



American History

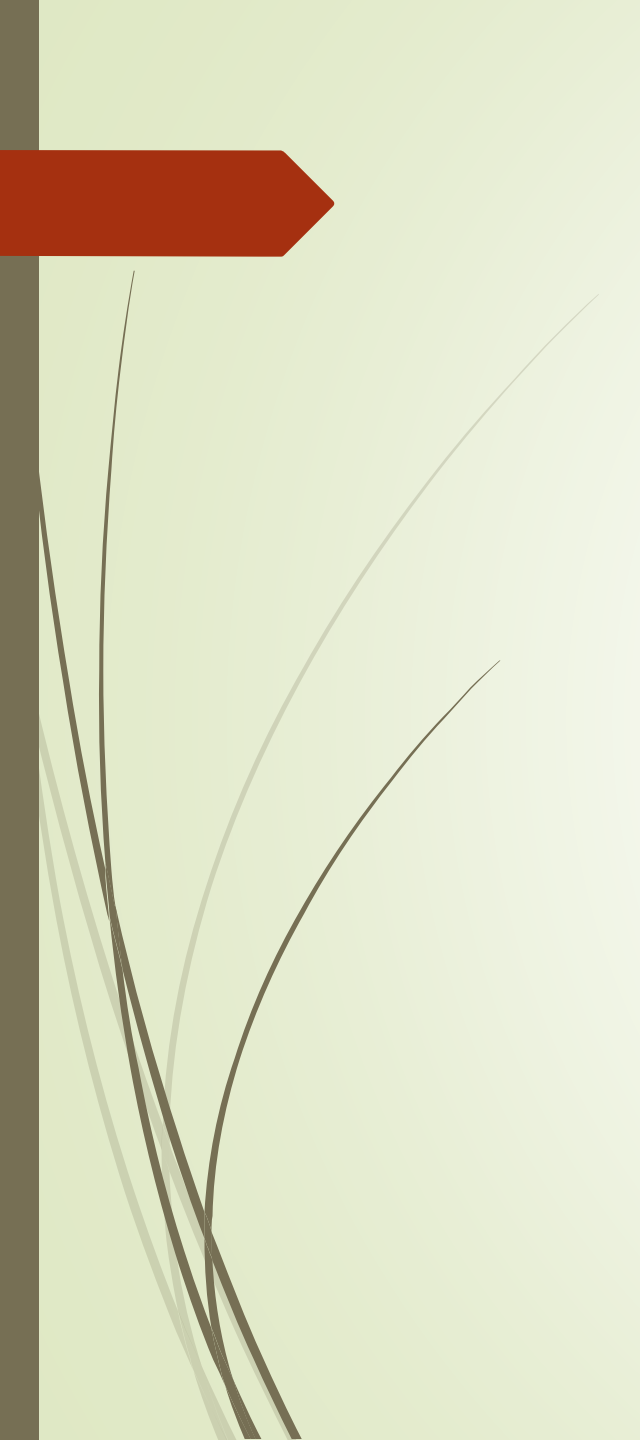
The Biden Interlude 2021-2024

The Biden Interlude

Talk	US	Time Period	Date of Talk
56	The road to MAGA..	2001-2017	June 1st
57	MAGA 1.0: First Trump Presidency	2017-2021	June 15th
58	The Biden interlude	2021-2024	June 29th
59	MAGA 2.0 and potential futures	2025+	July 6th

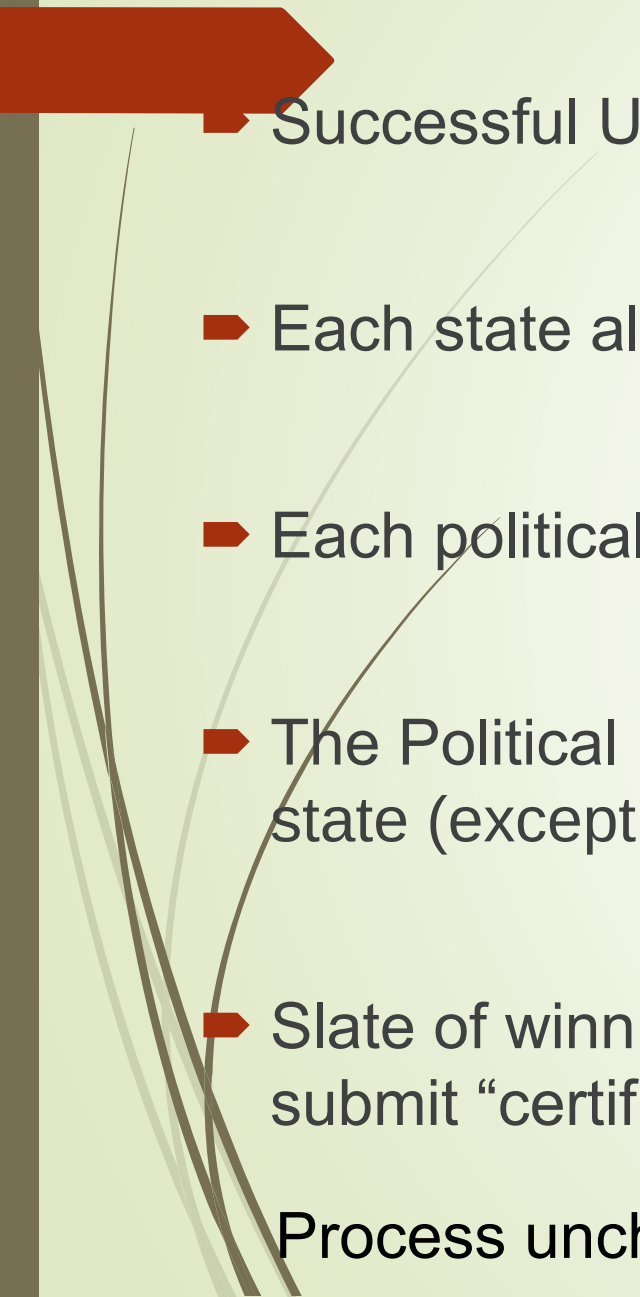
The Biden Interlude

- 
- 
- The Transition of Power
 - “Amtrack Joe”
 - Covid and the USA
 - Fixing America
 - Biden and the World
 - The immigration crisis
 - The trouble with Trump



