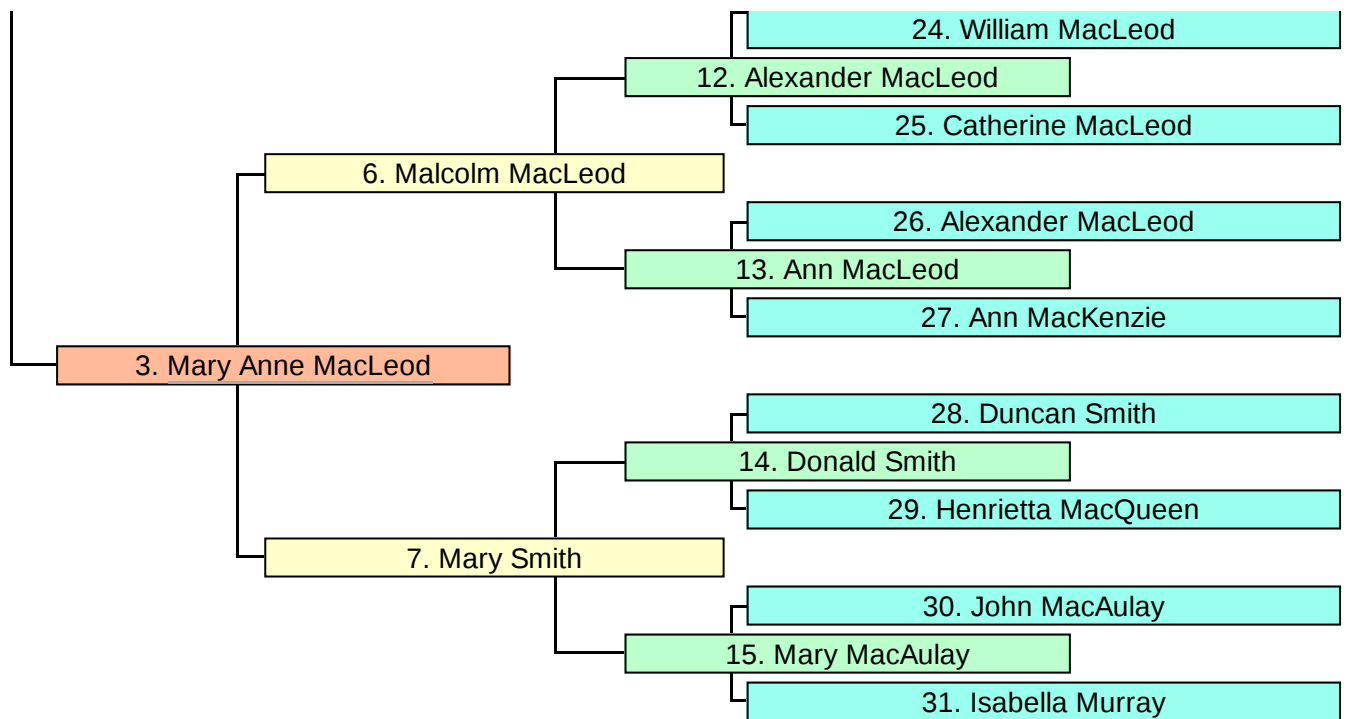
Trump's first cousin John W. Walter (1934–2018) was a son of father Fred's sister Elizabeth Trump and William Walter.^{[75][76]} He worked for the Trump Organization for most of his life and was executive vice president of Trump Management, Inc.^{[77][75][78][79]} He shared ownership of All County Building Supply & Maintenance Corp with Donald Trump, Maryanne Trump Barry, Elizabeth Trump Grau, and Robert Trump.^{[76][80]} Walter also served as the mayor of Flower Hill, New York between 1988 and 1996, and as its historian from 1996 until his death in 2018.^{[81][82]}

Mary L. Trump

Donald Trump's niece Mary L. Trump is a clinical psychologist, businessperson, and author who wrote a book about Donald Trump and the family titled *Too Much and Never Enough* (2020).

Genealogical table





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Footnotes

- a. His death certificate states that he died on September 29 of "natural causes".^[62]

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Trump Entertainment Resorts

Trump Entertainment Resorts, Inc. was a gambling and hospitality company. The company previously owned and operated the now-demolished Trump Plaza and Trump World's Fair (both in Atlantic City), the now-closed Trump Marina, Trump Casino & Hotel in Gary, Indiana, Trump 29 in Coachella, California, and Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. It was founded in 1995 as **Trump Hotels & Casino Resorts** by Donald Trump, who after 2004 held only a minority ownership. The company filed for bankruptcy in 2004, 2009 and 2014. It became a subsidiary of Icahn Enterprises in 2016. Since then, all of the company's properties have been closed and sold.

Trump Entertainment Resorts, Inc



Trade name	TRMP
Type	<u>Subsidiary</u>
Industry	<u>Gambling</u> · <u>Entertainment</u> · <u>Hospitality</u>
Founded	1995
Defunct	2016
Key people	Donald Trump (founder), Carl Icahn (controlling stakeholder)
Products	TrumpOne Card
Revenue	\$175.6M (2016)
Parent	<u>Icahn Enterprises</u>

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History

The beginning

Donald Trump began purchasing properties along the Atlantic City boardwalk in the early 1980s and received a casino license from the New Jersey Casino Control Commission (CCC) on March 15, 1982.^[1] He had planned to build his own casino on the boardwalk, but was stalled on the project when Mike Rose, then CEO of Holiday Inn and Harrah's approached him to manage construction of a Holiday Inn Casino-Hotel. It opened in May 1984 and two years later Trump bought out Holiday Inn's shares in the property and renamed it the Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino.^[2]

In 1985, Trump purchased the nearly-complete Atlantic City Hilton hotel and casino property at the Atlantic marina from Hilton Hotels for \$325 million. The hotel chain sold the property after its application for a gaming license was turned down by the CCC.^[3] Trump originally opened the property as Trump's Castle Hotel Casino, and later renamed it the Trump Marina.

In 1988, Trump purchased the unfinished Taj Mahal property from Resorts International for \$230 million after negotiations with Merv Griffin in which the two men divided the assets of the failing company.^[4] The casino, at the time the largest in Atlantic City, would eventually cost almost \$1 billion by the time it opened in 1990.

Trump completed the project using junk bonds, a decision that hurt the company afterward as the gaming industry struggled in a recession and interest rates became unmanageable.^{[5][6]}

The company was shaken by the deaths of three key executives in an October 10, 1989 helicopter crash in northern New Jersey while they were returning from a New York press conference promoting an upcoming Atlantic City boxing event. The men were Steven F. Hyde, the CEO of Trump's casino operations, Mark Grossinger Etes, the president and chief operating officer of the Taj Mahal, and Trump Plaza executive vice president Jonathan Benanav.^[7]

In 1995, Trump established **Trump Hotels and Casino Resorts** (THCR) as a publicly traded company, granting it ownership of the Trump Plaza and the under-development Trump Casino in Gary, Indiana.^[8] The following year, THCR bought the Trump Taj Mahal at a valuation of \$890 million,^{[9][10]} and bought the Trump Castle from Trump for \$486 million (including \$355 million in assumed debt).^[11]

In 1996, the company opened Trump World's Fair, a casino adjunct to the Trump Plaza.^[12] The World's Fair was closed in 1999, with plans to replace it with a larger resort.^[13]

In 1997, THCR was one of eleven applicants for three casino licenses available in Detroit, with a \$542-million proposal for the Trump Motor City Hotel Casino, in partnership with Mel Farr.^[14] The bid was ultimately dropped from consideration because of Mayor Dennis Archer's doubts about the company's financial condition.^[14]

In 1998, THCR business consultants spent at least \$68,000 on a trip to Cuba in violation to the United States embargo against Cuba. According to a report by Newsweek, the consulting firm Seven Arrows Investment and Development instructed THCR on how to evade the embargo by linking the money to a charitable effort.^[15]

In 1999, THCR agreed to purchase the Flamingo Hilton Casino Kansas City for \$15 million,^[16] but the deal fell through when Missouri gaming regulators did not approve the company's gaming license by a contractual deadline.^[17]

THCR entered a management agreement in 2000 to operate the Spotlight 29 Casino, an Indian casino in Coachella, California.^[18]

Financial troubles

Trump Entertainment Resorts and its predecessors have filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection four times, in 1991, following construction of the \$1-billion Trump Taj Mahal, and in 2004, 2009 and 2014.

In 2004, Trump Hotels & Casino Resorts explored various options for restructuring its debt, amid speculation that it might file for bankruptcy. A possible arrangement with Credit Suisse First Boston was not completed because the bondholders rejected it.^[19]

On October 21, 2004, the company announced a preliminary agreement with its investors. Trump, who had been the majority owner, would reduce his stock ownership from 56 to 27 percent. Bondholders would surrender some of their debt in exchange for stock. On October 27, the company announced that Morgan Stanley would be the joint lead arranger for a \$500 million financing as part of the restructuring plan. On November 21, the company filed for bankruptcy. Trump said the filing was "really just a technical thing" as the best way to implement the restructuring plan.^[20] The plan was submitted to the bankruptcy court on December 16, 2004.

After the 2004 bankruptcy, Trump Hotels & Casino Resorts changed its name to Trump Entertainment Resorts (TER), and Trump ceased to play an active role in the company.^[21]

In 2005, the company's involvement in the Spotlight 29 Casino ended, as the tribe bought out the casino management agreement for \$6 million.^[22] Later that year, TER sold its Indiana casino to The Majestic Star Casino, LLC for \$253 million.^{[23][24]} The company had also been awarded a license to build a second casino in Orange County, Indiana, but dropped this plan, due in part to the state's concerns about the company's viability.^[25]

In 2007, the company attempted to negotiate a buyout with several public and private firms, but on July 2, it announced that it could not reach a deal, and would take itself off the market. The company planned to lay off employees in order to cut costs.^[26]

2009 bankruptcy and restructuring

The casino group filed for bankruptcy again in February 2009,^{[27][28]} owing \$1.2 billion. Two sets of debt holders eventually proposed reorganization plans for the group in U.S. bankruptcy court.

Trump initially made an agreement with banker and poker player Andrew Beal, owner of Beal Bank, which held \$500 million in the group's debt, to take over the resorts. However, citing concerns about the bank's lack of gaming experience, he dropped them in favor of hedge fund Avenue Capital Management, a plan favored by other bondholders. Beal then partnered with investor, Carl Icahn, who had worked on restructuring another Atlantic City casino, the Tropicana.^[29] In court, Trump argued that he would fight the Icahn/Beal team if they sought to use his name and likeness on the group's properties.^[30] Instead he signed an agreement with Avenue Capital in which he would receive 5% stock in the reorganized company and another 5% in exchange for the use of his name and likeness in perpetuity.

The bankruptcy court eventually sided with the Trump/Avenue partnership, favored by bond holders who believed that Trump's brand would result in a stronger company after reorganization.^[31]

In 2011, TER sold the Trump Marina to Landry's Restaurants, which also operates the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas.^[32]

Post-2009 bankruptcy

In February 2013, the company agreed to sell the Trump Plaza for \$20 million to the Meruelo Group, a California-based company whose holdings include the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada. The proceeds would be used to pay down the company's debt to a level of \$270 million. CEO Robert Griffin said TER would consider also selling the Trump Taj Mahal for the right price.^[33] However, Carl Icahn, who held the mortgage on the Trump casinos, would reject the sale of the Trump Plaza.^[34]

In early August 2014, Donald Trump filed a lawsuit demanding removal of his name from the company's two casinos, because they had allegedly been allowed to fall into disrepair, in breach of the licensing agreement for Trump's name.^[35]

2014 bankruptcy

In September 2014, Trump Entertainment Resorts filed again for bankruptcy,^{[36][37]} and closed the Trump Plaza.^[38] On a motion made by union UNITE HERE Local 54,^[39] relating to the bankruptcy action, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled in Trump Entertainment's favor on January 15, 2016 and held that Trump Entertainment could reject the continuing terms and conditions of a collective bargaining

agreement with the union, an agreement that had already expired by its terms. This case was significant as it was a matter of First impression among the courts of appeal and could significantly alter the balance of power between debtor-employers and their unions.^[40]

The company eventually exited bankruptcy in February 2016 and became a subsidiary of Icahn Enterprises.^[41]

Folding of the company

On October 10, 2016, the Trump Taj Mahal, the company's last operating property, closed for the final time.^[42] Trump Entertainment will remain operating to deal with the transfer of some points on the Trump One card account. All of the websites related to the company redirect to DonaldJTrump.com.



Entrance to the Trump Taj Mahal at night, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Trump Plaza remained vacant after the company had gone defunct, becoming property of Carl Icahn. In November of 2017, it was revealed that Icahn was looking to demolish the casino.^[43] Icahn was seeking \$5.6 million in tax funds to pay for the demolition,^[44] but this would cause a rift between Icahn and the local government, and would delay the project. On December 14, 2018, the deadline for demolishing it officially passed, meaning Trump Plaza would remain standing through the winter.^[45] Later that month, Carl Icahn, the owner of Icahn Enterprises which owns Trump Entertainment Resorts, terminated the deed restriction on the property and bought out a complicated lease, making a sale more attractive. The building was declared a hazard by the city in March 2020,^[46] demolition began that summer, and the main hotel tower was imploded on February 17, 2021.^{[47][48]} A charity auction benefited the Boys and Girls Club.^[49]

Former properties

The company's former properties include:

- Harrah's at Trump Plaza in Atlantic City, New Jersey (formerly a 50/50 partnership with Harrah's), now wholly owned and renamed as the Trump Plaza, which was closed on September 16, 2014. Demolished on February 17, 2021.
- Trump 29 Casino in Coachella, California (formerly a 50/50 partnership with the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians of California) 2006 Trump officially got out. Now Spotlight 29 Casino.
- Trump Casino in Gary, Indiana now the Majestic Star II.
- Trump World's Fair at Trump Plaza in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Operated as a wing of Trump Plaza, but with its own casino license, it was closed in 1999, and demolished in 2000.
- Trump Castle (renamed Trump Marina in 1997) in Atlantic City, New Jersey, sold to Landry's, Inc. in 2011 and renamed the Golden Nugget Atlantic City.
- Steel Pier, sold in 2011
- Trump Club Privee Casino - Canouan - Saint Vincent
- Trump Taj Mahal, a casino resort on the Atlantic City boardwalk; closed on October 10, 2016; purchased by Hard Rock International and reopened as the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City in June 2018.

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Political career of Donald Trump

Donald Trump has been a presidential candidate three times, in [2000](#), [2016](#), and [2020](#). His second presidential campaign in 2016 was successful; he was [elected 45th president of the United States](#) on November 8, 2016 and [inaugurated on January 20, 2017](#). He sought reelection in the [2020 United States presidential election](#), but lost to [Democratic](#) nominee [Joe Biden](#).

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Political activities up to 2015

Trump's political party affiliation has changed numerous times. He registered as a Republican in Manhattan in 1987, switched to the [Reform Party](#) in 1999, the Democratic Party in 2001, and back to the Republican Party in 2009.^[1]

In 1987, Trump placed full-page advertisements in three major newspapers, proclaiming "America should stop paying to defend countries that can afford to defend themselves."^[2] The advertisements also advocated for "reducing the budget deficit, working for peace in Central America, and speeding up nuclear disarmament negotiations with the [Soviet Union](#)".^[3] DCCC chair Rep. [Beryl Anthony Jr.](#) told [The New York Times](#) that "the message Trump has been preaching is a Democratic message." Asked whether rumors of a presidential

candidacy were true, Trump denied being a candidate, but said, "I believe that if I did run for President, I'd win."^[3] According to a Gallup poll in December 1988, Trump was the tenth most admired man in America.^{[4][5]}

2000 presidential campaign

In 1999, Trump filed an exploratory committee to seek the nomination of the Reform Party for the 2000 presidential election.^{[6][7]} A July 1999 poll matching him against likely Republican nominee George W. Bush and likely Democratic nominee Al Gore showed Trump with seven percent support.^[8] Trump eventually dropped out of the race, but still went on to win the Reform Party primaries in California and Michigan.^{[7][9]} After his run, he left the party due to the involvement of David Duke, Pat Buchanan, and Lenora Fulani.^[6] He also considered running for president in 2004.^[10] In 2008, he endorsed Republican John McCain for president.^[11]

2012 presidential speculation

Trump publicly speculated about running for president in the 2012 election, and made his first speaking appearance at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in February 2011. The speech is credited for helping kick-start his political career within the Republican Party.^[12]

On May 16, 2011, Trump announced he would not run for president in the 2012 election.^[13] In February 2012, Trump endorsed Mitt Romney for president.^[14]

Trump's presidential ambitions were generally not taken seriously at the time.^[15] Trump's moves were interpreted by some media as possible promotional tools for his reality show *The Apprentice*.^{[13][16][17]} Before the 2016 election, *The New York Times* speculated that Trump "accelerated his ferocious efforts to gain stature within the political world" after Obama lampooned him at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner in April 2011.^[18]

In 2011, according to Evan Jones, the headmaster of the New York Military Academy at the time, the then-superintendent Jeffrey Coverdale had demanded Trump's academic records, to hand them over to "prominent, wealthy alumni of the school who were Mr. Trump's friends" at their request. Coverdale said he had refused to hand over Trump's records to trustees of the school, and instead sealed Trump's records on campus. Jones said: "It was the only time in my education career that I ever heard of someone's record being removed," while Coverdale further said: "It's the only time I ever moved an alumnus's records." The incident reportedly happened days after Trump demanded President Barack Obama's academic records.^[19]

2013–2015

In 2013, Trump spoke at CPAC again;^[20] he railed against illegal immigration, bemoaned Obama's "unprecedented media protection", advised against harming Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, and suggested that the government "take" Iraq's oil and use the proceeds to pay a million dollars each to families of dead soldiers.^{[21][22]} He spent over \$1 million that year to research a possible 2016 candidacy.^[23]



Trump speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference, February 2011

In October 2013, New York Republicans circulated a memo suggesting Trump should run for governor of the state in 2014 against Andrew Cuomo. Trump responded that while New York had problems and its taxes were too high, he was not interested in the governorship.^[24] A February 2014 Quinnipiac poll had shown Trump losing to the more popular Cuomo by 37 points in a hypothetical election.^[25]

2016 presidential campaign

Republican primaries

On June 16, 2015, Trump announced his candidacy for President of the United States at Trump Tower in Manhattan. In the speech, Trump discussed illegal immigration, offshoring of American jobs, the U.S. national debt, and Islamic terrorism, which all remained large priorities during the campaign. He also announced his campaign slogan: "Make America Great Again".^{[26][27]} Trump said his wealth would make him immune to pressure from campaign donors.^[28] He declared that he was funding his own campaign,^[29] but according to *The Atlantic*, "Trump's claims of self-funding have always been dubious at best and actively misleading at worst."^[30]



Trump campaigning in Laconia, New Hampshire, July 2015

In the primaries, Trump was one of seventeen candidates for the 2016 Republican nomination. This was the largest presidential field in American history.^[31] Trump's campaign was initially not taken seriously by political analysts, but he quickly rose to the top of opinion polls.^[32]

On Super Tuesday, Trump received the most votes, and he remained the front-runner throughout the primaries. By March 2016, Trump was poised to win the Republican nomination.^[33] After a landslide win in Indiana on May 3, 2016 – which prompted the remaining candidates Ted Cruz and John Kasich to suspend their presidential campaigns – RNC chairman Reince Priebus declared Trump the presumptive Republican nominee.^[34]

General election campaign

After becoming the presumptive Republican nominee, Trump shifted his focus to the general election. Trump began campaigning against Hillary Clinton, who became the presumptive Democratic nominee on June 6, 2016.