The transition of power

The US Election Process

- 
- ▶ Successful US Presidential candidate must win “electoral college” majority
 - ▶ Each state allocated “Electoral votes” based on population last census
 - ▶ Each political party of each state nominates a list (“Slate”) of electors
 - ▶ The Political party that wins a state wins all the “electoral college” votes for that state (except Maine and Nebraska)
 - ▶ Slate of winning party electors each expected to “vote” for the candidates and submit “certified vote” to Congress

Process unchanged since 1788. designed by “gentlemen” for “gentlemen

The Election Process

- Election Day November 5th: 50 separate election run concurrently
- November 6th – December 12th Elections certified by each state/ recounts/ fraud claims
- December 12th “Safe Harbour Deadline....states confirm results, election valid
- December 17th Electors meet to “cast ballots” December 17th, send to Congress
- January 3rd New Congress meets and takes office...sworn in
- January 6th Vice President holds Joint Session of Congress to certify elector vote
- January 20th President Inaugurated

It's not over, till it's over

American election “anomalies”

- Electoral college allocation biased in favour of rural states
 - All states get minimum of 3 “Electors”
 - California 1 elector per 800,000 voters, Wyoming 1 per 190,000
 - “Faithless” electors can override state popular vote –rare 0 in 2020, 7 in 2016
- Each state empowered to operate its own election system
 - Use of Mail in ballots, Voting times, Level of identification
 - Majority party of each state chooses election officials
- Elections administered by elected officials...not civil service

System sustained by “bi-partisan agreements, trust
.....multiple opportunities to de-rail the process

2020 The Covid Election

- Election during 3rd Covid Wave
 - 100,000 cases per day, 250,000 registered deaths, 9 million cases
 - 50 different changes to election process
- 100% Increase in mail- in ballots / absentee voting
 - MAGA voters more likely to vote in person.
- 50 different rules on valid mail in dates, social distancing, oversight
- Delayed counts (50 rules when to start mail in vote counts)

MAGA voters more likely to vote in person, Dems by mail

Trump: The “breaker of rules”.



Trump and 2020 election

Prior to election

- Attempts to delay election till Covid complete
- Trump pre election quotes“ "the only way we're going to lose this election is if the election is rigged.“ ...“The only way they can take this election away from us is if this is a rigged election,” ...”The Democrats are trying to rig this election because that’s the only way they’re going to win,” he said.

➤ Election Night events

- Early votes show Trump majoritymail in votes not counted
- Late night mail votes counted....Biden majority

➤ Day After

- “This is a fraud on the American public. This is an embarrassment to our country. We were getting ready to win this election. Frankly, we did win this election.”

Trump refuses to concede....and never does

The MAGA assault on election process

- Legal challenges: 67 legal cases : all rejected by Courts
- Re-counts and audits (Georgia twice) ...no change in results, defects found
- Overturning State Certification: : MAGA states asked to reject vote....refuse
- “Alternative electors”: “rival slates” to replace winning Democratic Slate
 -Court rules “slates” illegal, State Organisations ignore, Congress refuses to accept

The last assault....Overturn Congressional Certification January 6, 2021

January 6th 2021 Trump attempts abort certification



➤ Stop the Steal” movement

funded by Supermarket heiress/ Trump donor Julie Fancielli, Talk show host Alex Jones...white militia groups

➤ MAGA actions

...“Save America March” stop certification

... Social Media MAGA message

...Trump agrees to make “rally” speech

...pressures VP Pence to void votes

Trump 12 pm: “you'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength and you have to be strong . We have come to demand that Congress do the right thing and only count the electors who have been lawfully slated” [\[1\]](#)

"Save America March "moves to Capital



Crowd marches to Capital (Trump retreats to White House..pressures VP Pence to void votes)



gettyimages
Credit: Bill Clark

“Hang Mike Pence” chant and gallows



Mob breaks into Capital Building



1230458849

Attack on the Capital 2 pm ...Congress stops vote, led to safe area ,...run



gettyimages®
Credit: Bloomberg

Mob enters Capital 2 pm



1230453994

Congress flees to safe-rooms...Bi-Partisan at last



“Noble Cause” triumphs



Move through Capital Building



Rioters ransack Senate Floor



Occupy and ransack Speaker's Office



Attempted “coup” time-line

Mob breaks police cauldron 2 pm

- Congress abandons certification 2 pm...flee to “safe rooms”
- Police clear mob from capital by 4 pm ...after 2 hours
- Certification vote resumes at 8pm and Joe Biden...
- Aftermath: 4 deaths, 140 Capital Hill officers injured, 1,500 arrested, 500
- Trump Impeachment(s)
 - First Impeachment December 2019 “Abuse of Power” and “ Obstruction of Congress”: attempt at securing anti Biden family information from Ukraine. Acquitted
 - Second Impeachment “Inciting Insurrection”. Issued January 13th, passed by House but “Acquitted Senate” ..vote 57/43 with 10 Republican Senator

Trump refuses to concede...rejects formal handover meetings

“Alternative Facts”

Democrats
Reagan/ Bush
Republicans

Organised attempt to overthrow the government and reverse election
Violent protest intending to kill Mike Pence, Nancy Pelosi
Led by Conspiracy theorists and white militants
Trump instigated attack

MAGA

Peaceful protest that got out of control
“Bad Actors” (FBI, Capital Police, Anti Fascists) trick protestors!
Protestors “concerned citizens”, Trump: “Great Patriots”
Liberal Media exaggerated violence
Trump did not incite storming of Capital

...25% Americans believed election “rigged”, 75% Republicans
....All fraud cases/ recounts fail: 500 fraud cases/ 125m votes!

Transition of power

- No formal handover between incoming and outgoing staff
- No meeting at the White House to welcome incoming President
- No meeting of the families
- Trump refuses to attend inauguration ceremony
- And continues to deny election result

Power transferred...January 26
...Covid restricted, 25,000 National Guard



Joe Biden Presidency and persistence of Trump influence





Joe Biden

Joe Biden (1942....)