Clinton had established a significant lead over Trump in national polls throughout most of 2016. In early July, Clinton's lead narrowed in national polling averages following the FBI's re-opening of its investigation into her ongoing email controversy.^{[35][36][37]}

On July 15, 2016, Trump announced his selection of Indiana governor Mike Pence as his running mate.^[38] Four days later, the two were officially nominated by the Republican Party at the Republican National Convention.^[39] The list of convention speakers and attendees included former presidential nominee Bob Dole, but the other prior nominees did not attend.^{[40][41]}

On September 26, 2016, Trump and Clinton faced off in their first presidential debate, which was held at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York.^[42] The second presidential debate was held at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. The beginning of that debate was dominated by references to a recently leaked tape of Trump making sexually explicit comments, which Trump countered by referring to alleged sexual misconduct on the part of Bill Clinton. Prior to the debate, Trump had invited four women who had

accused Bill Clinton of impropriety to a press conference. The final presidential debate was held on October 19 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Trump's refusal to say whether he would accept the result of the election, regardless of the outcome, drew particular attention, with some saying it undermined democracy.^{[43][44]}



Candidate Trump and running mate Mike Pence at the Republican National Convention, July 2016

Political positions

Trump's campaign platform emphasized renegotiating U.S.–China relations and free trade agreements such as NAFTA and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, strongly enforcing immigration laws, and building a new wall along the U.S.–Mexico border. His other campaign positions included pursuing energy independence while opposing climate change regulations such as the Clean Power Plan and the Paris Agreement, modernizing and expediting services for veterans, repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, abolishing Common Core education standards, investing in infrastructure, simplifying the tax code while reducing taxes for all economic classes, and imposing tariffs on imports by companies that offshore jobs. During the campaign, he also advocated a largely non-interventionist approach to foreign policy while increasing military spending, extreme vetting or banning immigrants from Muslim-majority countries^[45] to pre-empt domestic Islamic terrorism, and aggressive military action against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. During the campaign Trump repeatedly called NATO "obsolete".^{[46][47]}

His political positions have been described as populist,^{[48][49][50]} and some of his views cross party lines. For example, his economic campaign plan calls for large reductions in income taxes and deregulation,^[51] consistent with Republican Party policies, along with significant infrastructure investment,^[52] usually considered a Democratic Party policy.^{[53][54]} According to political writer Jack Shafer, Trump may be a "fairly conventional American populist when it comes to his policy views", but he attracts free media attention, sometimes by making outrageous comments.^{[55][56]}

Trump has supported or leaned toward varying political positions over time.^{[57][58][59]} *Politico* has described his positions as "eclectic, improvisational and often contradictory",^[59] while NBC News counted "141 distinct shifts on 23 major issues" during his campaign.^[60]

Campaign rhetoric

In his campaign, Trump said he disdained political correctness; he also said the media had intentionally misinterpreted his words, and he made other claims of adverse media bias.^{[61][62][63]} In part due to his fame, and due to his willingness to say things other candidates would not, and because a candidate who is gaining ground automatically provides a compelling news story, Trump received an unprecedented amount of free media coverage during his run for the presidency, which elevated his standing in the Republican primaries.^[64]

Fact-checking organizations have denounced Trump for making a record number of false statements compared to other candidates.^{[65][66][67]} At least four major publications – *Politico*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and the *Los Angeles Times* – have pointed out lies or falsehoods in his campaign statements, with the *Los Angeles Times* saying that "Never in modern presidential politics has a major candidate made false statements as routinely as Trump has".^[68] NPR said Trump's campaign statements were often opaque or suggestive.^[69]

Trump's penchant for hyperbole is believed to have roots in the New York real estate scene, where Trump established his wealth and where puffery abounds.^[70] Trump adopted his ghostwriter's phrase "truthful hyperbole" to describe his public speaking style.^{[70][71]}

Support from the far right

According to Michael Barkun, the Trump campaign was remarkable for bringing fringe ideas, beliefs, and organizations into the mainstream.^[72] During his presidential campaign, Trump was accused of pandering to white supremacists.^{[73][74][75]} He retweeted open racists,^{[76][77]} and repeatedly refused to condemn David Duke, the Ku Klux Klan or white supremacists, in an interview on CNN's *State of the Union*, saying he would first need to "do research" because he knew nothing about Duke or white supremacists.^{[78][79]} Duke himself enthusiastically supported Trump throughout the 2016 primary and election, and has said he and like-minded people voted for Trump because of his promises to "take our country back".^{[80][81]}

After repeated questioning by reporters, Trump said he disavowed David Duke and the KKK.^[82] Trump said on MSNBC's *Morning Joe*: "I disavowed him. I disavowed the KKK. Do you want me to do it again for the 12th time? I disavowed him in the past, I disavow him now."^[82]

The alt-right movement coalesced around Trump's candidacy,^[83] due in part to its opposition to multiculturalism and immigration.^{[84][85][86]} Members of the alt-right enthusiastically supported Trump's campaign.^[87] In August 2016, he appointed Steve Bannon – the executive chairman of Breitbart News – as his campaign CEO; Bannon described Breitbart News as "the platform for the alt-right".^[88] In an interview days after the election, Trump condemned supporters who celebrated his victory with Nazi salutes.^{[89][90]}

Financial disclosures

As a presidential candidate, Trump disclosed details of his companies, assets, and revenue sources to the extent required by the FEC. His 2015 report listed assets above \$1.4 billion and outstanding debts of at least \$265 million.^{[91][92]} The 2016 form showed little change.^[93]

Trump has not released his tax returns, contrary to the practice of every major candidate since 1976 and his promise in 2014 to do so if he ran for office.^[94] He said his tax returns were being audited, and his lawyers had advised him against releasing them.^[95] Trump has told the press his tax rate was none of their business, and that he tries to pay "as little tax as possible".^[96]

In October 2016, portions of Trump's state filings for 1995 were leaked to a reporter from *The New York Times*. They show that Trump declared a loss of \$916 million that year, which could have let him avoid taxes for up to 18 years. During the second presidential debate, Trump acknowledged using the deduction, but declined to provide details such as the specific years it was applied.^[97]

On March 14, 2017, the first two pages of Trump's 2005 federal income tax returns were leaked to MSNBC. The document states that Trump had a gross adjusted income of \$150 million and paid \$38 million in federal taxes. The White House confirmed the authenticity of the documents.^{[98][99]}

On April 3, 2019, the House Ways and Means Committee made a formal request to the Internal Revenue Service for Trump's personal and business tax returns from 2013 to 2018, setting a deadline of April 10.^[100] That day, Treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin said the deadline would not be met,^[101] and the deadline was extended to April 23, which also was not honored,^[102] and on May 6 Mnuchin said the request would be denied.^[103] On May 10, 2019, committee chairman Richard Neal subpoenaed the Treasury Department and the IRS for the returns and seven days later the subpoenas were defied.^{[104][105]} A fall 2018 draft IRS legal memo asserted that Trump must provide his tax returns to Congress unless he invokes executive privilege, contradicting the administration's justification for defying the earlier subpoena.^[106] Mnuchin asserted the memo actually addressed a different matter.^[107]

Election to the presidency

On November 8, 2016, Trump received 306 pledged electoral votes versus 232 for Clinton. The official counts were 304 and 227 respectively, after defections on both sides.^[108] Trump received nearly 2.9 million fewer popular votes than Clinton, which made him the fifth person to be elected president while losing the popular vote.^{[109][a]} Clinton was ahead nationwide with 65,853,514 votes (48.18%) to 62,984,828 votes (46.09%).^[112]

Trump's victory was considered a stunning political upset by most observers, as polls had consistently showed Hillary Clinton with a nationwide – though diminishing – lead, as well as a favorable advantage in most of the competitive states. Trump's support had been modestly underestimated throughout his campaign,^[113] and many observers blamed errors in polls, partially attributed to pollsters overestimating Clinton's support among well-educated and nonwhite voters, while underestimating Trump's support among white working-class voters.^[114] The polls were relatively accurate,^[115] but media outlets and pundits alike showed overconfidence in a Clinton victory despite a large number of undecided voters and a favorable concentration of Trump's core constituencies in competitive states.^[116]

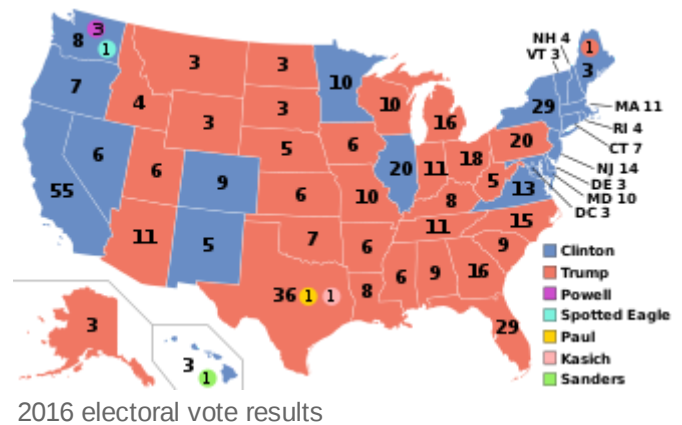
Trump won 30 states, including Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, which had been considered a blue wall of Democratic strongholds since the 1990s. Clinton won 20 states and the District of Columbia. Trump's victory marked the return of a Republican White House combined with control of both chambers of Congress.

Trump is the wealthiest president in U.S. history, even after adjusting for inflation,^[117] and the oldest person to take office as president.^[118] He is also the first president who did not serve in the military or hold elective or appointed government office prior to being elected.^{[119][120][121]} Of the 43^[b] previous presidents, 38 had held prior elective office, two had not held elective office but had served in the Cabinet, and three had never held public office but had been commanding generals.^[121]

In September 2020, Trump was nominated for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize. A far-right Norwegian politician nominated Trump's name citing his role in the peace deal between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.^[123]

Presidency

Trump was unsuccessful in his efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) but rescinded the individual mandate and took measures to hinder the ACA's functioning. Trump sought substantial spending cuts to major welfare programs, including Medicare and Medicaid. He signed the Great American Outdoors Act, pursued energy independence, reversed numerous environmental regulations, and withdrew from the Paris Accord. He signed criminal justice reform through the First Step Act and appointed Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court. In economic policy, he partially repealed the Dodd–Frank Act and signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. He enacted tariffs, triggering retaliatory tariffs from China, Canada, Mexico, and the EU.



President Trump receives a briefing on COVID-19 in the White House Situation Room.

He withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations and signed the USMCA, a successor agreement to NAFTA. The federal deficit increased under Trump due to spending increases and tax cuts.

He implemented a controversial family separation policy for migrants apprehended at the U.S.–Mexico border. Trump's demand for the federal funding of a border wall resulted in the longest US government shutdown in history. He deployed federal law enforcement forces in response to the racial unrest in 2020. Trump's "America First" foreign policy was characterized by unilateral actions, disregarding traditional allies. The administration implemented a major arms sale to Saudi Arabia; denied citizens from several Muslim-majority countries entry into the U.S; recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel; and brokered the Abraham Accords, a series of normalization agreements between Israel and various Arab states. His administration withdrew U.S. troops from northern Syria, allowing Turkey to occupy the area. Trump met North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un three times. Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Iran nuclear agreement and later escalated tensions in the Persian Gulf by ordering the assassination of General Qasem Soleimani.

Robert Mueller's Special Counsel investigation (2017–2019) concluded that Russia interfered to favor Trump's candidacy and that while the prevailing evidence "did not establish that members of the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government," possible obstructions of justice occurred during the course of that investigation.

Trump attempted to pressure Ukraine to announce investigations into his political rival Joe Biden, triggering his first impeachment by the House of Representatives on December 18, 2019, but he was acquitted by the Senate on February 5, 2020.

Trump reacted slowly to the COVID-19 pandemic, ignored or contradicted many recommendations from health officials in his messaging, and promoted misinformation about unproven treatments and the availability of testing.

Following his loss in the 2020 presidential election to Biden, Trump refused to concede and initiated an aggressive pursuit to overturn the results, alleging unproven claims of widespread electoral fraud. On January 6, 2021, during a rally at The Ellipse, Trump urged his supporters to "fight like hell" and march to the Capitol, where the electoral votes were being counted by Congress in order to formalize Biden's victory. A mob of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol, suspending the count as Vice President Mike Pence and other members of Congress were evacuated. On January 13, the House voted to impeach Trump an unprecedented second time for "incitement of insurrection," but he was acquitted by the Senate again on February 13.

Protests

Some rallies during the primary season were accompanied by protests or violence, including attacks on Trump supporters and vice versa both inside and outside the venues.^{[124][125][126]} Trump's election victory sparked protests across the United States, in opposition to his policies and his inflammatory statements. Trump initially said on Twitter that these were "professional protesters, incited by the media", and were "unfair", but he later tweeted, "Love the fact that the small groups of protesters last night have passion for our great country."^{[127][128]}

In the weeks following Trump's inauguration, massive anti-Trump demonstrations took place, such as the Women Marches, which gathered 2,600,000 people worldwide,^[129] including 500,000 in Washington alone.^[130] Marches against his travel ban began across the country on January 29, 2017, just nine days after his inauguration.^[131]



Women's March in Washington on January 21, 2017, a day after the inauguration

2020 presidential campaign

Trump signaled his intention to run for a second term by filing with the FEC within a few hours of assuming the presidency.^[132] This transformed his 2016 election committee into a 2020 reelection one.^[133] Trump marked the official start of the campaign with a rally in Melbourne, Florida, on February 18, 2017, less than a month after taking office.^[134] By January 2018, Trump's reelection committee had \$22 million in hand,^[135] and it had raised a total amount exceeding \$67 million by December 2018.^[136] \$23 million was spent in the fourth quarter of 2018, as Trump supported various Republican candidates for the 2018 midterm elections.^[137]

See also

- Business career of Donald Trump
- Media career of Donald Trump

Notes

- a. Records on this matter date from the year 1824. The number "five" includes the elections of 1824, 1876, 1888, 2000, and 2016. Despite their similarities, some of these five elections had peculiar results; e.g. John Quincy Adams trailed in *both* the national popular vote and the electoral college in 1824 (since no one had a majority in the electoral college, Adams was chosen by the House of Representatives), and Samuel Tilden in 1876 remains the only losing candidate to win an actual majority of the popular vote (rather than just a plurality).^{[110][111]}
- b. Grover Cleveland was the 22nd and 24th president.^[122]

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External links

- [President Trump's profile on WhiteHouse.gov \(https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/president-trump\)](https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/president-trump)
 - [Donald Trump \(https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump\)](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump) on Twitter (personal)
-

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Presidency of Donald Trump

Donald Trump's tenure as the 45th president of the United States began with his inauguration on January 20, 2017 and ended on January 20, 2021. Trump, a Republican originally from New York City, took office following his Electoral College victory over Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election, in which he did not win a plurality of the popular vote. Trump made an unprecedented number of false or misleading statements during his campaign and presidency. His presidency ended with his defeat in the 2020 presidential election by Democrat Joe Biden. It was the first presidency since that of Herbert Hoover in which a president was not reelected and his party lost its majorities in both chambers of Congress.^[1]

Trump was unsuccessful in his efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) but rescinded the individual mandate and took measures to hinder the ACA's functioning. Trump sought substantial spending cuts to major welfare programs, including Medicare and Medicaid. He signed the Great American Outdoors Act, pursued energy independence, reversed numerous environmental regulations, and withdrew from the Paris Accord. He signed criminal justice reform through the First Step Act and appointed Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court. In economic policy, he partially repealed the Dodd–Frank Act and signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. He enacted tariffs, triggering retaliatory tariffs from China, Canada, Mexico, and the EU. He withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations and signed the USMCA, a successor agreement to NAFTA. The federal deficit increased under Trump due to spending increases and tax cuts.

He implemented a controversial family separation policy for migrants apprehended at the U.S.–Mexico border. Trump's demand for the federal funding of a border wall resulted in the longest US government shutdown in history. He deployed federal law enforcement forces in response to the racial unrest in 2020. Trump's "America First" foreign policy was characterized by unilateral actions, disregarding traditional allies. The administration implemented a major arms sale to Saudi Arabia; denied citizens from several Muslim-majority countries entry into the U.S.; recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel; and brokered the Abraham Accords, a series of normalization agreements between Israel and various Arab states. His administration withdrew U.S. troops from northern Syria, allowing Turkey to occupy the area. Trump met North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un three times. Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Iran nuclear agreement and later escalated tensions in the Persian Gulf by ordering the assassination of General Qasem Soleimani.



Presidency of Donald Trump

January 20, 2017 – January 20, 2021

President Donald Trump

Cabinet *See list*

Party Republican

Election 2016

Seat White House



Seal of the President

Archived website (<https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/>)

Library website (<https://www.trumplibrary.gov/>)

Robert Mueller's Special Counsel investigation (2017–2019) concluded that Russia interfered to favor Trump's candidacy and that while the prevailing evidence "did not establish that members of the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government," possible obstructions of justice occurred during the course of that investigation.

Trump attempted to pressure Ukraine to announce investigations into his political rival Joe Biden, triggering his first impeachment by the House of Representatives on December 18, 2019, but he was acquitted by the Senate on February 5, 2020.

Trump reacted slowly to the COVID-19 pandemic, ignored or contradicted many recommendations from health officials in his messaging, and promoted misinformation about unproven treatments and the availability of testing.

Following his loss in the 2020 presidential election to Biden, Trump refused to concede and initiated an aggressive pursuit to overturn the results, alleging unproven claims of widespread electoral fraud. On January 6, 2021, during a rally at The Ellipse, Trump urged his supporters to "fight like hell" and march to the Capitol, where the electoral votes were being counted by Congress in order to formalize Biden's victory. A mob of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol, suspending the count as Vice President Mike Pence and other members of Congress were evacuated. On January 13, the House voted to impeach Trump an unprecedented second time for "incitement of insurrection," but he was acquitted by the Senate again on February 13.

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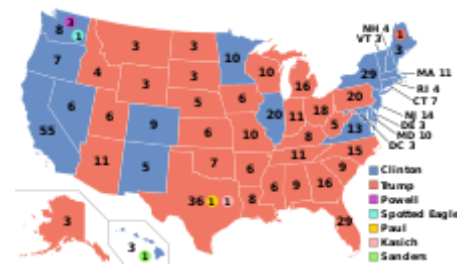
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2016 election

On November 9, 2016, Republicans Donald Trump of New York and Governor Mike Pence of Indiana won the 2016 election, defeating Democrats former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton of New York and Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia. Trump won 304 electoral votes compared to Clinton's 227, though Clinton won a plurality of the popular vote, receiving nearly 2.9 million more votes than Trump. Trump thus became the fifth person to win the presidency while losing the popular vote.^[2] In the concurrent congressional elections, Republicans maintained majorities in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.



The 2016 presidential electoral vote. Five individuals besides Trump and Clinton received electoral votes from faithless electors.

Transition period, inauguration, and first 100 days

Trump was inaugurated on January 20, 2017. He was sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts.^[3] In his seventeen-minute inaugural address, Trump painted a dark picture of contemporary America, pledging to end "American carnage" caused by urban crime and saying America's "wealth, strength, and confidence has dissipated" by jobs lost overseas.^[4] He declared his strategy would be "America First".^[3] At the age of 70, Trump surpassed Ronald Reagan to become the oldest person to assume the presidency until that point^[5] and was also the first without any prior government or military experience.^[6] The largest single-day protest in U.S. history, the Women's March, took place the day after his inauguration and was driven by opposition to Trump and his policies and views.^[7]

One of Trump's major first year accomplishments, made as part of a "100-day pledge," was the confirmation of Neil Gorsuch as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. Despite the Republican Party holding a majority in both houses of Congress, however, he was unable to fulfill another hundred-day promise, repealing the

Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare").^[8]

Administration

The Trump administration was characterized by record turnover, particularly among White House staff. 2018, 43% of senior White House positions had turned over.^[9] The administration had a higher turnover rate in the first two and a half years than the five previous presidents did over their entire terms.^[10]

By October 2019, one in 14 of Trump's political appointees were former lobbyists; less than three years into his presidency, Trump had appointed more than four times as many lobbyists than Obama did over the course of his first six years in office.^[11]

Cabinet

Days after the presidential election, Trump selected RNC Chairman Reince Priebus as his Chief of Staff.^[12] Trump chose Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions for the position of Attorney General.^[13]

In February 2017, Trump formally announced his cabinet structure, elevating the Director of National Intelligence and Director of the CIA to cabinet level. The Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, which had been added to the cabinet by Obama in 2009, was removed from the cabinet. Trump's cabinet consisted of 24 members, more than Obama at 23 or George W. Bush at 21.^[14]

On February 13, 2017, Trump fired Michael Flynn from the post of National Security Advisor on grounds that he had lied to Vice President Pence about his communications with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak; Flynn later pleaded guilty to lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) about his contacts with Russia.^[15] Flynn was fired amidst the ongoing controversy concerning Russian interference in the 2016 election and accusations that Trump's electoral team colluded with Russian agents.

In July 2017, John F. Kelly, who had served as secretary of Homeland Security, replaced Priebus as Chief of Staff.^[16] In September 2017, Tom Price resigned as Secretary of HHS amid criticism over his use of private charter jets for personal travel.^[17] Kirstjen Nielsen succeeded Kelly as Secretary in December 2017.^[18] Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was fired via a tweet in March 2018; Trump appointed Mike Pompeo to replace Tillerson and Gina Haspel to succeed Pompeo as the Director of the CIA.^[19] In the wake of a series of scandals, Scott Pruitt resigned as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in July 2018.^[20]

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis informed Trump of his resignation following Trump's abrupt December 19, 2018 announcement that the remaining 2,000 American troops in Syria would be withdrawn,



Outgoing President Barack Obama and President-elect Donald Trump in the Oval Office on November 10, 2016



Inauguration swearing-in ceremony

The Trump Cabinet		
Office	Name	Term
<u>President</u>	Donald Trump	2017–2021
<u>Vice President</u>	Mike Pence	2017–2021
<u>Secretary of State</u>	Rex Tillerson	2017–2018
	Mike Pompeo	2018–2021
<u>Secretary of the Treasury</u>	Steven Mnuchin	2017–2021
<u>Secretary of Defense</u>	Jim Mattis	2017–2019
	Mark Esper	2019–2020
<u>Attorney General</u>	Jeff Sessions	2017–2018
	William Barr	2019–2020
<u>Secretary of the Interior</u>	Ryan Zinke	2017–2019
	David Bernhardt	2019–2021
<u>Secretary of</u>	Sonny	2017–

against the recommendations of his military and civilian advisors. In his resignation letter, Mattis appeared to criticize Trump's worldview, praising NATO, which Trump has often derided, as well as the Defeat-ISIS coalition Trump had just decided to abandon. Mattis's resignation became effective on December 31, 2018.^[21]

Trump has fired numerous Inspectors General of agencies, including those who were probing the Trump administration and close Trump associates. In 2020, he fired five inspectors general in two months. *The Washington Post* wrote, "For the first time since the system was created in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal, inspectors general find themselves under systematic attack from the president, putting independent oversight of federal spending and operations at risk."^[22]

Dismissal of James Comey

Trump dismissed FBI Director James Comey on May 9, 2017, saying he had accepted the recommendations of Attorney General Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein to dismiss Comey. Sessions's recommendation was based on Rosenstein's, while Rosenstein wrote that Comey should be dismissed for his handling of the conclusion of the FBI investigation into the Hillary Clinton email controversy.^[23] On May 10, Trump met Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. Based on White House notes of the meeting, Trump told the Russians, "I just fired the head of the FBI. He was crazy, a real nut job ... I faced great pressure because of Russia. That's taken off."^[24] On May 11, Trump said in a videoed interview, "... regardless of recommendation, I was going to fire Comey ... in fact, when I decided to just do it, I said to myself, I said, you know, this Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made-up story."^[25] On May 18, Rosenstein told members of the U.S. Senate that he recommended Comey's dismissal while knowing Trump had already decided to fire Comey.^[26] In the aftermath of Comey's firing, the events were compared with those of the "Saturday Night Massacre" during Richard Nixon's administration and there was debate over whether Trump had provoked a constitutional crisis, as he had dismissed the man leading an investigation into Trump's associates.^[27] Trump's statements raised concerns of potential obstruction of justice.^[28] In Comey's memo about a February 2017 meeting with Trump, Comey said Trump attempted to persuade him to abort the investigation into General Flynn.^[29]

Judicial appointments

Senate Republicans, led by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, prioritized confirming Trump's judicial appointees, doing so rapidly.^[30] By November 2018, Trump had appointed 29 judges to the U.S. courts of appeals, more than any modern president in the first two years of a presidential term.^[31] Trump ultimately appointed 226 Article III federal judges and 260 federal judges in total.^[32] His

<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Perdue</u>	2021
<u>Secretary of Commerce</u>	<u>Wilbur Ross</u>	2017–2021
<u>Secretary of Labor</u>	<u>Alexander Acosta</u>	2017–2019
<u>Eugene Scalia</u>		2019–2021
<u>Secretary of Health and Human Services</u>	<u>Tom Price</u>	2017
<u>Alex Azar</u>		2018–2021
<u>Secretary of Housing and Urban Development</u>	<u>Ben Carson</u>	2017–2021
<u>Secretary of Transportation</u>	<u>Elaine Chao</u>	2017–2021
<u>Secretary of Energy</u>	<u>Rick Perry</u>	2017–2019
<u>Dan Brouillette</u>		2019–2021
<u>Secretary of Education</u>	<u>Betsy DeVos</u>	2017–2021
<u>Secretary of Veterans Affairs</u>	<u>David Shulkin</u>	2017–2018
<u>Robert Wilkie</u>		2018–2021
<u>Secretary of Homeland Security</u>	<u>John F. Kelly</u>	2017
	<u>Kirstjen Nielsen</u>	2017–2019
<u>Chad Wolf (acting)</u>		2019–2021
<u>Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency</u>	<u>Scott Pruitt</u>	2017–2018
<u>Andrew Wheeler</u>		2018–2021
<u>Director of the Office of Management and Budget</u>	<u>Mick Mulvaney</u>	2017–2020
<u>Russell Vought</u>		2020–2021
<u>Director of National Intelligence</u>	<u>Dan Coats</u>	2017–2019

appointees, who were usually affiliated with the conservative Federalist Society, shifted the judiciary to the right.^[33] A third of Trump's appointees were under 45 years old when appointed, far higher than under previous presidents.^[33] Trump's judicial nominees were less likely to be female or ethnic minority than those of the previous administration.^[34] Of Trump's judicial appointments to the U.S. courts of appeals (circuit courts), two-thirds were white men, compared to 31% of Obama nominees and 63% of George W. Bush nominees.^{[33][35]}

Supreme Court nominations

Trump has made three nominations to the Supreme Court: Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett:

- Trump nominated Neil Gorsuch in January 2017 to fill the vacancy left by the death of Antonin Scalia in February 2016, which had not been filled by Obama because the Republican-majority Senate did not consider the nomination of Merrick Garland. Gorsuch was confirmed in April 2017 in a mostly party-line vote of 54–45.^[36]
- Trump nominated Brett Kavanaugh in July 2018 to replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was considered a key swing vote on the Supreme Court. The Senate confirmed Kavanaugh in a mostly party-line vote of 50–48 in August 2018 after allegations that Kavanaugh had attempted to rape another student when they were both in high school; Kavanaugh denied the allegation.^{[37][38]}
- Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett in September 2020 to fill the vacancy left by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Ginsburg was considered part of the Court's liberal wing and her replacement with a conservative jurist substantially changed the ideological composition of the Supreme Court.^[39] Democrats opposed the nomination, arguing that the court vacancy should not be filled until after the 2020 presidential election. On October 26, 2020, the Senate confirmed Barrett by a mostly party-line vote of 52–48, with all Democrats opposing her confirmation.^[40]

<u>John Ratcliffe</u>	2020– 2021	
<u>Director of the Central Intelligence Agency</u>	Mike Pompeo	2017– 2018
<u>Gina Haspel</u>	2018– 2021	
<u>United States Trade Representative</u>	Robert Lighthizer	2017– 2021
<u>Ambassador to the United Nations</u>	Nikki Haley	2017– 2018
<u>Kelly Craft</u>	2019– 2021	
<u>Administrator of the Small Business Administration</u>	Linda McMahon	2017– 2019
<u>Jovita Carranza</u>	2020– 2021	
<u>Chief of Staff</u>	Reince Priebus	2017
	John F. Kelly	2017– 2019
Mark Meadows	2020– 2021	



Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett and her family with Trump on September 26, 2020

Leadership style

Trump's own staffers, subordinates, and allies frequently characterized Trump as infantile.^[41] Trump reportedly eschewed reading detailed briefing documents, including the President's Daily Brief, in favor of receiving oral briefings.^{[42][43]} Intelligence briefers reportedly repeated the President's name and title in order to keep his attention.^{[44][45]} He was also known to acquire information by watching up to eight hours of television each day, most notably Fox News programs such as *Fox & Friends* and *Hannity*, whose broadcast talking points Trump sometimes repeated in public statements, particularly in early morning tweets.^{[46][47][48]} Trump reportedly expressed anger if intelligence analyses contradicted his beliefs or public statements, with two briefers stating they had been instructed by superiors to not provide Trump with information that contradicted his public statements.^[45]

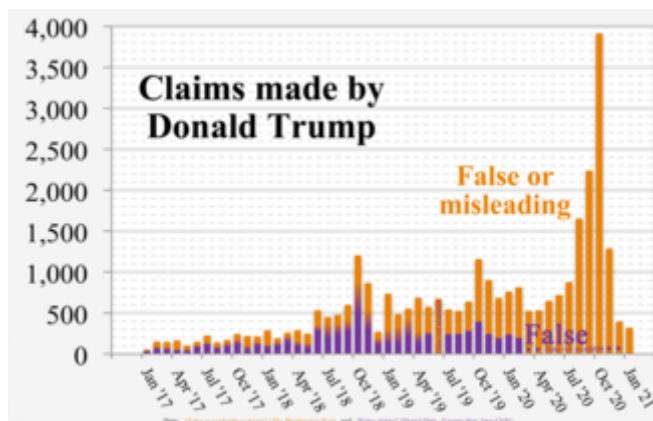
Trump had reportedly fostered chaos as a management technique, resulting in low morale and policy confusion among his staff.^{[49][50]} Trump proved unable to effectively compromise during the 115th U.S. Congress, which led to significant governmental gridlock and few notable legislative accomplishments despite Republican control of both houses of Congress.^[51] Presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin found Trump lacked several traits of an effective leader, including "humility, acknowledging errors, shouldering blame and learning from mistakes, empathy, resilience, collaboration, connecting with people and controlling unproductive emotions".^[52]

In January 2018, Axios reported Trump's working hours were typically around 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (a later start and an earlier end compared to the beginning of his presidency) and that he was holding fewer meetings during his working hours, in order to accommodate Trump's desire for more unstructured free time (labelled as "executive time").^[53] In 2019, Axios published Trump's schedule from November 7, 2018, to February 1, 2019, and calculated that around sixty percent of the time between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. was "executive time".^[54]

False and misleading statements

The number and scale of Trump's statements in public speeches, remarks, and tweets identified as false by scholars, fact-checkers, and commentators has been characterized as unprecedented for an American president,^{[58][59]} or even unprecedented in U.S. politics.^[60] The New Yorker called falsehoods a distinctive part of his political identity,^[61] and they have also been described by Republican political advisor Amanda Carpenter as a gaslighting tactic.^[62] His White House had dismissed the idea of objective truth,^[63] and his campaign and presidency have been described as being "post-truth"^[64] and hyper-Orwellian.^[65] Trump's rhetorical signature included disregarding data from federal institutions which are incompatible to his arguments, quoting hearsay, anecdotal evidence and questionable claims in partisan media, denying reality (including his own statements), and distracting when falsehoods are exposed.^[66]

During the first year of Trump's presidency, The Washington Post's fact-checking team wrote that Trump was "the most fact-challenged politician" it had "ever encountered ... the pace and volume of the president's misstatements means that we cannot possibly keep up."^[67] As president, Trump made more than 5,000 false or misleading claims by September 2018,^[68] and by April 2020, Trump had made 18,000 false or misleading claims while in office, an average of more than 15 claims daily.^[69] The rate of Trump's false and misleading statements increased in the weeks preceding the 2018 midterm elections,^[70] and increased in the first half of 2020.^[69] The most common false and misleading claims by Trump involved the economy and jobs, his border wall proposal, and his tax legislation;^[69] he had also made false statements regarding prior administrations^[69] as well as other topics, including crime, terrorism, immigration, Russia and the Mueller probe, the Ukraine probe, immigration, and the COVID-19 pandemic.^[71] Senior administration officials had also regularly given false, misleading or tortured statements to the news media,^{[72][73]} which made it difficult for the news media to take official statements seriously.^[72]



Fact-checkers from The Washington Post^[55] (orange) the Toronto Star^[56] and CNN^[57] (blue) compiled data on "false or misleading claims," and "false claims," respectively. The peaks in late 2018 correspond to the midterm elections, in late 2019 to his impeachment inquiry, and in late 2020 to the presidential election. The Post reported 30,573 false or misleading claims in 4 years,^[55] an average of more than 20.9 per day.

Rule of law

Shortly before Trump secured the 2016 Republican nomination, *The New York Times* reported "legal experts across the political spectrum say" Trump's rhetoric reflected "a constitutional worldview that shows contempt for the First Amendment, the separation of powers and the rule of law", adding "many conservative and libertarian legal scholars warn that electing Mr. Trump is a recipe for a constitutional crisis."^[74] Political scientists warned that candidate Trump's rhetoric and actions mimicked those of other politicians who ultimately turned authoritarian once in office.^[75] Some scholars have concluded that during Trump's tenure as president and largely due to his actions and rhetoric, the U.S. has experienced democratic backsliding.^{[76][77]} Many prominent Republicans have expressed similar concerns that Trump's perceived disregard for the rule of law betrayed conservative principles.^{[78][79][80][81]}

During the first two years of his presidency, Trump repeatedly sought to influence the Justice Department to investigate his political adversaries – specifically Hillary Clinton, the Democratic National Committee, and FBI Director James Comey, whom he saw as his adversary. He persistently repeated a variety of allegations, at least some of which had already been investigated or debunked.^{[82][83]} In spring 2018, Trump told White House counsel Don McGahn he wanted to order the DOJ to prosecute Clinton and Comey, but McGahn advised Trump such action would constitute abuse of power and invite possible impeachment.^[84] In May 2018, Trump demanded that the DOJ investigate "whether or not the FBI/DOJ infiltrated or surveilled the Trump Campaign for Political Purposes", which the DOJ referred to its inspector general.^[85] Although it is not unlawful for a president to exert influence on the DOJ to open an investigation, presidents have assiduously avoided doing so to prevent perceptions of political interference.^{[85][86]}

Attorney General Jeff Sessions resisted several demands by Trump and his allies for investigations of political opponents, causing Trump to repeatedly express frustration, saying at one point, "I don't have an attorney general."^[87] While criticizing the special counsel investigation in July 2019, Trump falsely claimed that the Constitution ensures that "I have to the right to do whatever I want as president."^[88] Trump had on multiple occasions either suggested or promoted views of extending his presidency beyond normal term limits.^{[89][90]}

Trump frequently criticized the independence of the judiciary branch for unfairly interfering in his administration's ability to decide policy.^[91] In an extraordinary rebuke of a sitting president, in November 2018 Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts criticized Trump's characterization of a judge who had ruled against his policies as an "Obama judge", adding "That's not law."^[92] In October 2020, twenty Republican former U.S. attorneys, who were appointed by every GOP president dating to Eisenhower, characterized Trump as "a threat to the rule of law in our country". Greg Brower, who worked in the Trump administration, asserted, "It's clear that President Trump views the Justice Department and the FBI as his own personal law firm and investigative agency."^[93]

Relationship with the news media

Early into his presidency, Trump developed a highly contentious relationship with the news media, repeatedly referring to them as the "fake news media" and "the enemy of the people".^[94] As a candidate, Trump had refused press credentials for offending publications but said he would not do so if elected.^[95] Trump both privately and publicly mused about taking away critical reporters' White House press credentials.^[96] At the same time, the Trump White House gave temporary press passes to far-right pro-Trump fringe outlets, such as InfoWars and The Gateway Pundit, which are known for publishing hoaxes and conspiracy theories.^{[96][97][98]}

On his first day in office, Trump falsely accused journalists of understating the size of the crowd at his inauguration, and called the news media "among the most dishonest human beings on earth". Trump's claims were notably defended by Press Secretary Sean Spicer, who claimed the inauguration crowd had been the

biggest in history, a claim disproven by photographs.^[99] Trump's senior adviser Kellyanne Conway then defended Spicer when asked about the falsehood, saying it was an "alternative fact", not a falsehood.^[100]

The administration frequently sought to punish and blocked access for reporters that broke stories about the administration.^{[101][102][103][104]} Trump frequently criticized right-wing media outlet Fox News for being insufficiently supportive of him,^[105] threatening to lend his support for alternatives to Fox News on the right.^[106] On August 16, 2018, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution affirming that "the press is not the enemy of the people."^[107]

The relationship between Trump, the news media, and fake news has been studied. One study found that between October 7 and November 14, 2016, while one in four Americans visited a fake news website, "Trump supporters visited the most fake news websites, which were overwhelmingly pro-Trump" and "almost 6 in 10 visits to fake news websites came from the 10% of people with the most conservative online information diets."^{[108][109]} Brendan Nyhan, one of the authors of the study, said in an interview: "People got vastly more misinformation from Donald Trump than they did from fake news websites."^[110]

In October 2018, Trump praised U.S. Representative Greg Gianforte for assaulting political reporter Ben Jacobs in 2017.^[112] According to analysts, the incident marked the first time the president has "openly and directly praised a violent act against a journalist on American soil".^[113] Later that month, as CNN and prominent Democrats were targeted with mail bombs, Trump initially condemned the bomb attempts but shortly thereafter blamed the "Mainstream Media that I refer to as Fake News" for causing "a very big part of the anger we see today in our society".^[114]

The Trump Justice Department obtained by court order the 2017 phone logs or email metadata of reporters from CNN, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, BuzzFeed and *Politico*, as part of investigations into leaks of classified information.^[115]

Twitter

Trump continued his use of Twitter following the presidential campaign. He has continued to personally tweet from @realDonaldTrump, his personal account, while his staff tweet on his behalf using the official @POTUS account. His use of Twitter has been unconventional for a president, with his tweets initiating controversy and becoming news in their own right.^[116] Some scholars have referred to his time in office as the "first true Twitter presidency".^[117] The Trump administration has described Trump's tweets as "official statements by the President of the United States".^[118] A federal judge ruled in 2018 that Trump's blocking of other Twitter users due to opposing political views violated the First Amendment and he must unblock them.^[119] The ruling was upheld on appeal.^{[120][121]}



Trump talks to the press in the Oval Office on March 21, 2017, before signing S.422 (the NASA Transition Authorization Act).



Trump speaks to reporters on the White House South Lawn in June 2019.



During a joint news conference, Trump said he was "very proud" to hear Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro use the term "fake news".^[111]

His tweets have been reported as ill-considered, impulsive, vengeful, and bullying, often being made late at night or in the early hours of the morning.^{[122][123][124]} His tweets about a Muslim ban were successfully turned against his administration to halt two versions of travel restrictions from some Muslim-majority countries.^[125] He has used Twitter to threaten and intimidate his political opponents and potential political allies needed to pass bills.^[126] Many tweets appear to be based on stories Trump has seen in the media, including far-right news websites such as Breitbart, and television shows such as *Fox & Friends*.^{[127][128]}



Twitter activity of Donald Trump from his first tweet in May 2009 to September 2017. Retweets are not included.

Trump has used Twitter to attack federal judges who have ruled against him in court cases^[129] and to criticize officials within his own administration, including then-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, then-National Security Advisor H. R. McMaster, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, and at various times Attorney General Jeff Sessions.^[130] Tillerson was eventually fired via a tweet by Trump.^[131] Trump has also tweeted that his Justice Department is part of the American "deep state";^[132] that "there was tremendous leaking, lying and corruption at the highest levels of the FBI, Justice & State" Departments;^[130] and that the special counsel investigation is a "WITCH HUNT!"^[133] In August 2018, Trump used Twitter to write that Attorney General Jeff Sessions "should stop" the special counsel investigation immediately; he also referred to it as "rigged" and its investigators as biased.^[134]

In February 2020, Trump tweeted criticism of the prosecutors' proposed sentence for Trump's former aide Roger Stone. A few hours later, the Justice Department replaced the prosecutors' proposed sentence with a lighter proposal. This gave the appearance of presidential interference in a criminal case and caused a strong negative reaction. All four of the original prosecutors withdrew from the case; more than a thousand former DOJ prosecutors signed a letter condemning the action.^{[136][137]} On July 10, Trump commuted the sentence of Stone days before he was due to report to prison.^[138]

In response to the mid-2020 George Floyd protests, some of which resulted in looting,^[139] Trump tweeted on May 25 that "when the looting starts, the shooting starts." Not long after, Twitter restricted the tweet for violating the company's policy on promoting violence.^[140] On May 28, Trump signed an executive order which sought to limit legal protections of social media companies.^[141]

On January 8, 2021, Twitter announced that they had permanently suspended Trump's personal account "due to the risk of further incitement of violence" following the storming of the Capitol Building.^[142] Trump announced in his final tweet before the suspension that he would not attend the inauguration of Joe Biden.^[143] Other social media platforms like Facebook, Snapchat, YouTube and others also suspended the official handles of Donald Trump.^{[144][145]}

Twitter Safety [Twitter](#)
[@TwitterSafety](#)

After close review of recent Tweets from the [@realDonaldTrump](#) account and the context around them we have permanently suspended the account due to the risk of further incitement of violence.