- ▶ Oldest elected President
- ▶ Born Scranton Pennsylvania
 - ▶ Catholic family
 - ▶ Father used car salesman
 - ▶ Poor student, persevered
 - ▶ Baseball/ football star
 - ▶ Childhood stutter... poems
- ▶ Life before politics
 - ▶ Marries Nellie Hunter while student
 - ▶ 3 children ...including Beau
 - ▶ Student deferment: Vietnam “asthma”
 - ▶ Law school Delaware, avoids expulsion due to plagiarism,
 - ▶ Graduates 76 out of 87
- ▶ Life before politics
 - ▶ Clerks at law firm
 - ▶ Public Defender,
 - ▶ Law Firm/ Local politics

Biden the young Senator

Joe Biden with sons Beau and Hunter 1972



- About Delaware
 - Population 900,000
 - Banking, finance centre, docks
- Senator 1972
 - Runs as Democratic/ union support ..Anti Vietnam War
 - Elected 7th youngest Senator
- The accident...one month later
 - Wife & daughter killed in car accident, son survive, Joe in Congress
 - Crisis of faith, wants to retire
 - Convinced to continue

Joe Biden as longest serving Senator 1972-2008

Joe Biden with Reagan 1984



Re-birth

- ...blind date 1975, Jill Roberts
- ...separated, student
- ...married after divorce 1977
- ...Jill. Professor Education
- ...1 daughter, 3 step children

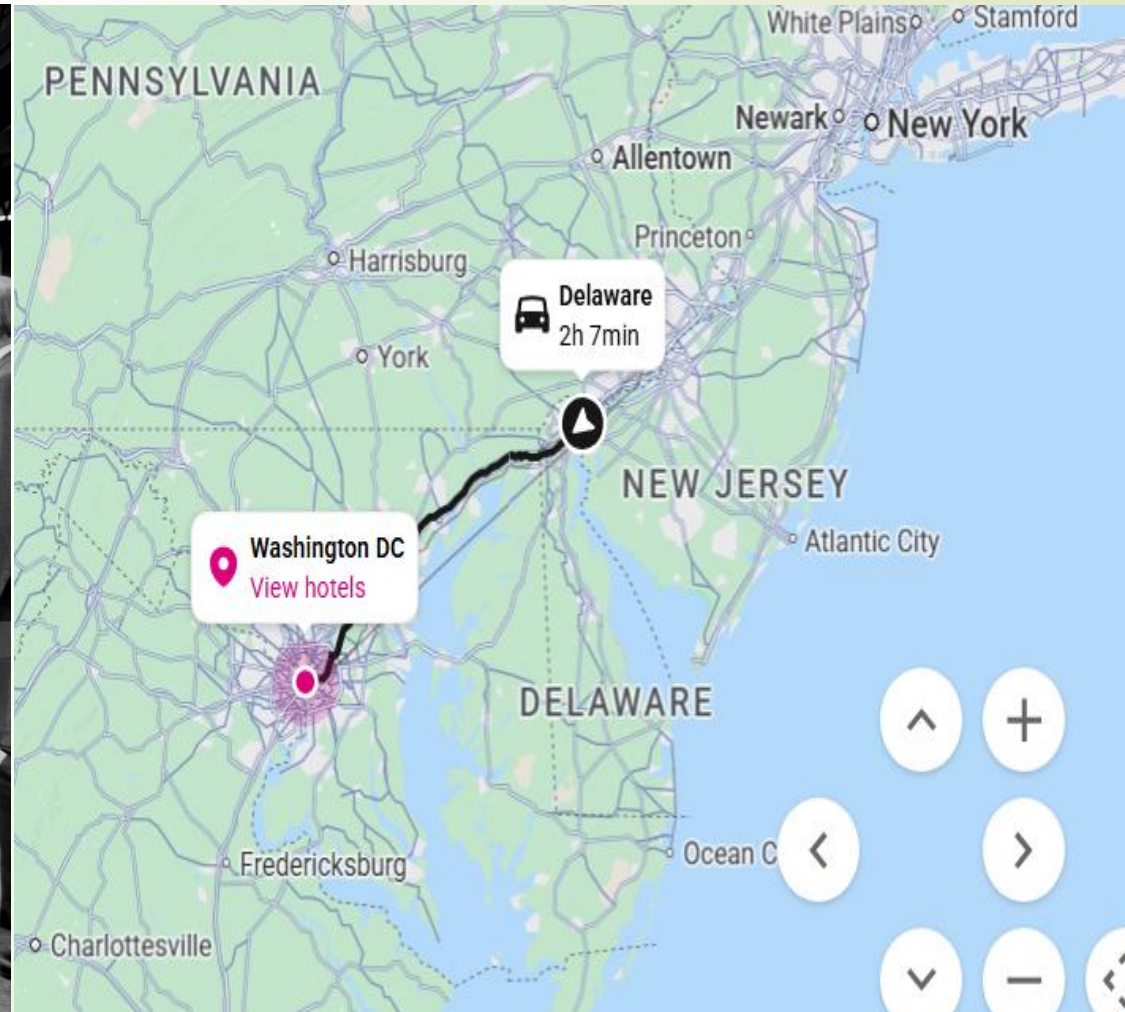
Senatorial career

- Re-elected 7 times!
- ... banking interests, military
-Pro Afghanistan & Iraq
- ... Civil Rights, LGBT,
Financial reform, anti drugs
-influential, Bi-Partisan

A mixed record..."gaffes"

- ...Runs for President 1988
- ...plagiarises Neil McKinnock speech
- ..invents degrees, claims top of
Law school class

“Amtrack Joe”...Commutes from Wilmington Delaware to Washington 36 years



Joe Biden as Vice President

Joe Biden and Barack Obama. Inauguration Day 2008



Runs for President 2008

-unions, black, middle class
- ...gaffes: McKinnock plagiarism
- ...abandons campaign

Obama picks Biden as VP

-conservative Dems, foreign affair
- ...fractious relationship
- ..Obama “how many is Biden going To say something stupid>”

Vice President record

- ...1s term (Dem majority):
- ...Contrarian arguments
- ...2nd (Republican majority
-Negotiator with Republicans
- ...Key role Ukraine...anti corruption
-trusted relationship with Obama

Another tragedy, oldest son Beau dies brain cancer 2015

The troublesome son...Hunter Biden

Hunter Biden 2015
....looking far too happy?