January 8, 2021^[135]

Domestic affairs

Agriculture

Due to Trump's trade tariffs combined with depressed commodities prices, American farmers faced the worst crisis in decades.^[146] Trump provided farmers \$12 billion in direct payments in July 2018 to mitigate the negative impacts of his tariffs, increasing the payments by \$14.5 billion in May 2019 after trade talks with China ended without agreement.^[147] Most of the administration's aid went to the largest farms.^[148] *Politico* reported in May 2019 that some economists in the Agriculture Department were being punished for presenting analyses showing farmers were being harmed by Trump's trade and tax policies, with six economists having more than 50 years of combined experience at the Service resigning on the same day.^[149] Trump's fiscal 2020 budget proposed a 15% funding cut for the Agriculture Department, calling farm subsidies "overly generous".^[146]

Consumer protections

The administration reversed a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) rule that had made it easier for aggrieved consumers to pursue class actions against banks; the Associated Press characterized the reversal as a victory for Wall Street banks.^[150] Under Mick Mulvaney's tenure, the CFPB reduced enforcement of rules that protected consumers from predatory payday lenders.^{[151][152]} Trump scrapped a proposed rule from the Obama administration that airlines disclose baggage fees.^[153] Trump reduced enforcement of regulations against airlines; fines levied by the administration in 2017 were less than half of what the Obama administration did the year before.^[154]

Criminal justice

The *New York Times* summarized the Trump administration's "general approach to law enforcement" as "cracking down on violent crime", "not regulating the police departments that fight it", and overhauling "programs that the Obama administration used to ease tensions between communities and the police".^[155] Trump reversed a ban on providing federal military equipment to local police departments^[156] and reinstated the use of civil asset forfeiture.^[157] The administration stated that it would no longer investigate police departments and publicize their shortcomings in reports, a policy previously enacted under the Obama administration. Later, Trump falsely claimed that the Obama administration never tried to reform the police.^{[158][159]}

In December, 2017, the DOJ, under orders from Trump's first Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, rescinded guidelines put in place during the Obama administration intended to warn local courts against imposing excessive fines and fees on poor defendants.^[160]

Despite Trump's pro-police rhetoric, his 2019 budget plan proposed nearly fifty percent cuts to the COPS Hiring Program which provides funding to state and local law enforcement agencies to help hire community policing officers.^[161] Trump appeared to advocate police brutality in a July 2017 speech to police officers, prompting criticism from law enforcement agencies.^[162] In 2020, the DOJ Inspector General criticized the Trump administration for reducing police oversight and eroding public confidence in law enforcement.^[163]

In December 2018, Trump signed the First Step Act, a bipartisan criminal justice reform bill which sought to rehabilitate prisoners and reduce recidivism, notably by expanding job training and early-release



Trump signed new anti-sex-trafficking legislation on April 16, 2018.



Trump pays tribute to fallen police officers on May 15, 2017.

programs, and lowering mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenders.^[164] Trump's proposed 2020 budget underfunded the new law; the law was intended to receive \$75 million annually for five years, but Trump's budget proposed only \$14 million.^[165]

Beginning during his campaign and continuing into his presidency, Trump called for a sweeping investigation into alleged wrongdoing by Hillary Clinton.^{[166][167]} In November 2017, Attorney General Sessions appointed a federal attorney to review a wide array of issues, including the Clinton Foundation, the Uranium One controversy and the FBI's handling of its investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails. In January 2020, the investigation was reported to be winding down after no evidence was found to warrant the opening of a criminal investigation.^[168] Special Counsel Robert Mueller's April 2019 report documented that Trump pressured Sessions and the DOJ to re-open the investigation into Clinton's emails.^[169]

The number of prosecutions of child-sex traffickers has showed a decreasing trend under the Trump administration relative to the Obama administration.^{[170][171]} Under the Trump administration, the SEC charged the fewest number of insider trading cases since the Reagan administration.^[172]

Presidential pardons and commutations

During his presidency, Trump pardoned or commuted the sentences of 237 individuals.^[173] Most of those pardoned had personal or political connections to Trump.^[174] A significant number had been convicted of fraud or public corruption.^[175] Trump circumvented the typical clemency process, taking no action on more than ten thousand pending applications, using the pardon power primarily on "public figures whose cases resonated with him given his own grievances with investigators".^[176]

Drug policy

In a May 2017 departure from the Obama DOJ's policy to reduce long jail sentencing for minor drug offenses and contrary to a growing bipartisan consensus, the administration ordered federal prosecutors to seek maximum sentencing for drug offenses.^[177] In a January 2018 move that created uncertainty regarding the legality of recreational and medical marijuana, Sessions rescinded a federal policy that had barred federal law enforcement officials from aggressively enforcing federal cannabis law in states where the drug is legal.^[178] The administration's decision contradicted then-candidate Trump's statement that marijuana legalization should be "up to the states".^[179] That same month, the VA said it would not research cannabis as a potential treatment against PTSD and chronic pain; veterans organizations had pushed for such a study.^[180]

Capital punishment

During Trump's term (in 2020 and in January 2021), the federal government executed thirteen people in 2020 and January 2021; the first executions since 2002.^[181] In this time period, Trump oversaw more federal executions than any president in the preceding 120 years.^[182]

Disaster relief

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria

Three hurricanes hit the U.S. in August and September 2017: Harvey in southeastern Texas, Irma on the Florida Gulf coast, and Maria in Puerto Rico. Trump signed into law \$15 billion in relief for Harvey and Irma, and later \$18.67 billion for all three.^[183] The administration came under criticism for its delayed response to the humanitarian crisis on Puerto Rico.^[184] Politicians of both parties had called for immediate aid for Puerto

Rico, and criticized Trump for focusing on a feud with the NFL instead.^[185] Trump did not comment on Puerto Rico for several days while the crisis was unfolding.^[186] According to *The Washington Post*, the White House did not feel a sense of urgency until "images of the utter destruction and desperation – and criticism of the administration's response – began to appear on television."^[187] Trump dismissed the criticism, saying distribution of necessary supplies was "doing well". *The Washington Post* noted, "on the ground in Puerto Rico, nothing could be further from the truth."^[187] Trump also criticized Puerto Rico officials.^[188] A *BMJ* analysis found the federal government responded much more quickly and on a larger scale to the hurricane in Texas and Florida than in Puerto Rico, despite the fact that the hurricane in Puerto Rico was more severe.^[183] A 2021 HUD Inspector General investigation found that the Trump administration erected bureaucratic hurdles which stalled approximately \$20 billion in hurricane relief for Puerto Rico.^[189]



Trump signs the Hurricane Harvey relief bill at Camp David, September 8, 2017.

At the time of FEMA's departure from Puerto Rico, one third of Puerto Rico residents still lacked electricity and some places lacked running water.^[190] A *New England Journal of Medicine* study estimated the number of hurricane-related deaths during the period September 20 to December 31, 2017, to be around 4,600 (range 793–8,498)^[191] The official death rate due to Maria reported by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is 2,975; the figure was based on an independent investigation by George Washington University commissioned by the governor of Puerto Rico.^[192] Trump falsely claimed the official death rate was wrong, and said the Democrats were trying to make him "look as bad as possible".^[193]

California wildfires

Trump misleadingly blamed the destructive wildfires in 2018 in California, on "gross" and "poor" "mismanagement" of forests by California, saying there was no other reason for these wildfires. The fires in question were not "forest fires"; that most of the forest was owned by federal agencies; and that climate change in part contributed to the fires.^[194]

In September 2020, California's worst wildfires in history prompted Trump to visit the state. In a briefing to state officials, Trump said that federal assistance was necessary, and again baselessly asserted that the lack of forestry, not climate change, is the underlying cause of the fires.^[195]

Economy

Economic indicators and federal finances under the Obama and Trump administrations
\$ represent U.S. trillions of *unadjusted* dollars

Year	Unemployment ^[196]	GDP ^[197]	Real GDP growth ^[198]	Fiscal data ^{[199][200]}			
				Receipts	Outlays	Deficit	Debt
<i>ending</i>	<i>Dec 31 (calendar year)</i>			<i>Sep 30 (fiscal year)^[1]</i>			
2016*	4.9%	\$18.745	1.7%	\$3.268	\$3.853	– \$0.585	\$14.2
2017	4.4%	\$19.543	2.3%	\$3.316	\$3.982	– \$0.665	\$14.7
2018	3.9%	\$20.612	3.0%	\$3.330	\$4.109	– \$0.779	\$15.8
2019	3.7%	\$21.433	2.2%	\$3.463	\$4.447	– \$0.984	\$16.8
2020	8.1%	\$20.937	–3.5%	\$3.421	\$6.550	– \$3.129	\$21.0

Trump's economic policies have centered on cutting taxes, deregulation, and trade protectionism.

One of Trump's first actions was to indefinitely suspend a cut in fee rates for federally-insured mortgages implemented by the Obama administration which saved individuals with lower credit scores around \$500 per year on a typical loan.^[201] Upon taking office, Trump halted trade negotiations with the European Union on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, which had been underway since 2013.^[202]

The administration proposed changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps), which if implemented would lead millions to lose access to food stamps and limit the amount of benefits for remaining recipients.^[203]

During his tenure, Trump repeatedly sought to intervene in the economy to affect specific companies and industries.^[204] Trump sought to compel power grid operators to buy coal and nuclear energy, and sought tariffs on metals to protect domestic metal producers.^[204] Trump also publicly attacked Boeing and Lockheed Martin, sending their stocks tumbling.^[205] Trump repeatedly singled out Amazon for criticism and advocated steps that would harm the company, such as ending an arrangement between Amazon and the USPS and raising taxes on Amazon.^{[206][207]} Trump expressed opposition to the merger between Time Warner (the parent company of CNN) and AT&T.^[208]

The Trump campaign ran on a policy of reducing America's trade deficit, particularly with China.^[209] The overall trade deficit increased during Trump's presidency.^[210] The goods deficit with China reached a record high for the second consecutive year in 2018.^[211]

A 2021 study, which used the synthetic control method, found no evidence Trump had an impact on the U.S. economy during his time in office.^[212] Analysis conducted by Bloomberg News at the end of Trump's second year in office found that his economy ranked sixth among the last seven presidents, based on fourteen metrics of economic activity and financial performance.^[213] Trump repeatedly and falsely characterized the economy during his presidency as the best in American history.^[214]

In February 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. entered a recession.^{[215][216]}

Taxation

In September 2017, Trump proposed the most sweeping federal tax overhaul in many years.^[217] Trump signed the tax legislation on December 22, 2017, after it passed Congress on party-line votes.^{[218][219][220]} The tax bill was the first major legislation signed by Trump.^[221] The \$1.5 trillion bill reduced the corporate federal tax rate from 35% to 21%,^[219] its lowest point since 1939.^[220] The bill also cut the individual tax rate, reducing the top rate from 39.6% to 37%, although these individual tax cuts expire after 2025;^[219] as a result, "by 2027, every income group making less than \$75,000 would see a net tax increase."^[221] The bill doubled the estate tax exemption (to \$22 million for married couples); and allowed the owners of pass-through businesses to deduct 20% of business income.^[219] The bill doubled the standard deduction while eliminating many itemized deductions,^[221] including the deduction for state and local taxes.^[219] The bill also repeated the individual health insurance mandate contained in the Affordable Care Act.^[221]



Trump and Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg at the 787-10 Dreamliner rollout ceremony

According to *The New York Times*, the plan would result in a "huge windfall" for the very wealthy but would not benefit those in the bottom third of the income distribution.^[217] The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center estimated that the richest 0.1% and 1% would benefit the most in raw dollar amounts and percentage terms

from the tax plan, earning 10.2% and 8.5% more income after taxes respectively.^[222] Middle-class households would on average earn 1.2% more after tax, but 13.5% of middle class households would see their tax burden increase.^[222] The poorest fifth of Americans would earn 0.5% more.^[222] Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin argued that the corporate income tax cut would benefit workers the most, while the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation, the Congressional Budget Office and many economists estimated that owners of capital would benefit vastly more than workers.^[223] A preliminary estimate by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget found that the tax plan would add more than \$2 trillion over the next decade to the federal debt,^[224] while the Tax Policy Center found that it would add \$2.4 trillion to the debt.^[222] A 2019 Congressional Research Service analysis found that the tax cuts had "a relatively small (if any) first-year" growth effect on the economy.^[225] A 2019 analysis by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget concluded that Trump's policies will add \$4.1 trillion to the national debt from 2017 to 2029. Around \$1.8 trillion of debt is projected to eventually arise from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.^[226]

Trade

In March 2018, Trump imposed tariffs on solar panels and washing machines of 30–50%.^[227] In March 2018, he imposed tariffs on steel (25%) and aluminum (10%) from most countries,^{[228][229]} which covered an estimated 4.1% of U.S. imports.^[230] On June 1, 2018, this was extended to the European Union, Canada, and Mexico.^[229] In separate moves, the Trump administration has set and escalated tariffs on goods imported from China, leading to a trade war.^[231] The tariffs angered trading partners, who implemented retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods,^[232] and adversely affected real income and GDP.^[233] A CNBC analysis found that Trump "enacted tariffs equivalent to one of the largest tax increases in decades", while Tax Foundation and Tax Policy Center analyses found the tariffs could wipe out the benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 for many households.^{[234][235]} The two countries reached a "phase one" truce agreement in January 2020. The bulk of the tariffs remained in place until talks were to resume after the 2020 election. Trump provided \$28 billion in cash aid to farmers affected by the trade war.^{[236][237][238]} Studies have found that the tariffs also adversely affected Republican candidates in elections.^[239] An analysis published by *The Wall Street Journal* in October 2020 found the trade war did not achieve the primary objective of reviving American manufacturing, nor did it result in the reshoring of factory production.^[240]

Three weeks after Republican Senator Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, wrote an April 2019 Wall Street Journal op-ed entitled "Trump's Tariffs End or His Trade Deal Dies", stating "Congress won't approve USMCA while constituents pay the price for Mexican and Canadian retaliation," Trump lifted steel and aluminum tariffs on Mexico and Canada.^[241] Two weeks later, Trump unexpectedly announced he would impose a 5% tariff on all imports from Mexico on June 10, increasing to 10% on July 1, and by another 5% each month for three months, "until such time as illegal migrants coming through Mexico, and into our Country, STOP".^[242] Grassley commented the move as a "misuse of presidential tariff authority and counter to congressional intent".^[243] That same day, the Trump administration formally initiated the process to seek congressional approval of USMCA.^[244] Trump's top trade advisor, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, opposed the new Mexican tariffs on concerns it would jeopardize passage of USMCA.^[245] Treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin and Trump senior advisor Jared Kushner also opposed the action. Grassley, whose committee is instrumental in passing USMCA, was not informed in advance of Trump's surprise announcement.^[246] On June 7, Trump announced the tariffs would be "indefinitely suspended" after Mexico agreed to take actions, including deploying its National Guard throughout the country and along its southern border.^[247] *The New York Times* reported the following day that Mexico had actually agreed to most of the actions months earlier.^[248]

Education

Trump appointed Betsy DeVos as his Secretary of Education. Her nomination was confirmed on a 50–50 Senate vote with Vice President Pence called upon to break the tie (the first time a vice president had cast a tie-breaking vote on a Cabinet nomination).^[249] Democrats opposed DeVos as underqualified, while Republicans supported DeVos because of her strong support of school choice.^[249]

In 2017, Trump revoked an Obama administration memo which provided protections for people in default on student loans.^[250] The Education Department cancelled agreements with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to police student loan fraud.^[251] The administration rescinded a regulation restricting federal funding to for-profit colleges unable to demonstrate that college graduates had a reasonable debt-to-earnings ratio after entering the job market.^[252]

Seth Frotman, the CFPB student loan ombudsman, resigned, accusing the Trump administration of undermining the CFPB's work on protecting student borrowers.^[253] DeVos marginalized an investigative unit within the Department of Education that under Obama investigated predatory activities by for-profit colleges. An investigation started under Obama into the practices of DeVry Education Group, which operates for-profit colleges, was halted in early 2017, and the former dean at DeVry was made into the supervisor for the investigative unit later that summer. DeVry paid a \$100 million fine in 2016 for defrauding students.^[254]

In 2017, DeVos said the Obama administration's guidance for how campuses address sexual assault "failed too many students" and she announced that she intended to replace the current approach "with a workable, effective and fair system".^[255] Consequently, the administration scrapped an Obama administration guidance on how schools and universities should combat sexual harassment and sexual violence. DeVos criticized the guidance for undermining the rights of those accused of sexual harassment.^[256]

Election integrity

On the eve of the 2018 midterm elections, *Politico* described the Trump administration's efforts to combat election propaganda as "rudderless". At the same time, U.S. intelligence agencies warned about "ongoing campaigns" by Russia, China, and Iran to influence American elections.^[257]

Energy

The administration's "America First Energy Plan" did not mention renewable energy and instead focused on fossil fuels.^[258] The administration enacted 30% tariffs on imported solar panels. The American solar energy industry is highly reliant on foreign parts (80% of parts are made abroad); as a result, the tariffs could raise the costs of solar energy, reduce innovation and reduce jobs in the industry – which in 2017 employed nearly four times as many American workers as the coal industry.^{[259][260]} The administration reversed standards put in place to make commonly used lightbulbs more energy-efficient.^[261]

Trump rescinded a rule requiring oil, gas and mining firms to disclose how much they paid foreign governments,^[262] and withdrew from the international Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) which required disclosure of payments by oil, gas and mining companies to governments.^[263]

In 2017, Trump ordered the reversal of an Obama-era ban on new oil and gas leasing in the Arctic Ocean and environmentally sensitive areas of the North Atlantic coast, in the Outer Continental Shelf.^[264] Trump's order was halted by a federal court, which ruled in 2019 that it unlawfully exceeded his authority.^[264] Trump also



Trump and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos visit Saint Andrew's Catholic School in Orlando, Florida, March 3, 2017.

revoked the 2016 Well Control Rule, a safety regulation adopted after the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill; this action is the subject of legal challenges from environmental groups.^{[265][266][267]}

In January 2018, the administration singled out Florida for exemption from the administration's offshore drilling plan. The move stirred controversy because it came after Florida Governor Rick Scott, who was considering a 2018 Senate run, complained about the plan. The move raised ethical questions about the appearance of "transactional favoritism" because Trump owns a coastal resort in Florida, and because of the state's status as a crucial "swing state" in the 2020 presidential election.^[268] Other states sought similar offshore drilling exemptions,^[269] and litigation ensued.^{[270][271]}

Despite rhetoric about boosting the coal industry, coal-fueled electricity generating capacity declined faster during Trump's presidency than during any previous presidential term, falling 15% with the idling of 145 coal-burning units at 75 power plants. An estimated 20% of electricity was expected to be generated by coal in 2020, compared to 31% in 2017.^[272]



April 2017 Trump rally in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

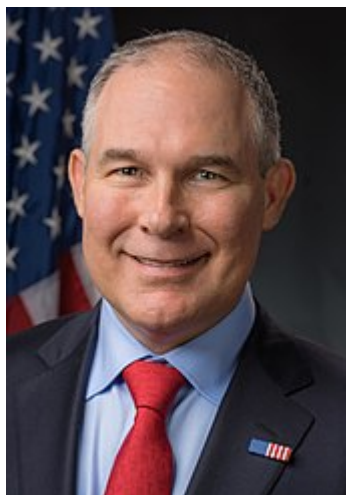
Environment

By October 2020, the administration had overturned 72 environmental regulations and was in process of reversing an additional 27.^[273] A 2018 *American Journal of Public Health* study found that in Trump's first six months in office, the EPA adopted a pro-business attitude unlike that of any previous administration, as it "moved away from the public interest and explicitly favored the interests of the regulated industries".^[274]

Analyses of EPA enforcement data showed that the Trump administration brought fewer cases against polluters, sought a lower total of civil penalties and made fewer requests of companies to retrofit facilities to curb pollution than the Obama and Bush administrations. According to the *New York Times*, "confidential internal E.P.A. documents show that the enforcement slowdown coincides with major policy changes ordered by Mr. Pruitt's team after pleas from oil and gas industry executives."^[275] In 2018, the administration referred the lowest number of pollution cases for criminal prosecution in 30 years.^[276] Two years into Trump's presidency, *The New York Times* wrote he had "unleashed a regulatory rollback, lobbied for and cheered on by industry, with little parallel in the past half-century".^[277] In June 2018, David Cutler and Francesca Dominici of Harvard University estimated conservatively that the Trump administration's modifications to environmental rules could result in more than 80,000 additional U.S. deaths and widespread respiratory ailments.^[278] In August 2018, the administration's own analysis showed that loosening coal plant rules could cause up to 1,400 premature deaths and 15,000 new cases of respiratory problems.^[279] From 2016 to 2018, air pollution increased by 5.5%, reversing a seven-year trend where air pollution had declined by 25%.^[280]

All references to climate change were removed from the White House website, with the sole exception of mentioning Trump's intention to eliminate the Obama administration's climate change policies.^[281] The EPA removed climate change material on its website, including detailed climate data.^[282] In June 2017, Trump announced U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, a 2015 climate change accord reached by 200 nations to cut greenhouse gas emissions.^[283] In December 2017, Trump – who had repeatedly called scientific consensus on climate a "hoax" before becoming president – falsely implied that cold weather meant climate change was not occurring.^[284] Through executive order, Trump reversed multiple Obama administration policies meant to tackle climate change, such as a moratorium on federal coal leasing, the Presidential Climate Action Plan, and guidance for federal agencies on taking climate change into account during National Environmental Policy Act action reviews. Trump also ordered reviews and possibly modifications to several

directives, such as the Clean Power Plan (CPP), the estimate for the "social cost of carbon" emissions, carbon dioxide emission standards for new coal plants, methane emissions standards from oil and natural gas extraction, as well as any regulations inhibiting domestic energy production.^[285] The administration rolled back regulations requiring the federal government to account for climate change and sea-level rise when building infrastructure.^[286] The EPA disbanded a 20-expert panel on pollution which advised the EPA on the appropriate threshold levels to set for air quality standards.^[287]



Official portrait of Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator

The administration has repeatedly sought to reduce the EPA budget.^[288] The administration invalidated the Stream Protection Rule, which limited dumping of toxic wastewater containing metals, such as arsenic and mercury, into public waterways,^[289] regulations on coal ash (carcinogenic leftover waste produced by coal plants),^[290] and an Obama-era executive order on protections for oceans, coastlines and lakes enacted in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.^[291] The administration refused to act on recommendations from EPA scientists urging greater regulation of particulate pollution.^[292]

The administration rolled back major Clean Water Act protections, narrowing the definition of the "waters of the United States" under federal protection.^[293] Studies by the Obama-era EPA suggest that up to two-thirds of California's inland freshwater streams would lose protections under the rule change.^[294] The EPA sought to repeal a regulation which required oil and gas companies to restrict emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.^[295] The EPA rolled back automobile fuel efficiency standards introduced in 2012.^[296] The EPA granted a loophole allowing a small set of trucking companies to skirt emissions rules and produce trucks that emit 40 to 55 times the air pollutants of other new trucks.^[297] The EPA rejected a ban on the toxic pesticide chlorpyrifos; a federal court then ordered the EPA to ban chlorpyrifos, because the EPA's own extensive research showed it caused adverse health effects in children.^[277] The administration scaled back the ban on the use of the solvent methylene chloride,^[298] and lifted a rule requiring major farms to report pollution emitted through animal waste.^[299]

The administration suspended funding on several environmental research studies,^{[300][301]} a multi-million-dollar program that distributed grants for research the effects of chemical exposure on children^{[302][303]} and \$10-million-a-year research line for NASA's Carbon Monitoring System.^[304] including an unsuccessful attempt to kill aspects of NASA's climate science program.^[304]

The EPA expedited the process for approving new chemicals and made the process of evaluating the safety of those chemicals less stringent; EPA scientists expressed concerns that the agency's ability to stop hazardous chemicals was being compromised.^{[305][306]} Internal emails showed that Pruitt aides prevented the publication of a health study showing some toxic chemicals endanger humans at far lower levels than the EPA previously characterized as safe.^[307] One such chemical was present in high quantities around several military bases, including groundwater.^[307] The non-disclosure of the study and the delay in public knowledge of the findings may have prevented the government from updating the infrastructure at the bases and individuals who lived near the bases to avoid the tap water.^[307]

The administration weakened enforcement the Endangered Species Act, making it easier to start mining, drilling and construction projects in areas with endangered and threatened species.^{[308][309]} The administration has actively discouraged local governments and businesses from undertaking preservation efforts.^[309]

The administration sharply reduced the size of two national monuments in Utah by approximately two million acres, making it the largest reduction of public land protections in American history.^[310] Shortly afterwards, Interior Secretary Zinke advocated for downsizing four additional national monuments and changing the way

six additional monuments were managed.^[311] In 2019, the administration sped up the process for environmental reviews for oil and gas drilling in the Arctic; experts said the speeding up made reviews less comprehensive and reliable.^[312] According to *Politico*, the administration sped up the process in the event that a Democratic administration was elected in 2020, which would have halted new oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.^[312] The administration sought to open up more than 180,000 acres of the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, the largest in the country, for logging.^[313]

In April 2018, Pruitt announced a policy change prohibiting EPA regulators from considering scientific research unless the raw data of the research was made publicly available. This would limit EPA regulators' use of much environmental research, given that participants in many such studies provide personal health information which is kept confidential.^[314] The EPA cited two bipartisan reports and various nonpartisan studies about the use of science in government to defend the decision. However, the authors of those reports dismissed that the EPA followed their instructions, with one author saying, "They don't adopt any of our recommendations, and they go in a direction that's opposite, completely different. They don't adopt any of the recommendations of *any* of the sources they cite."^[315]

In July 2020, Trump moved to weaken the National Environmental Policy Act by limiting public review to speed up permitting.^[316]

Government size and regulations

The administration imposed far fewer financial penalties against banks and major companies accused of wrong-doing relative to the Obama administration.^[317]

In the first six weeks of his tenure, Trump suspended – or in a few cases, revoked – more than 90 regulations.^[318] In early 2017, Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to slash two existing regulations for every new one (without spending on regulations going up).^[319] A September 2017 Bloomberg BNA review found that due to unclear wording in the order and the large proportion of regulations it exempts, the order had had little effect since it was signed.^[320] The Trump OMB released an analysis in February 2018 indicating the economic benefits of regulations significantly outweigh the economic costs.^[321] The administration ordered one-third of government advisory committees for federal agencies eliminated, except for committees that evaluate consumer product safety or committees that approve research grants.^[322]

Trump ordered a four-month government-wide hiring freeze of the civilian work force (excluding staff in the military, national security, public safety and offices of new presidential appointees) at the start of his term.^[323] He said he did not intend to fill many of the governmental positions that were still vacant, as he considered them unnecessary;^[324] there were nearly 2,000 vacant government positions.^[325]

The administration ended the requirement that nonprofits, including political advocacy groups who collect so-called dark money, disclose the names of large donors to the IRS; the Senate voted to overturn the administration's rule change.^[326]

Guns

The administration banned bump stocks after such devices were used by the gunman who perpetrated the 2017 Las Vegas shooting.^[327] In the wake of several mass shootings during the Trump administration, including August 2019 shootings in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio, Trump called on states to implement red flag laws to remove guns from "those judged to pose a grave risk to public safety".^[328] By November 2019, he abandoned the idea of red-flag laws.^[329] Trump repealed a regulation that barred gun ownership from approximately 75,000 individuals who received Social Security checks due to mental illness and who

were deemed unfit to handle their financial affairs.^[330] The administration ended U.S. involvement in the UN Arms Trade Treaty to curb the international trade of conventional arms with countries having poor human rights records.^[331]

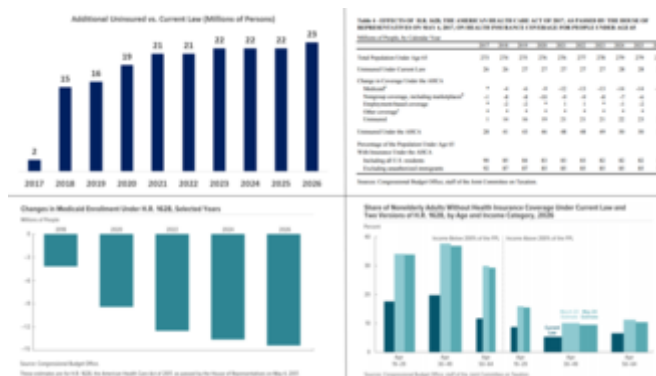
Health care

The 2010 Affordable Care Act (also known as "Obamacare" or the ACA) elicited major opposition from the Republican Party from its inception, and Trump called for a repeal of the law during the 2016 election campaign.^[333] On taking office, Trump promised to pass a healthcare bill that would cover everyone and result in better and less expensive insurance.^[334] Throughout his presidency, Trump repeatedly asserted that his administration and Republicans in Congress supported protections for individuals with preexisting conditions; however, fact-checkers noted the administration supported attempts both in Congress and in the courts to roll back the ACA (and its protections for preexisting conditions).^{[335][336][337][338]}



HHS Secretary Alex Azar

Congressional Republicans made two serious efforts to repeal the ACA. First, in March 2017, Trump endorsed the American Health Care Act (AHCA), a Republican bill to repeal and replace the ACA.^[339] Opposition from several House Republicans, both moderate and conservative, led to the defeat of this version of the bill.^[339] Second in May 2017, the House narrowly voted in favor of a new version of the AHCA to repeal the ACA, sending the bill to the Senate for deliberation.^[339] Over the next weeks the Senate made several attempts to create a repeal bill; however, all the proposals were ultimately rejected in a series of Senate votes in late July.^[339] The individual mandate was repealed in December 2017 by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The CBO estimated in May 2018 that repealing the individual mandate would increase the number of uninsured by eight million and that individual healthcare insurance premiums had increased by ten percent between 2017 and 2018.^[340] The administration later sided with a lawsuit to overturn the ACA, including protections for individuals with pre-existing conditions.^[341]



The CBO estimated in May 2017 that the Republican AHCA would reduce the number of people with health insurance by 23 million during 2026, relative to current law.^[332]

Trump repeatedly expressed a desire to "let Obamacare fail",^[342] and the Trump administration undermined Obamacare through various actions.^[343] The open enrollment period was cut from twelve weeks to six, the advertising budget for enrollment was cut by 90%, and organizations helping people shop for coverage got 39% less money.^{[344][345][346]} The CBO found that ACA enrollment at health care exchanges would be lower than its previous forecasts due to the Trump administration's undermining of the ACA.^[344] A 2019 study found that enrollment into the ACA during the Trump administration's first year was nearly thirty percent lower than during 2016.^[347] The CBO found that insurance premiums would rise sharply in 2018 due to the Trump administration's refusal to commit to continuing paying ACA subsidies, which added uncertainty to the insurance market and led insurers to raise premiums for fear they will not get subsidized.^[344]

The administration ended subsidy payments to health insurance companies, in a move expected to raise premiums in 2018 for middle-class families by an average of about twenty percent nationwide and cost the federal government nearly \$200 billion more than it saved over a ten-year period.^[348] The administration made it easier for businesses to use health insurance plans not covered by several of the ACA's protections, including for preexisting conditions,^[336] and allowed organizations not to cover birth control.^[349] In justifying the action, the administration made false claims about the health harms of contraceptives.^[350]

The administration proposed substantial spending cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security Disability Insurance. Trump had previously vowed to protect Medicare and Medicaid.^{[351][352]} The administration reduced enforcement of penalties against nursing homes that harm residents.^[353] As a candidate and throughout his presidency, Trump said he would cut the costs of pharmaceuticals. During his first seven months in office, there were 96 price hikes for every drug price cut.^[354] Abandoning a promise he made as candidate, Trump announced he would not allow Medicare to use its bargaining power to negotiate lower drug prices.^[355]

Reproductive rights

Trump reinstated the Mexico City policy prohibiting funding to foreign non-governmental organizations that perform abortions as a method of family planning in other countries.^[356] The administration implemented a policy restricting taxpayer dollars given to family planning facilities that mention abortion to patients, provide abortion referrals, or share space with abortion providers.^{[357][358]} As a result, Planned Parenthood, which provides Title X birth control services to 1.5 million women, withdrew from the program.^[359] Throughout his presidency, Trump pressed for a ban on late-term abortions and made frequent false claims about them.^{[360][361][362]}

In 2018, the administration prohibited scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from acquiring new fetal tissue for research,^[363] and a year later stopped all medical research by government scientists that used fetal tissue.^[364]

The administration geared HHS funding towards abstinence education programs for teens rather than the comprehensive sexual education programs the Obama administration funded.^[365]

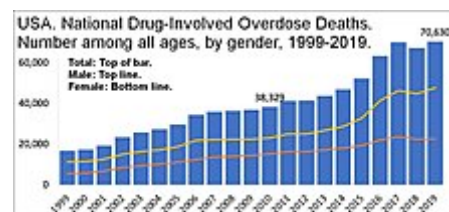
Opioid epidemic

Trump nominated Tom Marino to become the nation's drug czar but the nomination was withdrawn after an investigation found he had been the chief architect of a bill that crippled the enforcement powers of the DEA and worsened the opioid crisis in the United States.^[367]

Kellyanne Conway led White House efforts to combat the opioid epidemic; Conway had no experience or expertise on matters of public health, substance abuse, or law enforcement.^[368] Conway sidelined drug experts and opted instead for the use of political staff.

Politico wrote in 2018 that the administration's "main response" to the opioid crisis "so far has been to call for a border wall and to promise a 'just say no' campaign".^[368]

In October 2017, the administration declared a 90-day public health emergency over the opioid epidemic and pledged to urgently mobilize the federal government in response to the crisis. On January 11, 2018, twelve days before the declaration ran out, *Politico* noted that "beyond drawing more attention to the crisis, virtually nothing of consequence has been done."^[369] The administration had not proposed any new resources or spending, had not started the promised advertising campaign to spread awareness about addiction, and had yet



Drug overdoses killed 70,200 in the United States in 2017.^[366]

to fill key public health and drug positions in the administration.^[369] One of the top officials at the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which is tasked with multi-billion-dollar anti-drug initiatives and curbing the opioid epidemic, was a 24-year old campaign staffer from the Trump 2016 campaign who lied on his CV and whose stepfather went to jail for manufacturing illegal drugs; after the administration was contacted about the official's qualifications and CV, the administration gave him a job with different tasks.^[370]



Trump at the 15th Annual Opioid Takeback Day

COVID-19 pandemic

In 2018, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump administration reorganized the Global Health Security and Biodefense unit at the NSC, by merging it with other related units.^[371] Two months prior to the outbreak in Wuhan China, the Trump Administration had cut nearly \$200 million in funding to Chinese research scientists studying animal coronaviruses.^[372] Throughout his presidency he also proposed budget cuts to global health.^[373] The Trump administration ignored detailed plans on how to mass-produce protective respirator masks under a program that had been launched by the Obama administration to alleviate a mask shortage for a future pandemic.^[374]



Trump receives a briefing on COVID-19 in the White House Situation Room.

From January 2020 to mid-March 2020, Trump consistently downplayed the threat posed by the coronavirus to the United States, giving many optimistic public statements.^[375] He accused Democrats and media outlets of exaggerating the seriousness of the situation, describing Democrats' criticism of his administration's response as a "hoax".^{[376][377]} By March 2020, however, Trump had adopted a more somber tone on the matter, acknowledging for the first time that the coronavirus was "not under control".^{[378][379]} Although the CDC recommended people wear face masks in public when social distancing is not possible, Trump continually refused to wear one.^[380] He praised and encouraged protesters who violated stay-at-home orders in Democratic states, as well as praised Republican governors who violated the White House's own coronavirus guidelines regarding re-opening their economies.^{[381][382]}

The White House Coronavirus Task Force was led by Vice President Mike Pence and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner.^[383] Congress appropriated \$8.3 billion in emergency funding, which Trump signed into law on March 6.^[384] During his oval office address on March 11, Trump announced an imminent travel ban between Europe and the U.S. The announcement caused chaos in European and American airports, as Americans abroad scrambled to get flights back to the U.S. The administration later had to clarify that the travel ban applied to foreigners coming from the Schengen Area, and later added Ireland and the UK to the list.^{[385][386]} Previously, in late January 2020, the administration banned travel to the U.S. from China; prior to the decision, major U.S. carriers had already announced that they would no longer fly to and from China.^[387] On March 13, Trump designated the coronavirus pandemic as a national emergency, as the number of known cases of the coronavirus in the country exceeded 1,500, while known deaths exceeded 40.^[388]

Although the U.S. government was initially quick to develop a diagnostic test for the coronavirus, U.S. COVID-19 testing efforts from mid-January to late-February lost pace compared to the rest of the world.^[389] ABC News described the testing as "shockingly slow".^[390] When the WHO distributed 1.4 million coronavirus tests in February, the U.S. chose instead to use its own tests. At that time, the CDC had produced 160,000 coronavirus tests, but many were defective. As a result, fewer than 4,000 tests were done in the U.S. by February 27, with U.S. state laboratories conducting only about 200. In this period, academic laboratories and hospitals had developed their own tests, but were not allowed to use them until February 29, when the

Food and Drug Administration issued approvals for them and private companies.^[391] A comprehensive *New York Times* investigation concluded that "technical flaws, regulatory hurdles, business-as-usual bureaucracies and lack of leadership at multiple levels" contributed to the testing failures.^[392] An Associated Press investigation found the administration made its first bulk orders for vital health care equipment, such as N95 respirator masks and ventilators, in mid-March.^[393]

On March 26, the U.S. became the country with the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 infections, with over 82,000 cases.^[394] On April 11, the U.S. became the country with the highest official death toll for COVID-19, with over 20,000 deaths.^[395] The HHS Inspector General released a report in April of its survey of 323 hospitals in late March; reporting severe shortages of test supplies and extended waits for results, widespread shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), and other strained resources due to extended patient stays while awaiting test results.^{[396][397]} Trump called the IG's report "just wrong", and subsequently Trump replaced the Inspector General.^[398]



Trump was hospitalized at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center following his COVID-19 diagnosis on October 3, 2020.

In May 2020, five months into the pandemic, Trump announced that the U.S. would withdraw from the WHO.^[399] In July 2020, Trump's Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, formally notified the UN of U.S. decision to withdraw from the WHO, to take effect on July 6, 2021.^{[400][401]} Biden reversed Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the WHO on January 20, 2021, on his first day in office.^[400]

In June 2020, amid surges in coronavirus case numbers, Trump administration officials falsely claimed that the steep rise was due to increased testing; public health experts disputed the administration's claims, noting that the positivity rate of tests was increasing.^{[402][403]}

In October 2020, after a superspreader event at the White House, Trump announced that he and Melania Trump had tested positive for COVID-19 and would begin quarantining at the White House.^[404] Despite having the virus, Trump did not self-isolate and did not abstain from unnecessary risky behaviors. Trump was criticized for leaving his hospital room at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to go on a joyride to greet his supporters, thus exposing Secret Service agents to the disease.^[405]

The Trump administration left a non-existent plan for vaccine distribution to the Biden administration.^[406] In the last quarter of 2020, the Trump administration lobbied Congress not to provide funding to states for vaccine rollout, thus hindering the vaccination effort.^[407]

Housing and urban policy

In December 2017, *The Economist* described the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), led by Ben Carson, as "directionless".^[408] Most of the top HUD positions were unfilled and Carson's leadership was "inconspicuous and inscrutable".^[408] Of the policies HUD was enacting, *The Economist* wrote, "it is hard not to conclude that the governing principle at HUD is to take whatever the Obama administration was doing, and do the opposite."^[408] HUD scaled back the enforcement of fair housing laws, halted several fair housing investigations started by the Obama administration^[409] and removed the words "inclusive" and "free from discrimination" from its mission statement.^[409] The administration designated Lynne



Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, first day on the job

Patton, an event planner who had worked on the Trump campaign and planned Eric Trump's wedding, to lead HUD's New York and New Jersey office (which oversees billions of federal dollars).^[410]

Immigration

Trump has repeatedly characterized illegal immigrants as criminals, although multiple studies have found they have lower crime and incarceration rates than native-born Americans.^[411] Prior to taking office, Trump promised to deport the estimated eleven million illegal immigrants living in the United States and to build a wall along the Mexico–U.S. border.^[412] During his presidency, Trump reduced legal immigration substantially while the illegal immigrant population remained the same.^[413] The administration took several steps to limit the rights of legal immigrants, which included attempted revocations of Temporary Protected Status for Central American refugees,^[414] 60,000 Haitians (who emigrated following the 2010 Haiti earthquake),^[415] and 200,000 Salvadorans (who emigrated following a series of devastating earthquakes in 2001)^[416] as well as making it illegal for refugees and asylum seekers,^[417] and spouses of H-1B visa holders to work in the U.S.^[418] A federal judge blocked the administration's attempt to deport the TPS recipients, citing what the judge said was Trump's racial "animus against non-white, non-European immigrants".^[419] The administration slashed refugee admissions to record low levels (since the modern program began in 1980).^[420] The administration made it harder non-citizens who served in the military to receive necessary paperwork to pursue U.S. citizenship.^[421] The administration's key legislative proposal on immigration was the 2017 RAISE Act, a proposal to reduce legal immigration levels to the U.S. by fifty percent by halving the number of green cards issued, capping refugee admissions at 50,000 a year and ending the visa diversity lottery.^[422] In 2020, the Trump administration set the lowest cap for refugees in the modern history of the United States for the subsequent year: 15,000 refugees.^[423] The administration increased fees for citizen applications, as well as caused delays in the processing of citizen applications.^[424]