Joe Biden during Trump Term 12017-2020
...Teaches at Law School
...Speaking engagements, critic of Trump
...Protecting problematic son

Hunter Biden
...surviving son, law school graduate
....Consultant, uncle James. Hedge Fund
....Chinese Property Company...
.....Ukrainian oil company Burisma
....ongoing “Crack” addiction

Republican investigation after 2022 mid-terms
.....lost lap top recovered...dubious emails
... Hunter traded on father's name
.....searches of “kick backs” to father

No evidence of criminal behaviour
....Undercurrent of sleaze, abuse of privilege
....Media frenzy.. Conspiracy theories

Biden Presidential Campaign

Biden announcing
decision to run May 2019
.... Still vigorous!



Biden candidacy

- ...Links to Obama & black voters
- ...Middle Class appeal
- ...Strong Union support
- .. "Amtrack Joe" image

Winning the Democratic nomination

-Bernie Sanders, again, extreme
- ...Elizabeth Warren...detailed, too earnest
-Pete Buttigieg....mayor, analytical. gay
- ...Kamela Harris...inconsistent, but "good" enough to be VP..win women/ blacks?
-Biden most likely to beat Trump

Winning the election

-Trump seen as mishandling Covid
-Minority/ women/ educated vs Trump
-Age issue for both candidates
- ...wins 51% vote vs 48%
- ...MAGA Campaign of "denial"

Biden Inauguration Speech

..... A return to inspiration

- ➡ Appeal for Unity (without Unity no peace, just bitterness and fury)
- ➡ Democracy has prevailed
- ➡ Condemnation of violence
- ➡ Truth is back...there are no “alternative facts”
- ➡ Covid a national emergency, needs national patriotic response
- ➡ Appeal to American ideals of liberty, equality, opportunity and Democracy

Biden Cabinet...a functioning body and a return to diversity

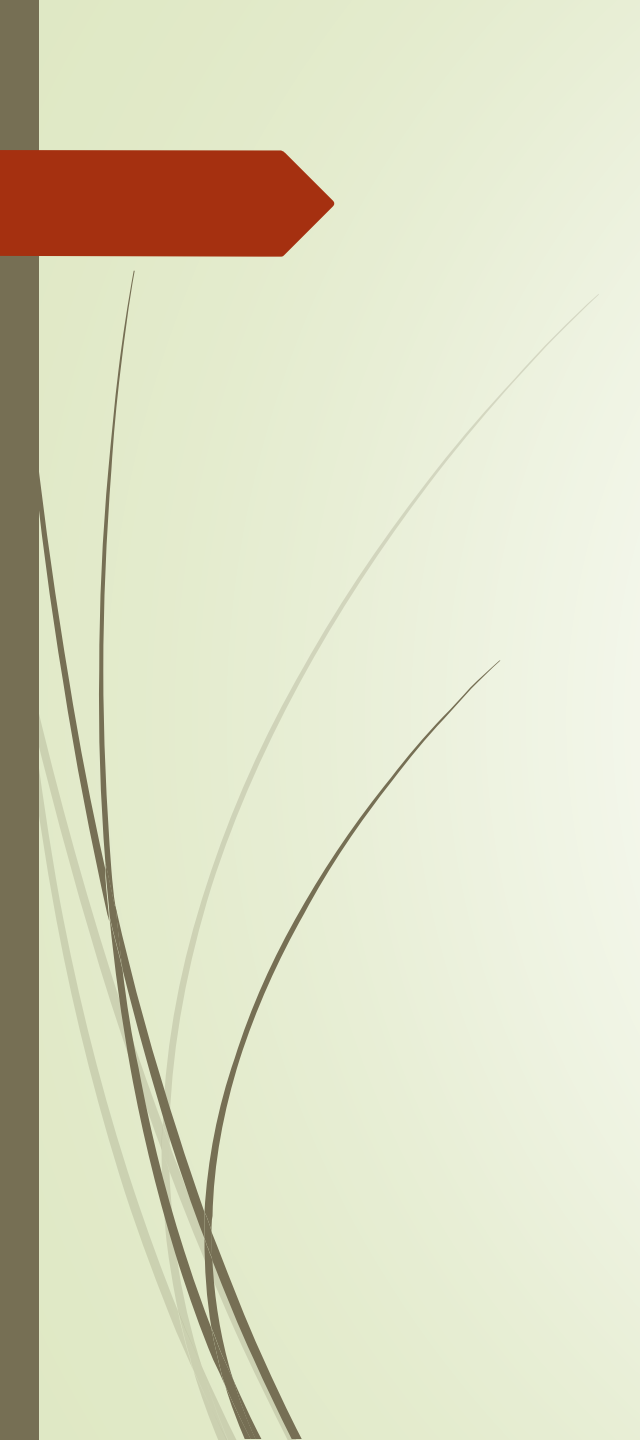




Biden Objectives

- Complete withdrawal from Afghanistan
- Restore alliances with “America is back” message
- Reverse Climate Change by investing in Green Energy
- Expand Affordable Care
- Recharge economy “Build Back Better”

Number one goal.....navigate US through Covid



US and Covid Epidemic 2021-2023

Covid USA January 2021

Peak of winter surge

- 4,000-5,000 deaths per day, 250,000 new cases per day, new variants
- Election “spreader events” ...Trump rallies
- Hospitals at capacity California, Southern states, Arizona,
- Vaccines available, national distribution under way
 - Widespread vaccination resistance
 - Some “mandates” for Health care workers, teachers, government workers
 - Contradictory messages.....Trump “personal freedom”
- Epidemic politicized
 - Blue States (California, New York) lockdowns, schools closed, mandates ok
 - Red States (Texas, Florida, Southern) ignored, schools open, mandates tyranny!

Covid Strategy change



➤ Trump Administration

- Travel Bans
- States to decide strategy
- Downplay severity, mixed messages on mask, social distancing masks
- Operation Warp Speed delivers vaccine vs contradictory messaging
- Expand unemployment benefits, support employment, medical grants

➤ Biden Administration

- Federal Government to coordinate efforts, set targets, national testing, guidance
- National Vaccination Campaign...media campaign
- Re-joins World Health Organisation
- Support school reopening
- Expand Affordable Care....increase “credits”

MAGA demonstrations....Government control. Pharmaceutical companies not trusted (Opioid legacy?)



(conspiracy theories...no mandate ever proposed
(except Health Workers, teachers, "key" gov
employees)...

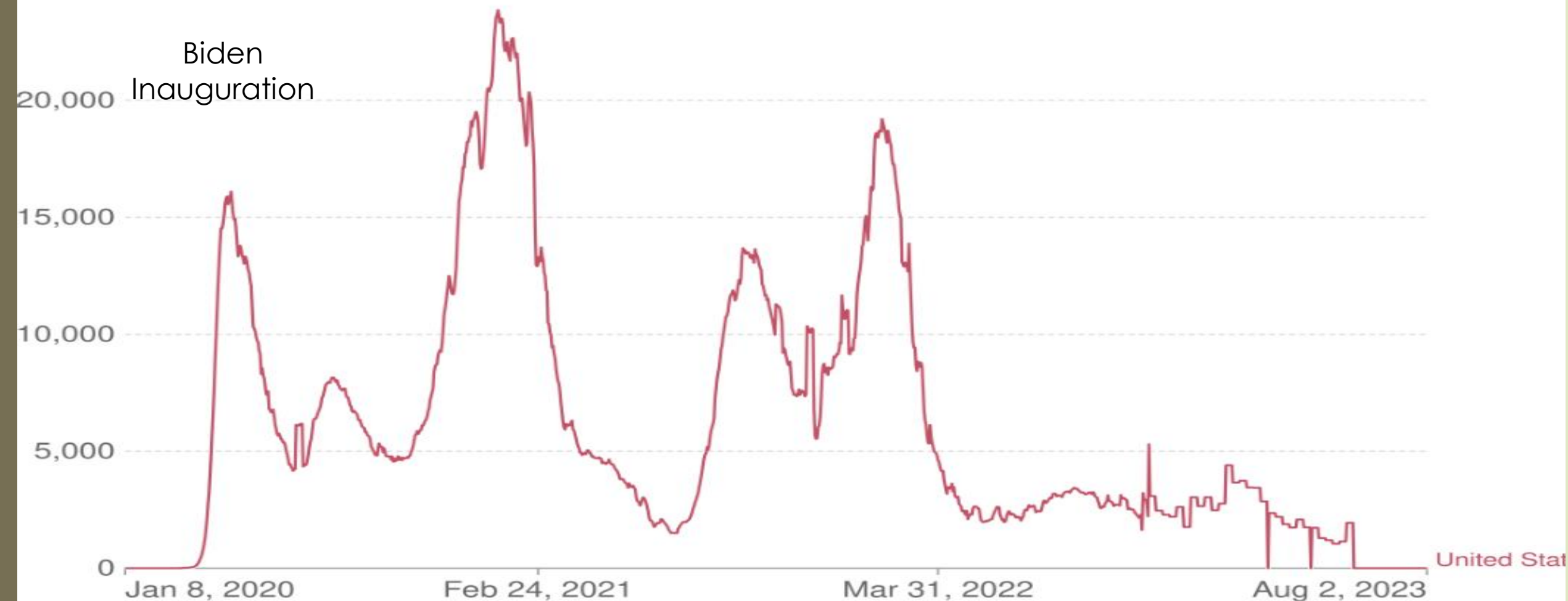


1,200,000 deaths , 800,000 after inauguration

.....new variants, vaccine resistance,

Weekly confirmed COVID-19 deaths

Weekly confirmed deaths refer to the cumulative number of confirmed deaths over the previous week. Due to varying protocols and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death, the number of confirmed deaths may not accurately represent the true number of deaths caused by COVID-19.