Chad Wolf, acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security

By February 2018, arrests of undocumented immigrants by ICE increased by forty percent during Trump's tenure. Arrests of noncriminal undocumented immigrants were twice as high as during Obama's final year in office. Arrests of undocumented immigrants with criminal convictions increased only slightly.^[425] In 2018, experts noted that the Trump administration's immigration policies had led to an increase in criminality and lawlessness along the U.S.–Mexico border, as asylum seekers prevented by U.S. authorities from filing for asylum had been preyed upon by human smugglers, organized crime and corrupt local law enforcement.^[426] To defend administration policies on immigration, the administration fudged data and presented intentionally misleading analyses of the costs associated with refugees (omitting data that showed net positive fiscal effects),^[427] as well as created the Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement to highlight crimes committed by undocumented immigrants (there is no evidence undocumented immigrants increase the U.S. crime rate).^[428] In January 2018, Trump was widely criticized after referring to Haiti, El Salvador, and African nations in general as "shithole countries" at a bipartisan meeting on immigration. Multiple international leaders condemned his remarks as racist.^[429]

Upon taking office, Trump directed the DHS to begin work on a wall.^[430] An internal DHS report estimated Trump's wall would cost \$21.6 billion and take 3.5 years to build (far higher than the Trump 2016 campaign's estimate (\$12 billion) and the \$15 billion estimate from Republican congressional leaders).^[431] In a January 2017 phone call between Trump and Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto, Trump conceded that the U.S. would pay for the border wall, not Mexico as he promised during the campaign, and implored Nieto to stop saying publicly the Mexican government would not pay for the border wall.^[432] In January 2018, the administration proposed spending \$18 billion over the next ten years on the wall, more than half of the

\$33 billion spending blueprint for border security.^[433] Trump's plan would reduce funding for border surveillance, radar technology, patrol boats and customs agents; experts and officials say these are more effective at curbing illegal immigration and preventing terrorism and smuggling than a border wall.^[433]

The administration sought to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census, which experts warned would likely result in severe undercounting of the population and faulty data,^[434] with naturalized U.S. citizens, legal immigrants, and undocumented immigrants all being less likely to respond to the census.^[435] Blue states were estimated to get fewer congressional seats and lower congressional appropriations than they would otherwise get, because they have larger non-citizen populations.^[436] Thomas B. Hofeller, an architect of Republican gerrymandering, had found adding the census question would help to gerrymander maps that "would be advantageous to Republicans and non-Hispanic whites" and that Hofeller had later written the key portion of a letter from the Trump administration's Justice Department justifying the addition of a citizenship question by claiming it was needed to enforce the 1965 Voting Rights Act.^[437] In July 2019, the Supreme Court in Department of Commerce v. New York blocked the administration from including the citizenship question on the census form.^[438]

During the 2018 mid-term election campaign, Trump sent nearly 5,600 troops to the U.S.–Mexico border for the stated purpose of protecting the United States against a caravan of Central American migrants.^[439] The Pentagon had previously concluded the caravan posed no threat to the U.S. The border deployment was estimated to cost as much as \$220 million by the end of the year.^[440] With daily warnings from Trump about the dangers of the caravan during the mid-term election campaign, the frequency and intensity of the caravan rhetoric nearly stopped after election day.^[441]

Family separation policy

In May 2018, the administration announced it would separate children from parents caught unlawfully crossing the southern border into the United States. Parents were routinely charged with a misdemeanor and jailed; their children were placed in separate detention centers with no established procedure to track them or reunite them with their parent after they had served time for their offence, generally only a few hours or days.^[442] Later that month, Trump falsely accused Democrats of creating that policy, despite it originating from his own administration, and urged Congress to "get together" and pass an immigration bill.^[443] Members of Congress from both parties condemned the practice and pointed out that the White House could end the separations on its own.^[444] The Washington Post quoted a White House official as saying Trump's decision to separate migrant families was to gain political leverage to force Democrats and moderate Republicans to accept hardline immigration legislation.^[445]



June 2018 protest against the Trump administration family separation policy, in Chicago, Illinois

Six weeks into the implementation of the "zero tolerance" policy, at least 2,300 migrant children had been separated from their families.^[446] The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians and the American Psychiatric Association condemned the policy, with the American Academy of Pediatrics saying the policy was causing "irreparable harm" to the children.^{[447][445]} The policy was extremely unpopular, more so than any major piece of legislation in recent memory.^[448] Videos and images of children held in cage-like detention centers, distraught parents separated from their children, and sobbing children caused an outcry.^[446] After criticism, DHS secretary Kirstjen Nielsen falsely claimed that "We do not have a policy of separating families at the border."^[449]

On June 20, 2018, amid worldwide outrage and enormous political pressure to roll back his policy, Trump reversed the family-separation policy by signing an executive order,^[446] despite earlier having said "you can't do it through an executive order."^[446] Six days later, as the result of a class-action lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw issued a nationwide preliminary injunction against the family-separation policy, and required the government to reunite separated families within 30 days.^[450] By November 2020, the parents of 666 children still had not been found.^[451] The administration has refused to provide funds to cover the expenses of reuniting families, and volunteer organizations continue to provide both volunteers and funding.^{[452][453][454]} The administration also refused to pay for mental health services for the families and orphaned children traumatized by the separations.^[455]

Travel bans

In January 2017, Trump signed an executive order which indefinitely suspended admission of asylum seekers fleeing the Syrian Civil War, suspended admission of all other refugees for 120 days, and denied entry to citizens of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for 90 days. The order also established a religious test for refugees from Muslim nations by giving priority to refugees of other religions over Muslim refugees.^[456] Later, the administration seemed to reverse a portion of part of the order, effectively exempting visitors with a green card.^[457] After the order was challenged in the federal courts, several federal judges issued rulings enjoining the government from enforcing the order.^[457] Trump fired acting Attorney General Sally Yates after she said she would not defend the order in court; Yates was replaced by Dana Boente, who said the DOJ would defend the order.^[458]



Trump signs Executive Order 13769 at the Pentagon. Vice President Mike Pence (left) and Secretary of Defense James Mattis look on, January 27, 2017.

A new executive order was signed in March which limited travel to the U.S. from six different countries for 90 days, and by all refugees who do not possess either a visa or valid travel documents for 120 days.^[459] The new executive order revoked and replaced the executive order issued in January.^[460]

In June, the Supreme Court partially stayed certain injunctions that were put on the order by two federal appeals courts earlier, allowing the executive order to mostly go into effect. In October, the Court dismissed the case, saying the orders had been replaced by a new proclamation, so challenges to the previous executive orders are moot.^[461]

In September, Trump signed a proclamation placing limits on the six countries in the second executive order and added Chad, North Korea, and Venezuela.^[462] In October 2017, Judge Derrick Watson, of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii issued another temporary restraining order.^[463] In December 2017, the Supreme Court allowed the September 2017 travel restrictions to go into effect while legal challenges in Hawaii and Maryland are heard. The decision effectively barred most citizens of Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Chad and North Korea from entry into the United States along with some government officials from Venezuela and their families.^[464]

In January 2020, Trump added Nigeria, Myanmar, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan, and Tanzania to the visa ban list.^{[465][466]}

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Trump further restricted travel from Iran on February 29, 2020, and advised American citizens not to travel to specific regions in Italy and South Korea in response to the coronavirus.^[467] In March 2020, the Trump administration later issued a ban on entrants from all Schengen Area countries, eventually including Ireland and the UK.^[468]

2018–2019 federal government shutdown

The federal government was partially shut down from December 22, 2018, until January 25, 2019, (the longest shutdown in U.S. history) over Trump's demand that Congress provide \$5.7 billion in federal funds for a U.S.–Mexico border wall.^[469] The House and Senate lacked votes necessary to support his funding demand and to overcome Trump's refusal to sign the appropriations last passed by Congress into law.^[470] In negotiations with Democratic leaders leading up to the shutdown, Trump commented he would be "proud to shut down the government for border security".^[471] By mid-January 2019, the White House Council of Economic Advisors estimated that each week of the shutdown reduced GDP by 0.1 percentage points, the equivalent of 1.2 points per quarter.^[472]

In September 2020, Brian Murphy – who until August 2020 was the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis – asserted in a whistleblower complaint^[473] that during the shutdown senior DHS officials sought to inflate the number of known or suspected terrorists who had been apprehended at the border, to increase support for funding the wall. *NBC News* reported that in early 2019 a DHS spokeswoman, Katie Waldman, pushed the network to retract a story that correctly cited only six such apprehensions in the first half of 2018, compared to the nearly four thousand a year the administration was publicly claiming. The story was not retracted, and Waldman later became the press secretary for Vice President Pence and wife of Trump advisor Stephen Miller.^{[474][475]}

LGBT rights

The administration rolled back numerous LGBT protections, in particular those implemented during the Obama administration, covering issues such as health care, education, employment, housing, military, and criminal justice, as well as foster care and adoption.^{[476][477]} The administration rescind rules prohibiting taxpayer-funded adoption and foster care agencies from discriminating against LGBT adoption and foster parents.^[478] The DOJ reversed its position on whether the Civil Rights Act's workplace protections covered LGBT individuals, and the DOJ argued in state and federal courts for a constitutional right for businesses to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.^[476] The administration exempted government contractors from following federal workplace discrimination rules, as long as they could cite religious reasons for doing so.^[476]

The administration rescinded a directive that public schools treat students according to their gender identity.^[476] The administration rescinded a federal policy that allowed transgender students to use bathrooms corresponding to their gender identity, and dropped a lawsuit against North Carolina's "bathroom bill".^[479] The administration rescinded rules that prohibited discrimination against LGBT patients by health care providers.^{[476][480]} Rules were rescinded to give transgender homeless people equal access to homeless shelters, and to house transgender prison inmates according to their gender identity "when appropriate".^[476] HHS stopped collecting information on LGBT participants in its national survey of older adults,^[481] and the Census Bureau removed "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" as proposed subjects for possible inclusion on the Decennial Census and/or American Community Survey.^[481] The DOJ and the Labor Department cancelled quarterly conference calls with LGBT organizations.^[481]

Trump said he would not allow "transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military", citing disruptions and medical costs.^[476] In March 2018, he signed a Presidential Memorandum to prohibit transgender persons, whether transitioned or not, with a history or diagnosis of gender dysphoria from military service, except for individuals who have had 36 consecutive months of stability "in their biological sex before accession" and currently serving transgender persons in military service.^[476] Studies have found that allowing transgender individuals to serve in the military has "little or no impact on unit cohesion, operational effectiveness, or readiness"^[482] and that medical costs associated with transgender service members would be "minimal".^[483]

The Treasury Department imposed sanctions on Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov and a Chechen law enforcement official, citing anti-gay purges in Chechnya.^[484] In February 2019, the administration launched a global campaign to end the criminalization of homosexuality, an initiative pushed by Richard Grenell, the U.S. Ambassador to Germany. Asked about the administration's campaign, Trump appeared to be unaware of it.^[485]

George Floyd protests

In response to the 2020 rioting and looting amid nationwide protests against racism and police brutality after a Minneapolis police officer killed an African American man named George Floyd, Trump tweeted a quote, "when the looting starts, the shooting starts", coined in 1967 by a Miami police chief that has been widely condemned by civil rights groups.^{[487][488]} Trump later addressed protestors outside the White House by saying they "would have been greeted with the most vicious dogs, and most ominous weapons, I have ever seen" if they breached the White House fence.^[488]



Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

Twitter

Replying to @realDonaldTrump

...These THUGS are dishonoring the memory of George Floyd, and I won't let that happen. Just spoke to Governor Tim Walz and told him that the Military is with him all the way. Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the looting starts, the shooting starts. Thank you!

May 29, 2020^[486]

Photo-op at St. John's Episcopal Church

On June 1, 2020, hundreds of police officers, members of the National Guard and other forces, in riot gear used smoke canisters, rubber bullets, batons and shields to disperse a crowd of peaceful protesters outside St. John's Episcopal Church across Lafayette Square from the White House.^{[489][490]} A news crew from Australia was attacked by these forces^[491] and clergy on the church's porch suffered effects of the gas and were dispersed along with the others.^[492] Trump, accompanied by other officials including the Secretary of Defense, then walked across Lafayette Square and posed for pictures while he was holding a Bible up for the cameras, outside the church which had suffered minor damage from a fire started by arsonists the night before.^{[493][494][495]} Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington said she was "outraged" by Trump's actions,^[496] which also received widespread condemnation from other religious leaders.^{[497][498][499]} However, the reaction from the religious right and evangelicals generally praised the visit.^{[500][501][502]}

Deployment of federal law enforcement to cities

In July 2020, federal forces were deployed to Portland, Oregon, in response to rioting during protests against police brutality, which had resulted in vandalism to the city's federal courthouse.^[503] The Department of Homeland Security cited Trump's June 26 executive order to protect statues and monuments as allowing federal officers to be deployed without the permission of individual states.^{[504][505]} Federal agents fired pepper spray or tear gas at protesters who got too close to the U.S. courthouse.^[506] The heavily armed officers were dressed in military camouflage uniforms (without identification) and used unmarked vans to arrest protestors, some of whom were nowhere near the federal courthouse.^{[507][508][509]}

The presence and tactics of the officers drew widespread condemnation. Oregon officials including the governor, the mayor of Portland, and multiple members of Congress asked the DHS to remove federal agents from the city.^{[510][511][512]} The mayor said the officers were causing violence and "we do not need or want their help."^[510] Multiple Congressional committees asked for an investigation, saying "Citizens are concerned

that the Administration has deployed a secret police force."^{[513][514]} Lawsuits against the administration were filed by the American Civil Liberties Union^[515] and the Attorney General of Oregon.^[516] The inspectors general for the Justice Department and Homeland Security announced investigations into the deployment.^[517]

Trump said he was pleased with the way things were going in Portland and said that he might send federal law enforcement to many more cities, including New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Baltimore, and Oakland – "all run by liberal Democrats".^[518] Albuquerque and Milwaukee were also named as potential targets.^{[519][520]}

Under a deal worked out between Governor Kate Brown and the Trump administration, federal agents withdrew to standby locations on July 30, while state and local law enforcement forces took over responsibility for protecting the courthouse; they made no arrests and mostly stayed out of sight. Protests that night were peaceful. A DHS spokesperson said federal officers would remain in the area at least until the following Monday.^[521]

Science

The administration marginalized the role of science in policymaking, halted numerous research projects, and saw the departure of scientists who said their work was marginalized or suppressed.^[303] In 2014, 19 months after Trump took office, meteorologist Kelvin Droegemeier became the Science Advisor to the President; this was the longest period without a science advisor since the 1976 administration.^[522] While preparing for talks with Kim Jong-un, the White House did not do so with the assistance of a White House science adviser or senior counselor trained in nuclear physics. The position of chief scientist in the State Department or the Department of Agriculture was not filled. The administration nominated Sam Clovis to be chief scientist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but he had no scientific background and the White House later withdrew the nomination. The administration successfully nominated Jim Bridenstine, who had no background in science and rejected the scientific consensus on climate change, to lead NASA. The U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) disbanded advisory committees,^[523] while the Department of Energy prohibited use of the term "climate change".^{[524][525]} In March 2020, The New York Times reported that an official at the Interior Department has repeatedly inserted climate change-denying language into the agency's scientific reports, such as those that affect water and mineral rights.^[526]

During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump administration replaced career public affairs staff at the Department of Health and Human Services with political appointees, including Michael Caputo, who interfered with weekly Centers for Disease Control (CDC) scientific reports and attempted to silence the government's most senior infectious disease expert, Anthony Fauci, "sowing distrust of the FDA at a time when health leaders desperately need people to accept a vaccine in order to create the immunity necessary to defeat the novel coronavirus".^[527] One day after Trump noted that he might dismiss an FDA proposal to improve standards for emergency use of a coronavirus vaccine, the Presidents of the National Academies of Sciences and Medicine issued a statement expressing alarm at political interference in science during a pandemic, "particularly the overriding of evidence and advice from public health officials and derision of government scientists".^{[528][529]}

Space

The Artemis program began in December 2017 under the Trump administration, with its initial focus on returning the Moon, including commercial mining and research expedition, to ensure the leading position in the emerging commercial space race. He also promotes United States Space Force. On 20 December 2019, the Space Force Act developed by Democratic Representative Jim Cooper and Republican Representative Mike

Rogers, was signed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, reorganizing Air Force Space Command into the United States Space Force, and creating the first new independent military service since the Army Air Forces.

Surveillance

In 2019, Trump signed into law a six-year extension of Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, allowing the NSA to conduct searches of foreigners' communications without any warrant. The process incidentally collects information from Americans.^[530]



Vice President Mike Pence, Karen Sue Pence and President Donald Trump watch the Crew Dragon Demo-2 Falcon 9 rocket launch from Kennedy Space Center.

Veterans affairs

Prior to David Shulkin's firing in April 2018, *The New York Times* described the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a "rare spot of calm in the Trump administration". Shulkin built upon changes started under the Obama administration to do a long-term overhaul of the VA system.^[531] In May 2018, legislation to increase veterans' access to private care was stalled, as was a VA overhaul which sought to synchronize medical records.^[532] In May 2018, there were reports of a large number of resignations of senior staffers and a major re-shuffling.^[531]

In August 2018, *ProPublica* reported that three wealthy patrons of Trump's Mar-a-Lago club, formed an "informal council" that strongly influenced VA policy, including reviewing a confidential \$10 billion contract to modernize the VA's records.^[533] The Government Accountability Office announced in November 2018 that it would investigate the matter.^[534]

In 2018, Trump signed into law the VA MISSION Act, which expanded eligibility for the Veterans Choice program, allowing veterans greater access to private sector healthcare.^[535] Trump falsely asserted more than 150 times that he created the Veterans Choice program, which has in fact existed since being signed into law by president Obama in 2014.^{[536][537]}

Voting rights

Under the Trump administration, the Justice Department limited enforcement actions to protect voting rights, and in fact often defended restrictions on voting rights imposed by various states that have been challenged as voter suppression.^{[538][539]} The Justice Department under Trump has filed only a single new case under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.^[539] Trump's Justice Department opposed minority voters' interests in all of the major voting litigation since 2017 in which the Justice Department Civil Rights Division Voting Section has been involved.^[539]

Trump has repeatedly alleged, without evidence, there was widespread voter fraud.^[540] The administration created a commission with the stated purpose to review the extent of voter fraud in the wake of Trump's false claim that millions of unauthorized votes cost him the popular vote in the 2016 election. It was chaired by Vice President Pence, while the day-to-day administrator was Kris Kobach, best known for promoting restrictions on access to voting. The commission began its work by requesting each state to turn over detailed information about all registered voters in their database. Most states rejected the request, citing privacy concerns or state laws.^[541] Multiple lawsuits were filed against the commission. Maine Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap said Kobach was refusing to share working documents and scheduling information with him and the other Democrats on the commission. A federal judge ordered the commission to hand over the documents.^[542] Shortly thereafter, Trump disbanded the commission, and informed Dunlap that it would not obey the court

order to provide the documents because the commission no longer existed.^[543] Election integrity experts argued that the commission was disbanded because of the lawsuits, which would have led to greater transparency and accountability and thus prevented the Republican members of the commission from producing a sham report to justify restrictions on voting rights.^[542] It was later revealed the commission had, in its requests for Texas voter data, specifically asked for data that identifies voters with Hispanic surnames.^[544]

White nationalists and Charlottesville rally

On August 13, 2017, Trump condemned violence "on many sides" after a gathering of hundreds of white nationalists in Charlottesville, Virginia, the previous day (August 12) turned deadly. A white supremacist drove a car into a crowd of counter-protesters, killing one woman and injuring 19 others. According to Sessions, that action met the definition of domestic terrorism.^[545] During the rally there had been other violence, as some counter-protesters charged at the white nationalists with swinging clubs and mace, throwing bottles, rocks, and paint.^{[546][547][548]} Trump did not expressly mention Neo-Nazis, white supremacists, or the alt-right movement in his remarks on August 13,^[549] but the following day condemned "the KKK, neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and other hate groups".^[550] On August 15, he again blamed "both sides".^[551]



Anti-Trump protest in Greensboro by the anti-fascist groups Democratic Socialists of America and Industrial Workers of the World

Many Republican and Democratic elected officials condemned the violence and hatred of white nationalists, neo-Nazis and alt-right activists. Trump came under criticism from world leaders^[552] and politicians,^{[553][549]} as well as a variety of religious groups^[554] and anti-hate organizations^[555] for his remarks, which were seen as muted and equivocal.^[553] *The New York Times* reported Trump "was the only national political figure to spread blame for the 'hatred, bigotry and violence' that resulted in the death of one person to 'many sides'",^[553] and said Trump had "buoyed the white nationalist movement on Tuesday as no president has done in generations".^[556]

Foreign affairs

The foreign policy positions expressed by Trump during his presidential campaign changed frequently, so it was "difficult to glean a political agenda, or even a set of clear, core policy values ahead of his presidency".^[557] Trump's presidency saw an expansion of drone warfare, massive increase in civilian casualties in Afghanistan relative to the Obama administration,^[558] rollback of transparency in reporting drone strike deaths,^[559] and reduced accountability.^[560] Under a banner of "America First", the Trump administration distinguished itself from past administrations with frequent open admiration of authoritarian rulers and rhetorical rejections of key human rights norms.^[561]



Trump and North Korea's Communist Party leader Kim Jong-un shake hands at the Korean Demilitarized Zone, June 30, 2019.