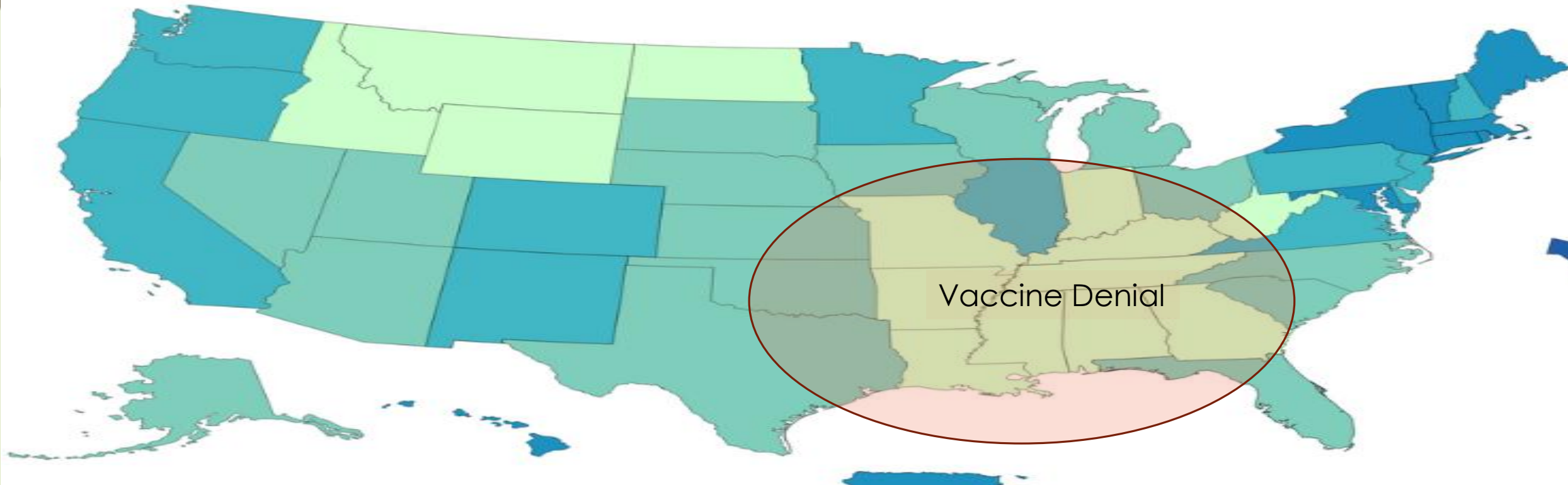
Vaccination rates and politics

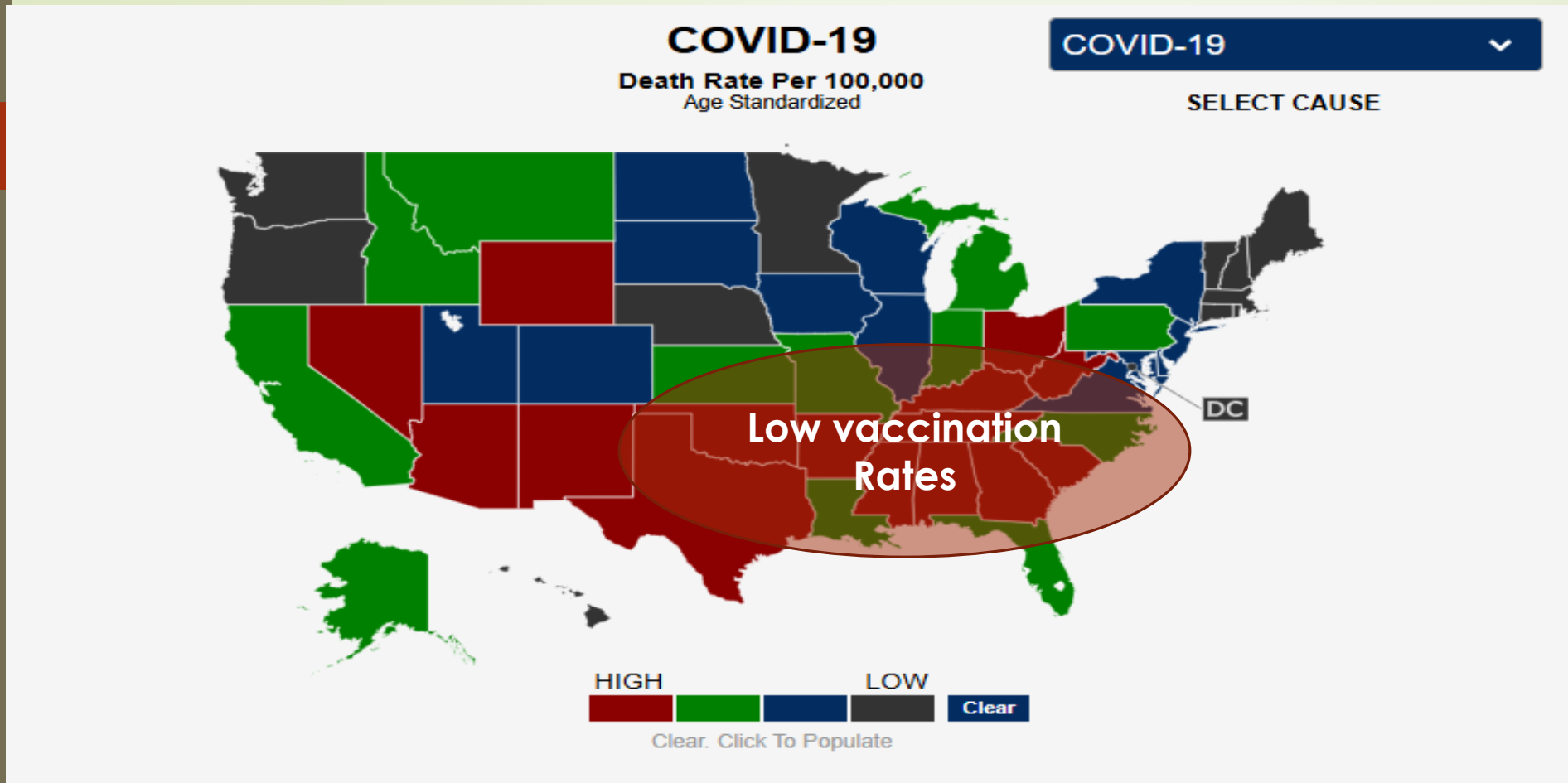
High –Blue States 70%, Low MAGAland 40%)

Percent of the Total Population with a Completed Primary Series Reported to CDC by Jurisdictions

COVID-19 vaccinations. Data as of: May 10, 2023.

○ No Data 0 - 59.9% 60 - 69.9% 70 - 79.9% 80 - 89.9% ≥ 90%





Death Rates

Higher in lower vaccinated states

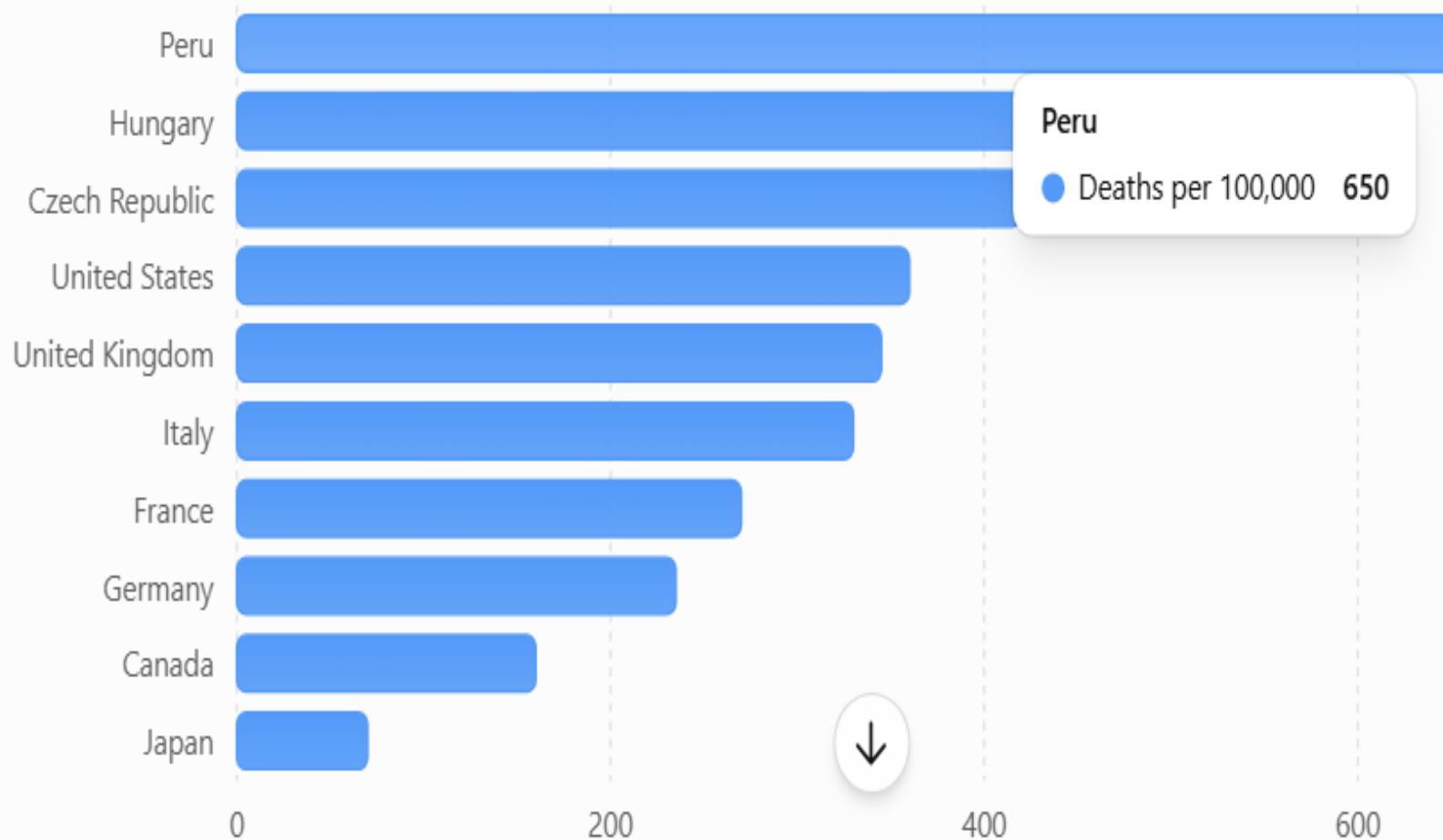
The high cost of MAGA?and “alternative facts”

Death rates

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Oklahoma	158.8	18	Florida	111.7	35	New Jersey	71.9
2	Alabama	152.8	19	Alaska	109.5	36	South Dakota	71.2
3	Texas	151.4	20	Montana	108.8	37	Maryland	71.2
4	West Virginia	146.8	21	North Carolina	107.5	38	Wisconsin	71.1
5	Mississippi	146.3	22	Michigan	107.1	39	North Dakota	70.9
6	Wyoming	143.4	23	Indiana	106.8	40	Wash DC	69.8

USA and Covid Epidemic

...1.2m deaths by end 2023, .360 deaths/ 100,000 (UK 340)



Factors causing high rates

...Medical support

...Access to vaccine

...Age of population/ Obesity

...population density

...Elderly Care

85% deaths over 65

...US and Peru “young” av age 38

...East Europe 47, Italy 45

...UK 41 France 42

Statistics for Death rates Russia
China, Africa dubious

US vs UK Covid Experience

US...death rate ...360 per 100K

- Decentralised approach....Blue s Red States, highly politicised
 - Fast vaccine roll out, high resistance...65% compliance
 - Strong logistic and PPE supply chain, Medical fees exempted
 - Care home discharges more delayed
-
- UK death rate 340 per 100k
 - Centralised approach to Lockdowns, non political, consistent messaging
 - Fast vaccine roll out, 75% vaccine compliance
 - Weak logistic and PPE supply chain
 - Disastrous accelerated hospital discharge policies

UK performance impaired by older population (av age 42 vs 38), population density

Economic Effects of COVID

US Economy Spring 2021

- Economy growing rapidly at 6%not returned to Pre-Covid Levels
 - Unemployment High at 7% (US policy expand benefits >retain employees
 - Inflation modest at 5%.
 - Peak Biden popularity at 54%
-
- Biden: MAGA a threat to US democracy: “Too much of what's happening in our country today is not normal....Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans represent an extremism that threatens the very foundations of our republic.”
 - Ambition: Remove conditions that enabled MAGA to grow

Build Back Better Programme

“Build Back Better”

Peak Biden Spring 2021



- \$2.5TN “New Deal”.
 - All Biden objectives one Bill
 - Democrat Control House
 - 50-50 split Senate + VP tie vote
- Social Transformation
 - Universal free child care
 - Paid family leave/ Child credits
 - Universal Health Care
- Economic Transformation
 - Infrastructure investment RED states
 - Green Energy “made in USA “
- Deficit/ Inequality reduction
 - Tax the rich, Corporation taxes

Requires united Democrats!

Ambition Constrained

Senator John Manchin



- Senate 2021 50 Dems vs 50 Republicans
 - Vice President Kamala Harris breaks Tie
- Progressive vs Conservative Democrats
 - Progressive: Big Cities/ minorities... Obama.
 - Conservatives: mining, energy— unions. Clinton
- Senator John Manchin West Virginia
 - Coal Trading Career/ Governor to Senate
 - Opposes “Green Energy” & Social Care
- Manchin Demands
 - Abandon Social changes, tax increases
 - Trade infrastructure for state/ Green energy

Build Back Better dead by end 2021

A Change in approach 2022

- 
- Abandon Social Change and tax increases on wealthy
 - Bundle economic plans :“Inflation Reduction Act” to avoid “Filibuster”
 - Fund \$800BN in Green Energy USA
 - Expands Affordable Care (undo Trump cut backs)
 - Establish minimum Corporation Tax (undo Trump tax cuts)
 - Legislation passed August 2022.....just in time for 2022 Mid- Terms