Despite pledges to reduce the number of active duty U.S. military personnel deployed overseas, the number was essentially the same three years into Trump's presidency as they were at the end of Obama's.^[562] The number of U.S. troops deployed to Afghanistan decreased significantly during Trump's presidency. By the end of Trump's term in office troop levels in Afghanistan were at the lowest levels since the early days of the war in 2001.^[563] In

2020, US casualties in Afghanistan reached their lowest level for the entire war.^[564] In Iraq, casualties increased, being significantly higher in Trump's term than Obama's second term.^[565] On October 27, 2019, ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi killed himself and three children by detonating a suicide vest during the Barisha raid conducted by the U.S. Delta Force in Syria's northwestern Idlib Province.^[566]

Trump withdrew from the Open Skies Treaty, a nearly three-decade old agreement promoting transparency of military forces and activities.^[567]

China

On January 19, 2021, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the Department of State had determined that "genocide and crimes against humanity" had been perpetrated by China against the Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang.^[568] The announcement was made on the last day of Trump's presidency. The incoming president, Joe Biden, had already declared during his presidential campaign, that such a determination should be made.^[568] On January 20, 2021, Pompeo along with other Trump administration officials were sanctioned by China.^[569]

North Korea

After initially adopting a verbally hostile posture^[570] toward North Korea and its leader, Kim Jong-un, Trump quickly pivoted to embrace the regime, saying he and Kim "fell in love".^[571] Trump engaged Kim by meeting him at two summits, in June 2018 and February 2019, an unprecedented move by an American president, as previous policy had been that a president's simply meeting with the North Korean leader would legitimize the regime on the world stage. During the June 2018 summit, the leaders signed a vague agreement to pursue denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, with Trump immediately declaring "There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea."^[572] Little progress was made toward that goal during the months before the February 2019 summit, which ended abruptly without an agreement, hours after the White House announced a signing ceremony was imminent.^[573] During the months between the summits, a growing body of evidence indicated North Korea was continuing its nuclear fuel, bomb and missile development, including by redeveloping an ICBM site it was previously appearing to dismantle – even while the second summit was underway.^{[574][575][576][577]} In the aftermath of the February 2019 failed summit, the Treasury department imposed additional sanctions on North Korea. The following day, Trump tweeted, "It was announced today by the U.S. Treasury that additional large scale Sanctions would be added to those already existing Sanctions on North Korea. I have today ordered the withdrawal of those additional Sanctions!"^[578] On December 31, 2019, the Korean Central News Agency announced that Kim had abandoned his moratoriums on nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests, quoting Kim as saying, "the world will witness a new strategic weapon to be possessed by the DPRK in the near future."^{[579][580]} Two years after the Singapore summit, the North Korean nuclear arsenal had significantly expanded.^{[581][582]}

During a June 2019 visit to South Korea, Trump visited the Korean Demilitarized Zone and invited North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to meet him there, which he did, and Trump became the first sitting president to step inside North Korea.^{[583][a]}

Turkey

In October 2019, after Trump spoke to Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the White House acknowledged that Turkey would be carrying out a planned military offensive into northern Syria; as such, U.S. troops in northern Syria were withdrawn from the area to avoid interference with that operation. The statement also passed responsibility for the area's captured ISIS fighters to Turkey.^[585] Congress members of

both parties denounced the move, including Republican allies of Trump like Senator Lindsey Graham. They argued that the move betrayed the American-allied Kurds, and would benefit ISIS, Russia, Iran and Bashar al-Assad's Syrian regime.^[586] Trump defended the move, citing the high cost of supporting the Kurds, and the lack of support from the Kurds in past U.S. wars.^[587] Within a week of the U.S. pullout, Turkey proceeded to attack Kurdish-controlled areas in northeast Syria.^[588] Kurdish forces then announced an alliance with the Syrian government and its Russian allies, in a united effort to repel Turkey.^[589]



Trump with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in the Oval Office, November 13, 2019

Iran

In 2020, the Trump administration asserted that the U.S. remained a “participant” in the Iran Deal, despite having formally withdrawn in 2018, to persuade the United Nations Security Council to reimpose pre-agreement sanctions on Iran for its breaches of the deal after the U.S. withdrawal. The agreement provided for a resolution process among signatories in the event of a breach, but that process had not yet played out. The Security Council voted on the administration's proposal in August, with only the Dominican Republic joining the U.S. to vote in favor.^{[590][591]}

Saudi Arabia

Trump actively supported the Saudi Arabian-led intervention in Yemen against the Houthis.^{[592][593][594]} Trump also praised his relationship with Saudi Arabia's powerful Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.^[592] On May 20, 2017, Trump and Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud signed a series of letters of intent for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to purchase arms from the United States totaling \$110 billion immediately,^{[595][596]} and \$350 billion over ten years.^{[597][598]} The transfer was widely seen as a counterbalance against the influence of Iran in the region^{[599][600]} and a "significant" and "historic" expansion of United States relations with Saudi Arabia.^{[601][602][603][597][604]} By July 2019, two of Trump's three vetoes were to overturn bipartisan congressional action related to Saudi Arabia.^[605]



Trump with Prince Mohammad bin Salman, Washington, D.C., March 14, 2017

In October 2018, amid widespread condemnation of Saudi Arabia for the murder of prominent Saudi journalist and dissident Jamal Khashoggi, the Trump administration pushed back on the condemnation.^[606] After the CIA assessed that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman ordered the murder of Khashoggi, Trump rejected the assessment and said the CIA only had "feelings" on the matter.^[607]

Israel / Palestine

Since the Six Day War in 1967, the United States had considered Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank to be "illegitimate". This status changed in November 2019 when the Trump administration shifted U.S. policy and^[608] declared "the establishment of Israeli civilian settlements in the West Bank is not *per se* inconsistent with international law."^[609]

Trump unveiled his own peace plan to resolve the Israeli–Palestinian conflict on January 28, 2020.^[610] His first official diplomatic success was realized in August 2020 with the first of the Abraham Accords, when Israel and the United Arab Emirates agreed to begin normalizing relations in an agreement brokered by Jared Kushner.^{[611][612]} The following month, Israel and Bahrain agreed to normalize diplomatic relations in another deal mediated and brokered by the Trump administration.^{[613][614][615]} A month later, Israel and Sudan agreed to normalize relations in a third such agreement in as many months. On December 10, 2020, Trump announced that Israel and Morocco had agreed to establish full diplomatic relations, while also announcing that the United States recognized Morocco's claim over the disputed territory of Western Sahara.^[616]

United Arab Emirates

As Donald Trump lost the election bid against Joe Biden, the U.S. State Department notified Congress about its plans to sell 18 sophisticated armed MQ-9B aerial drones to the United Arab Emirates, under a deal worth \$2.9 billion. The drones were expected to be equipped with maritime radar, and the delivery was being estimated by 2024.^[617] Besides, another informal notification was sent to the Congress regarding the plans of providing the UAE with \$10 billion of defense equipment, including precision-guided munitions, non-precision bombs and missiles.^[618]

Defense

As a candidate and as president, Trump called for a major build-up of American military capabilities Trump announced in October 2018 that America would withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia to enable America to counter increasing Chinese intermediate nuclear missile capabilities in the Pacific.^[619] In December 2018, Trump complained about the amount America spends on an "uncontrollable arms race" with Russia and China. Trump said the \$716 billion America is now spending on the "arms race" was "Crazy!", after praising his increased defense spending five months earlier. The total fiscal 2019 defense budget authorization was \$716 billion, although missile defense and nuclear programs made up about \$10 billion of the total.^{[620][621]}

During 2018, Trump falsely asserted he had secured the largest defense budget authorization ever, the first military pay raise in ten years, and that military spending was at least 4.0% of GDP, "which got a lot bigger since I became your president".^[622]

Controversy arose in November 2019 after Trump pardoned or promoted three soldiers accused or convicted of war crimes.^[623] The most prominent case involved Eddie Gallagher, a Navy SEAL team chief who had been reported to Navy authorities by his own team members for sniping at an unarmed civilian girl and an elderly man. Gallagher faced court martial for the murder of a wounded teenage combatant, among other charges, and the medic of his SEAL team was granted immunity to testify against him, but on the witness stand the medic reversed what he had previously told investigators and testified that he himself had murdered the terrorist suspect. Gallagher was subsequently acquitted of the murder charge against him, and the Navy demoted him to the lowest possible rank due to his conviction on another charge. The Navy later moved to strip Gallagher of his Trident pin and eject him from the Navy. Trump intervened to restore Gallagher's rank and pin. Many military officers were enraged by Trump's intervention, as they felt it disrupted principles of



Trump and Vice President Mike Pence at the welcoming ceremony for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley (left) on September 30, 2019. Outgoing chairman General Joseph Dunford (right) and Secretary of Defense Mark Esper (center-right) are present.

military discipline and justice. Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer protested Trump's intervention and was forced to resign; in his resignation letter, he sharply rebuked Trump for his judgment in the matter. Trump told a rally audience days later, "I stuck up for three great warriors against the deep state."^{[624][625][626]}

The Trump administration has sharply increased the frequency of drone strikes compared to the preceding Obama administration, in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Syria and Yemen.^{[627][628]} In March 2019, Trump ended the Obama policy of reporting the number of civilian deaths caused by U.S. drone strikes, claiming that this policy was unnecessary.^[629]

Russia and related investigations

American intelligence sources found the Russian government attempted to intervene in the 2016 presidential election to favor the election of Trump,^[630] and that members of Trump's campaign were in contact with Russian government officials both before and after the election.^[631] In May 2017, the Department of Justice appointed Robert Mueller as special counsel to investigate "any links and/or coordination between Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald Trump, and any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation".^[632]



Robert Mueller in the Oval Office
c. 2012

During his January 2017 confirmation hearings as the attorney general nominee before the Senate, then-Senator Jeff Sessions appeared to deliberately omit two meetings he had in 2016 with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, when asked if he had meetings involving the 2016 election with Russian government officials. Sessions later amended his testimony saying he "never met with any Russian officials to discuss issues of the campaign".^[633] Following his amended statement, Sessions recused himself from any investigation regarding connections between Trump and Russia.^[634]

In May 2017, Trump discussed highly classified intelligence in an Oval Office meeting with the Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov and ambassador Sergey Kislyak, providing details that could expose the source of the information and how it was collected.^[635] A Middle Eastern ally provided the intelligence which had the highest level of classification and was not intended to be shared widely.^[635] *The New York Times* reported, "sharing the information without the express permission of the ally who provided it was a major breach of espionage etiquette, and could jeopardize a crucial intelligence-sharing relationship."^[635] The White House, through National Security Advisor H. R. McMaster, issued a limited denial, saying the story "as reported" was incorrect^[636] and that no "intelligence sources or methods" were discussed.^[637] McMaster did not deny that information had been disclosed.^[638] The following day Trump said on Twitter that Russia is an important ally against terrorism and that he had an "absolute right" to share classified information with Russia.^[639] Soon after the meeting, American intelligence extracted a high-level covert source from within the Russian government, on concerns the individual could be at risk due, in part, to Trump and his administration repeatedly mishandling classified intelligence.^[640]

In October 2017, former Trump campaign advisor George Papadopoulos pleaded guilty to one count of making false statements to the FBI regarding his contacts with Russian agents. During the campaign he had tried repeatedly but unsuccessfully to set up meetings in Russia between Trump campaign representatives and Russian officials.^[641]

Trump went to great lengths to keep details of his private conversations with Russian president Putin secret, including in one case by retaining his interpreter's notes and instructing the linguist to not share the contents of the discussions with anyone in the administration. As a result, there were no detailed records, even in classified

files, of Trump's conversations with Putin on five occasions.^{[642][643]}

Of Trump's campaign advisors and staff, six of them were indicted by the special counsel's office; five of them (Michael Cohen, Michael Flynn, Rick Gates, Paul Manafort, George Papadopoulos) pleaded guilty, while one has pleaded not guilty (Roger Stone).^[644] As of December 2020, Stone, Papadopoulos, Manafort, and Flynn have been pardoned by Trump, but not Cohen or Gates.^[645]

On June 12, 2019, Trump asserted he saw nothing wrong in accepting intelligence on his political adversaries from foreign powers, such as Russia, and he could see no reason to contact the FBI about it. Responding to a reporter who told him FBI director Christopher Wray had said such activities should be reported to the FBI, Trump said, "the FBI director is wrong." Trump elaborated, "there's nothing wrong with listening. If somebody called from a country, Norway, 'we have information on your opponent' – oh, I think I'd want to hear it." Both Democrats and Republicans repudiated the remarks.^{[646][647][648][649]}

The New York Times reported in June 2021 that in 2017 and 2018 the Justice Department subpoenaed metadata from the iCloud accounts of at least a dozen individuals associated with the House Intelligence Committee, including that of Democrat ranking member Adam Schiff and Eric Swalwell, and family members, to investigate leaks to the press about contacts between Trump associates and Russia. Records of the inquiry did not implicate anyone associated with the committee, but upon becoming attorney general Bill Barr revived the effort, including by appointing a federal prosecutor and about six others in February 2020. *The Times* reported that, apart from corruption investigations, subpoenaing communications information of members of Congress is nearly unheard-of, and that some in the Justice Department saw Barr's approach as politically motivated.^{[650][651]} Justice Department inspector general Michael Horowitz announced an inquiry into the matter the day after the *Times* report.^[652]

Special Counsel's report

In February 2018, when Special Counsel Mueller indicted more than a dozen Russians and three entities for interference in the 2016 election, Trump's response was to assert that the indictment was proof his campaign did not collude with the Russians.^[653] *The New York Times* noted Trump "voiced no concern that a foreign power had been trying for nearly four years to upend American democracy, much less resolve to stop it from continuing to do so this year".^[653]

In July 2018, the special counsel indicted twelve Russian intelligence operatives and accused them of conspiring to interfere in the 2016 U.S. elections, by hacking servers and emails of the Democratic Party and the Hillary Clinton campaign.^[654] The indictments were made before Trump's meeting with Putin in Helsinki, in which Trump supported Putin's denial that Russia was involved and criticized American law enforcement and intelligence community (subsequently Trump partially walked back some of his comments).^[655] A few days later, it was reported that Trump had actually been briefed on the veracity and extent of Russian cyber-attacks two weeks before his inauguration, back in December 2016, including the fact that these were ordered by Putin himself.^[655] The evidence presented to him at the time included text and email conversations between Russian military officers as well as information from a source close to Putin.^[655]

On March 22, 2019, Special Counsel Robert Mueller submitted the final report to Attorney General William Barr. Two days later, Barr sent Congress a four-page letter, describing what he said were the special counsel's principal conclusions in the Mueller Report. Barr added that since the special counsel "did not draw a conclusion" on obstruction,^[656] this "leaves it to the Attorney General to determine whether the conduct described in the report constitutes a crime".^[657] Barr continued: "Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and I have concluded that the evidence developed during the Special Counsel's investigation is not sufficient to establish that the President committed an obstruction-of-justice offense."^{[658][659]}

On April 18, 2019, a two-volume redacted version of the Special Counsel's report titled *Report on the Investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential Election* was released to Congress and to the public. About one-eighth of the lines in the public version were redacted.^{[660][661][662]}

Volume I discusses about Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, concluding that interference occurred "in sweeping and systematic fashion" and "violated U.S. criminal law".^{[663][664]} The report detailed activities by the Internet Research Agency, a Kremlin-linked Russian troll farm, to create a "social media campaign that favored presidential candidate Donald J. Trump and disparaged presidential candidate Hillary Clinton",^[665] and to "provoke and amplify political and social discord in the United States".^[666] The report also described how the Russian intelligence service, the GRU, performed computer hacking and strategic releasing of damaging material from the Clinton campaign and Democratic Party organizations.^{[667][668]} To establish whether a crime was committed by members of the Trump campaign with regard to Russian interference, investigators used the legal standard for criminal conspiracy rather than the popular concept of "collusion", because a crime of "collusion" is not found in criminal law or the United States Code.^{[669][670]}

The redacted version of the Mueller report was released to the public by the Department of Justice on April 18, 2019.



According to the report, the investigation "identified numerous links between the Russian government and the Trump campaign", and found that Russia had "perceived it would benefit from a Trump presidency" and the 2016 Trump presidential campaign "expected it would benefit electorally" from Russian hacking efforts. Ultimately, "the investigation did not establish that members of the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities."^{[671][672]} However, investigators had an incomplete picture of what had really occurred during the 2016 campaign, due to some associates of Trump campaign providing either false, incomplete or declined testimony (exercising the Fifth Amendment), as well as having deleted, unsaved or encrypted communications. As such, the Mueller Report "cannot rule out the possibility" that information then unavailable to investigators would have presented different findings.^[673]

Volume II covered obstruction of justice. The report described ten episodes where Trump may have obstructed justice as president, plus one instance before he was elected.^{[674][675]} The report said that in addition to Trump's public attacks on the investigation and its subjects, he had also privately tried to "control the investigation" in multiple ways, but mostly failed to influence it because his subordinates or associates refused to carry out his instructions.^{[676][677]} For that reason, no charges against the Trump's aides and associates were recommended "beyond those already filed".^[674] The Special Counsel could not charge Trump himself once investigators decided to abide by an Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) opinion that a sitting president cannot stand trial,^{[678][679]} and they feared charges would affect Trump's governing and possibly preempt his impeachment.^{[679][680]} In addition, investigators felt it would be unfair to accuse Trump of a crime without charges and without a trial in which he could clear his name,^{[678][679][676]} hence investigators "determined not to apply an approach that could potentially result in a judgment that the President committed crimes".^{[679][681][682][683]}

Since the Special Counsel's office had decided "not to make a traditional prosecutorial judgment" on whether to "initiate or decline a prosecution", they "did not draw ultimate conclusions about the President's conduct". The report "does not conclude that the president committed a crime",^{[665][684]} but specifically did not exonerate Trump on obstruction of justice, because investigators were not confident that Trump was innocent after examining his intent and actions.^{[685][686]} The report concluded "that Congress has authority to prohibit a

President's corrupt use of his authority in order to protect the integrity of the administration of justice" and "that Congress may apply the obstruction laws to the president's corrupt exercise of the powers of office accords with our constitutional system of checks and balances and the principle that no person is above the law".^{[682][686][676]}

On May 1, 2019, following publication of the Special Counsel's report, Barr testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, during which Barr said he "didn't exonerate" Trump on obstruction as that was not the role of the Justice Department.^[687] He declined to testify before the House Judiciary Committee the following day because he objected to the committee's plan to use staff lawyers during questioning.^[688] Barr also repeatedly^[689] failed to give the unredacted Special Counsel's report to the Judiciary Committee by its deadline of May 6, 2019.^[690] On May 8, 2019, the committee voted to hold Barr in contempt of Congress, which refers the matter to entire House for resolution.^[691] Concurrently, Trump asserted executive privilege via the Department of Justice in an effort to prevent the redacted portions of the Special Counsel's report and the underlying evidence from being disclosed.^[692] Committee chairman Jerry Nadler said the U.S. is in a constitutional crisis, "because the President is disobeying the law, is refusing all information to Congress".^[693] Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Trump was "self-impeaching" by stonewalling Congress.^[694]

Following release of the Mueller Report, Trump and his allies turned their attention toward "investigating the investigators".^[695] On May 23, 2019, Trump ordered the intelligence community to cooperate with Barr's investigation of the origins of the investigation, granting Barr full authority to declassify any intelligence information related to the matter. Some analysts expressed concerns that the order could create a conflict between the Justice Department and the intelligence community over closely guarded intelligence sources and methods, as well as open the possibility Barr could cherry-pick intelligence for public release to help Trump.^{[696][697][698][699]}

Upon announcing the formal closure of the investigation and his resignation from the Justice Department on May 29, Mueller said, "If we had had confidence that the president clearly did not commit a crime, we would have said so. We did not, however, decide as to whether the president did commit a crime."^[700] During his testimony to Congress on July 24, 2019, Mueller said that a president could be charged with obstruction of justice (or other crimes) after the president left office.^[701]

Counter-investigations

Amid accusations by Trump and his supporters that he had been subjected to an illegitimate investigation, in May 2019 attorney general Bill Barr appointed federal prosecutor John Durham to review the origins of the Crossfire Hurricane investigation.^[702] By September 2020, Durham's inquiry had expanded to include the FBI's investigation of the Clinton Foundation during the 2016 campaign.^[703] A previous two-year review of earlier Clinton investigations by another Trump Justice Department federal prosecutor, John Huber, was wound-down in January 2020 after finding no improper activity.^[704]

Ethics

The Trump administration has been characterized by a departure from ethical norms.^{[705][706]} Unlike previous administrations of both parties, the Trump White House has not observed a strict boundary between official government activities and personal, political, or campaign activities.^{[705][707][708]}

Role of lobbyists

During the 2016 campaign, Trump promised to "drain the swamp" – a phrase that usually refers to entrenched corruption and lobbying in Washington, D.C. – and he proposed a series of ethics reforms.^[709] However, according to federal records and interviews, there has been a dramatic increase in lobbying by corporations and hired interests during Trump's tenure, particularly through the office of Vice-President Mike Pence.^[710] About twice as many lobbying firms contacted Pence, compared to previous presidencies, among them representatives of major energy firms and drug companies.^[710] In many cases, the lobbyists have charged their clients millions of dollars for access to the vice president, and then have turned around and donated the money to Pence's political causes.^[710]

Among the administration's first policies was a five-year ban on serving as a lobbyist after working in the executive branch.^[709] However, as one of his final acts of office, Trump rolled back that policy, thus allowing administration staff to work as lobbyists.^[711]

Potential conflicts of interest

Trump's presidency has been marked by significant public concern about conflict of interest stemming from his diverse business ventures. In the lead up to his inauguration, Trump promised to remove himself from the day-to-day operations of his businesses.^[712] Trump placed his sons Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr. at the head of his businesses claiming they would not communicate with him regarding his interests. However, critics noted that this would not prevent him from having input into his businesses and knowing how to benefit himself, and Trump continued to receive quarterly updates on his businesses.^[713] As his presidency progressed, he failed to take steps or show interest in further distancing himself from his business interests resulting in numerous potential conflicts.^[714] Ethics experts found Trump's plan to address conflicts of interest between his position as president and his private business interests to be entirely inadequate.^[715] Unlike every other president in the last 40 years, Trump did not put his business interests in a blind trust or equivalent arrangement "to cleanly sever himself from his business interests".^[715] In January 2018, a year into his presidency, Trump owned stakes in hundreds of businesses.^[716]



Tayyip Erdoğan, then the prime minister of Turkey, attended the opening of the Trump Towers Istanbul AVM in 2012.

After Trump took office, the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, represented by a number of constitutional scholars, sued him^[717] for violations of the Foreign Emoluments Clause (a constitutional provision that bars the president or any other federal official from taking gifts or payments from foreign governments), because his hotels and other businesses accept payment from foreign governments.^{[717][718][719]} CREW separately filed a complaint with the General Services Administration (GSA) over Trump International Hotel Washington, D.C.; the 2013 lease that Trump and the GSA signed "explicitly forbids any elected government official from holding the lease or benefiting from it".^[720] The GSA said it was "reviewing the situation".^[720] By May 2017, the CREW v. Trump lawsuit had grown with additional plaintiffs and alleged violations of the Domestic Emoluments Clause.^[721] In June 2017, attorneys from the Department of Justice filed a motion to dismiss the case on the grounds that the plaintiffs had no right to sue^[722] and that the described conduct was not illegal.^[723] Also in June 2017, two more lawsuits were filed based on the Foreign Emoluments Clause: D.C. and Maryland v. Trump,^{[724][725]} and Blumenthal v. Trump, which was signed by more than one-third of the voting members of Congress.^[726] United States District Judge George B. Daniels dismissed the CREW case on December 21, 2017, holding that plaintiffs lacked standing.^{[727][728]} D.C. and Maryland v. Trump cleared three judicial hurdles to proceed to the discovery phase during 2018,^{[729][730][731]} with prosecutors issuing 38 subpoenas to Trump's businesses and cabinet departments in December before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a stay days later at the

behest of the Justice Department, pending hearings in March 2019.^{[732][733][734]} NBC News reported that by June 2019 representatives of 22 governments had spent money at Trump properties.^[735] In January 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed the lawsuits as Trump was no longer president.^[736]

Saudi Arabia

In March 2018, *The New York Times* reported that George Nader had turned Trump's major fundraiser Elliott Broidy "into an instrument of influence at the White House for the rulers of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates ... High on the agenda of the two men ... was pushing the White House to remove Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson," a top defender of the Iran nuclear deal in Donald Trump's administration, and "backing confrontational approaches to Iran and Qatar".^[737]

Transparency and data availability

The Washington Post reported in May 2017, "a wide variety of information that until recently was provided to the public, limiting access, for instance, to disclosures about workplace violations, energy efficiency, and animal welfare abuses" had been removed or tucked away. The Obama administration had used the publication of enforcement actions taken by federal agencies against companies as a way to name and shame companies that engaged in unethical and illegal behaviors.^[738]

The Trump administration stopped the Obama administration policy of logging visitors to the White House, making it difficult to tell who has visited the White House.^{[738][739]} Nathan Cortez of the Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law, who studies the handling of public data, said the Trump administration, unlike the Obama administration, was taking transparency "in the opposite direction".^[738]

Hatch Act violations

In the first three and a half years of Trump's term, the Office of Special Counsel, an independent federal government ethics agency, found 13 senior Trump administration officials in violation of the Hatch Act of 1939, which restricts the government employees' involvement in politics; 11 of the complaints were filed by the activist group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW).^{[705][707]} By comparison, CREW stated that it was aware of only two findings of Hatch Act violations during the eight years of the Obama administration.^[705]

Security clearances

In March 2019, Tricia Newbold, a White House employee working on security clearances, privately told the House Oversight Committee that at least 25 Trump administration officials had been granted security clearances over the objections of career staffers. Newbold also asserted that some of these officials had previously had their applications rejected for "disqualifying issues", only for those rejections to be overturned with inadequate explanation.^{[740][741][742]}

After the House Oversight Committee subpoenaed former head of White House security clearances Carl Kline to give testimony, the administration instructed Kline not to comply with the subpoena, asserting that the subpoena "unconstitutionally encroaches on fundamental executive branch interests".^{[743][744]} Kline eventually gave closed-door testimony before the committee in May 2019, but House Democrats said he did not "provide specific details to their questions".^[745]

Impeachment inquiry

On August 12, 2019, an unnamed intelligence official privately filed a whistleblower complaint with Michael Atkinson, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community (ICIG), under the provisions of the Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act (ICWPA).^[746] The whistleblower alleged that Trump had abused his office in soliciting foreign interference to improve his own electoral chances in 2020. The complaint reports that in a July 2019 call, Trump had asked Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate potential 2020 rival presidential candidate Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden, as well as matters pertaining to whether Russian interference occurred in the 2016 U.S. election with regard to Democratic National Committee servers and the company Crowdstrike. Trump allegedly nominated his personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani and Attorney General William Barr to work with Ukraine on these matters. Additionally, the whistleblower alleged that the White House attempted to "lock down" the call records in a cover-up, and that the call was part of a wider pressure campaign by Giuliani and the Trump administration to urge Ukraine to investigate the Bidens. The whistleblower posits that the pressure campaign may have included Trump cancelling Vice President Mike Pence's May 2019 Ukraine trip, and Trump withholding financial aid from Ukraine in July 2019.^{[747][748][749][750]}

Inspector General Atkinson found the whistleblower's complaint both urgent and credible, so he transmitted the complaint on August 26 to Joseph Maguire, the acting Director of National Intelligence (DNI). Under the law, Maguire was supposed to forward the complaint to the Senate and House Intelligence Committees within a week. Maguire refused, so Atkinson informed the congressional committees of the existence of the complaint, but not its content.^{[751][752]} The general counsel for Maguire's office said that since the complaint was not about someone in the intelligence community, it was not an "urgent concern" and thus there was no need to pass it to Congress. Later testifying before the House Intelligence Committee on September 26, Maguire said he had consulted with the White House Counsel and the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, of which the latter office gave him the rationale to withhold the complaint.^[753] Maguire also testified: "I think the whistleblower did the right thing. I think he followed the law every step of the way."^[754]

On September 22, Trump confirmed that he had discussed with Zelensky how "we don't want our people like Vice President Biden and his son creating to the corruption already in the Ukraine."^[755] Trump also confirmed that he had indeed temporarily withheld military aid from Ukraine, offering contradicting reasons for his decision on September 23 and 24.^[756]

On September 24, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the start of a formal impeachment inquiry.^[757] On September 25, the White House released a non-verbatim transcript of the call between Trump and Zelensky; while the members and staff of congressional intelligence committees were allowed to read whistleblower complaint.^[752] On September 26, the White House declassified the whistleblower's complaint, so Schiff released the complaint to the public.^[752] The non-verbatim transcript corroborated the main allegations of the whistleblower's report about the Trump–Zelensky call.^[758] The non-verbatim transcript stated that after Zelensky discussed the possibility of buying American anti-tank missiles to defend Ukraine, Trump instead asked for a favor, suggesting an investigation of the company Crowdstrike, while later in the call he also called for an investigation of the Bidens, and cooperation with Giuliani and Barr.^{[759][760]} On September 27, the White House confirmed the whistleblower's allegation that the Trump administration had stored the Trump–Zelensky transcript in a highly classified system.^[761]



Open hearing testimony of Fiona Hill and David Holmes on November 21, 2019

Following these revelations, members of congress largely divided along party lines, with Democrats generally in favor of impeachment proceedings and Republicans defending the president.^[762] Ukraine envoy Kurt Volker resigned and three House committees issued a subpoena to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to schedule depositions for Volker and four other State Department employees, and to compel the release of documents.^{[763][764]} Attention to the issue also led to further revelations by anonymous sources. These included the misuse of classification systems to hide records of conversations with Ukrainian, Russian and Saudi Arabian leaders, and statements made to Sergei Lavrov and Sergey Kislyak in May 2017 expressing disconcern about Russian interference in U.S. elections.^{[765][766]}

Use of the Office of President

Trump often sought to use the office of the presidency for his own interest. Under his leadership, the Justice Department, which is traditionally independent from the President, became highly partisan and acted in Trump's interest.^{[767] [768] [769] [770]} *Bloomberg News* reported in October 2019 that during a 2017 Oval Office meeting, Trump had asked Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to pressure the Justice Department to drop a criminal investigation of Reza Zarrab, an Iranian-Turkish gold trader who was a client of Trump associate Rudy Giuliani. Tillerson reportedly refused.^[771]

Trump attempted to host the 2020 G7 Summit at his Doral Golf Resort, from which he could have made significant profits.^[772] Trump has visited his properties 274 times during his presidency. Government officials were charged as much as \$650 per night to stay at Trump's properties.^[773]

In the lead up to the 2020 election, Trump and Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, a close ally of Trump, sought to hamper the US postal service by cutting funding and services, a move which would prevent postal votes from being counted during the COVID-19 pandemic.^[774]

Trump has fired, demoted or withdrawn numerous government officials in retaliation for actions that projected negatively on his public image, or harmed his personal or political interests, including Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director James Comey,^[775] Deputy FBI Director Andrew McCabe, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions,^[776] and Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire.^[777]

In December 2020, shortly before Christmas and in his last month in office, Trump granted 26 people full pardons and commuted the sentences of three others convicted of federal crimes. Those who benefitted included his former campaign advisor Paul Manafort, advisor and personal friend Roger Stone and Charles Kushner, father of Trump's son-in-law and confidant Jared Kushner.^[778] In the final hours of his presidency, Donald Trump pardoned nearly 74 people, including rappers, financiers, and former members of congress. Those pardoned include his former senior adviser Steve Bannon, Jared Kushner's friend charged with cyberstalking, Ken Kurson; a real estate lawyer, Albert Pirro; and rappers prosecuted on federal weapons offenses, Lil Wayne and Kodak Black. Trump also pardoned his former fundraiser Elliott Broidy, who worked for China, the UAE, and Russia at the White House. Broidy also lobbied the US government to end the investigations in the 1MDB scandal.^[779]

Cost of trips

According to several reports, Trump's and his family's trips in the first month of his presidency cost U.S. taxpayers nearly as much as former president Obama's travel expenses for an entire year. When Obama was president, Trump frequently criticized him for taking vacations which were paid for with public funds.^[780] *The Washington Post* reported that Trump's atypically lavish lifestyle is far more expensive to the taxpayers than what was typical of former presidents and could end up in the hundreds of millions of dollars over the whole of Trump's term.^[781]

A June 2019 analysis by the *Washington Post* found that federal officials and GOP campaigns had spent at least \$1.6 million at businesses owned by Trump during his presidency.^[782] This was an undercount, as most of the data on spending by government officials covered only the first few months of Trump's presidency.^[782]

Elections during the Trump presidency

2018 mid-term elections

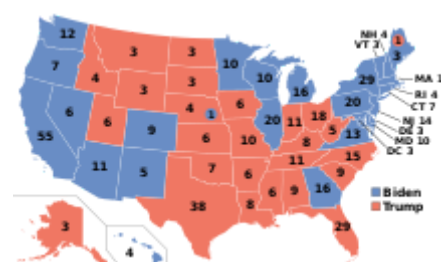
In the 2018 mid-term elections, Democrats had a blue wave, winning control of the House of Representatives, while Republicans expanded their majority in the Senate.^[783]

Republican seats in Congress

Congress	Senate	House
<u>115th</u> ^[b]	52	241
<u>116th</u>	53	200
<u>117th</u> ^[b]	51	211

2020 re-election campaign

On June 18, 2019, Trump announced that he would seek re-election in the 2020 presidential election.^[784] Trump did not face any significant rivals for the 2020 Republican nomination, with some state Republican parties cancelling the presidential primaries in the states.^[785] Trump's Democratic opponent in the general election was former Vice President Joe Biden of Delaware. The election on November 3 was not called for either candidate for several days. On November 7, the Associated Press – along with major TV networks including CNN, ABC News, CBS News, NBC News, and Fox News – called the race for Joe Biden.^[786]



Democrat Joe Biden defeated Trump in the 2020 presidential election.

Transition

Trump refused to concede, and the administration did not begin cooperating with president-elect Biden's transition team until November 23.^{[787][788]} In late December 2020, Biden and his transition team criticized Trump administration political appointees for hampering the transition and failing to cooperate with the Biden transition team on national security areas, such as the Defense and State departments, as well as on the economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic.^{[789][790]} Biden also said that "many of the agencies that are critical to our security have incurred enormous damage" and "have been hollowed out – in personnel, capacity and in morale."^[789]

Throughout December and January, Trump continued to insist that he had won the election. He filed numerous lawsuits alleging election fraud, tried to persuade state and federal officials to overturn the results, and urged his supporters to rally on his behalf.^[791]

Storming of the U.S. Capitol

On January 6, 2021, rioters supporting Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol in an effort to thwart a joint session of Congress during which the Electoral College vote was to be certified, affirming the election of Joe Biden as president.

During an initial rally earlier that morning, Trump encouraged his supporters to march to the U.S. Capitol.^{[792][793]} Subsequently, pro-Trump attendees marched to the Capitol building, joined other protesters, and stormed the building.^[794] Congress was in session at the time, conducting the Electoral College vote

count and debating the results of the vote. As the protesters arrived, Capitol security evacuated the Senate and House of Representatives chambers and locked down several other buildings on the Capitol campus.^[795] Later that evening, after the Capitol was secured, Congress went back into session to discuss the Electoral College vote, finally affirming at 3:41 a.m. that Biden had won the election.^[796]



[Play media](#)

Trump's statement during the storming of the Capitol on January 6, 2021. The video was originally posted on Twitter and shared on other social media before being removed from all platforms for violating various policies.

Five people died or were fatally injured during the event: one was a Capitol Police officer, and four were among those who stormed or protested at the Capitol, including one rioter shot by police inside the building.^[797] At least 138 police officers (73 Capitol Police officers, 65 Metropolitan Police Department officers) were injured,^[798] including at least 15 who were hospitalized, some with severe injuries.^{[799][800]} Three improvised explosive devices were reported to have been found: one on Capitol grounds, and one each at the Republican National Committee and Democratic National Committee offices.^[801]

Aftermath

Following the storming of the Capitol, several cabinet-level officials and White House staff resigned, citing the incident and Trump's behavior.^[802] On January 6, the night of the storming, a number of White House officials submitted their resignations, including Stephanie Grisham (chief of staff to the first lady), Deputy National Security Advisor Matt Pottinger, White House Social Secretary Anna Cristina Niceta Lloyd, and Deputy White House Press Secretary Sarah Matthews.^[803] More officials continued to resign, including Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, chair of the Council of Economic Advisers Tyler Goodspeed, and former White House chief of staff and special envoy to Northern Ireland Mick Mulvaney.^{[804][805][806][807]}

On January 7, the day after the Electoral College results were certified by Congress, Trump tweeted a video in which he stated, "A new administration will be inaugurated on January 20th. My focus now turns to ensuring a smooth, orderly and seamless transition of power."^[808] The State Department subsequently told diplomats to affirm Biden's victory.^[809]

On January 12, the House voted in favor of requesting that the vice president remove Trump from office per the Twenty-fifth Amendment; hours earlier, Pence had indicated that he opposed such a measure.^[810] The next day, the House voted 232–197 to impeach Trump on a charge of "incitement of insurrection". Ten Republicans voted in favor of the impeachment. Trump is the first and only president to be impeached twice.^[811] On February 13, the Senate voted 57–43 to convict Trump of inciting insurrection, ten votes short of the required two-thirds majority, and he was acquitted. Seven Republican senators joined all Democratic and independent senators in voting to convict.^{[812][813]}

Farewell address

Trump gave a farewell address the day prior to the inauguration of Joe Biden. In it he stressed his economic and foreign policy record, said the country can never tolerate "political violence".^[814] Breaking from tradition, Trump did not attend Biden's inauguration, becoming the first departing president in 152 years to refuse to attend his successor's inauguration.^{[815][816]} He did honor another tradition by leaving Biden a letter on the Resolute desk in the White House.^{[817][818]}

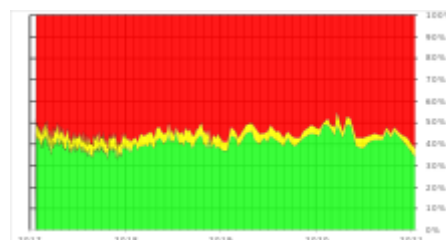
Historical evaluations and public opinion

C-SPAN's 2021 President Historians Survey ranked Trump as the fourth-worst president overall, with Trump being rated the worst in the leadership characteristics of Moral Authority and Administrative Skills. Trump's best rated leadership characteristic was Public Persuasion, where he ranked 32nd out of the 44 individuals who were previously president.^[819]

Popular polling

At the time of the 2016 election, polls by Gallup found Trump had a favorable rating around 35% and an unfavorable rating around 60%, while Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton held a favorable rating of 40% and an unfavorable rating of 57%.^[820] 2016 was the first election cycle in modern presidential polling in which both major-party candidates were viewed so unfavorably.^{[821][822][823][824]}

By January 20, 2017, Inauguration Day, Trump's approval rating average was forty-two percent, the lowest rating average for an incoming president in the history of modern polling;^[825] during his term it has been an "incredibly stable (and also historically low)" thirty-six to forty percent.^{[826][827]}



Gallup approval polling, covering February 2017 – December 2020



Democratic backsliding

Since the beginning of the presidency of Donald Trump, ratings of how well U.S. democracy is functioning sharply plunged.^[828]

According to the 2018 Varieties of Democracy Annual Democracy Report, there has been "a significant democratic backsliding in the United States [since the Inauguration of Donald Trump] ... attributable to weakening constraints on the executive."^[828] Independent assessments by Freedom House and Bright Line Watch found a similar significant decline in overall democratic functioning.^{[829][830]}

See also

- Bibliography of Donald Trump
- Efforts to impeach Donald Trump
- Make America Great Again
- Political positions of Donald Trump
- List of federal political scandals in the United States (21st century)
- Timeline of investigations into Trump and Russia
- Timeline of Russian interference in the 2016 United States elections
- Timeline of Russian interference in the 2016 United States elections (July 2016–election day)

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Footnotes

- a. Trump later falsely asserted, "President Obama wanted to meet and chairman Kim would not meet him. The Obama administration was begging for a meeting."^[584]
- b. A small portion (January 3–19, 2017) of the 115th Congress took place under President Obama, while only a small portion of the 117th Congress (January 3–19, 2021) took place during Trump's single term.

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Further reading

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External links

- "The Trump Cabinet" (<http://media.cq.com/docs/index.php?uid=39>) (2017). *Congressional Quarterly* reports on Trump's cabinet activity
- Donald Trump biography (<https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/people/donald-j-trump/>) on whitehouse.gov
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