Biden at end of second year 2022

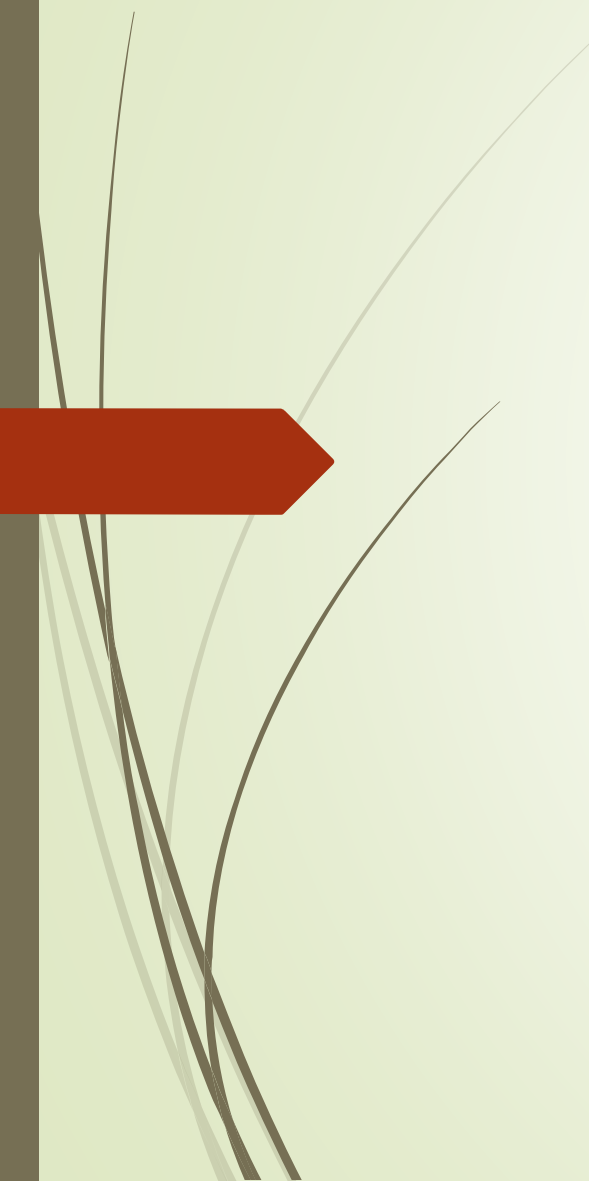
- Economy improving but high inflation
 - Economy growing 6%, unemployment falls 9%-4%,
 - Unemployment falls from 9% to 4%....demand for immigrant labour
 - Inflation rises to 9% : (Covid supply delays, benefit payments, Ukraine war)
- Biden popularity declines from 54% to 37%, MAGA resurgent
 - Progressives (Sanders) vexed by Social Programme abandonment
 - MAGA/ Media: “Stop the Steal”, Conspiracies Theories (Vaccine, Hunter Biden,)
 - Trump omnipresent.... 60% of news stories Trump related..legitimacy challenged
 - Minimal impact IFA on jobs by end 2022

Republicans gain House in 2022 Mid-Terms, Dems gain in Senate
.....Trump announces decision to run in 2024...nomination inevitable



Attention shifting from internal to international affairs and an immigration “crisis”

Defeating MAGA and future of “free world” will depend on effectiveness speed of The Biden response



Intermission

“America and the World 2020

Alliances under stress...Trump “pay your way” diplomacy

- Global Agreements abandoned
 - Iran JCPOA
 - Intermediate missiles treaty with Russia
 - Paris Climate Change
- Russia resurgent: Occupation of Crimea, Eastern Ukraine, Cyberattack
- China #1 challenge to US. Trump tariffs ineffectual
- Afghanistan withdrawal Agreement

First Challenge: Announce “America is Back1”

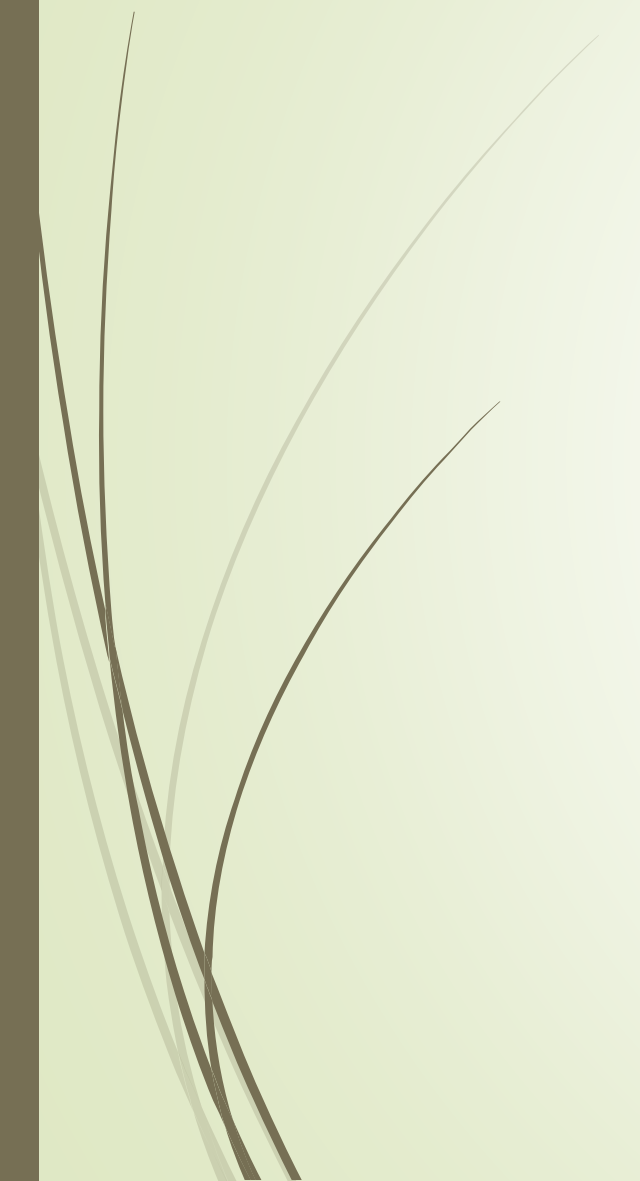
Antony Blinken (1962----) Secretary of State



- Wealthy Family
 - Family Hungarian Jews/ Zionists
 - Father Private Equity firm
 - Harvard Law School graduate
- Diplomatic experience
 - Senate advisor Foreign Affairs
 - Advisor Clinton 1992-2000
 - Pro Iraq war: Partition Plan
 - Sec of State Obama 2015-2017
- Secretary of State Biden
 - Recreate Alliances
 - Support Israel missile defence
 - Global tour



Exit from Afghanistan



Finalising Afghanistan withdrawal

John Blinken and Afghanistan President Ashran Ghani

...February 2021



Trump Agreement with Taliban

...Afghan government discredited

...US exit May 2021, Taliban control ++

Biden Administration approach

....Retains Agreement

... End “conditions” based approach

... Delay withdrawal till August 2021

Blinken July 2021 “

“The Afghan Security Forces have 300,000 forces equipped with modern equipment.

They have an air force. The Taliban has about 75,000 forces. So in terms of capacity, the Afghan forces clearly have the capacity to sustain the government that is in place.”

Regime support collapses....quickenning pacecorrupt "imposed" regime..."ghost army"...

The 2021 collapse of the Afghan government

How the Taliban overran the country's districts after April

Analysis by Bill Roggio -- Senior Fellow,
Foundation for Defense of Democracies Editor, FDD's Long War Journal

Government control

Contested

Taliban control

As of April 2021

May

June

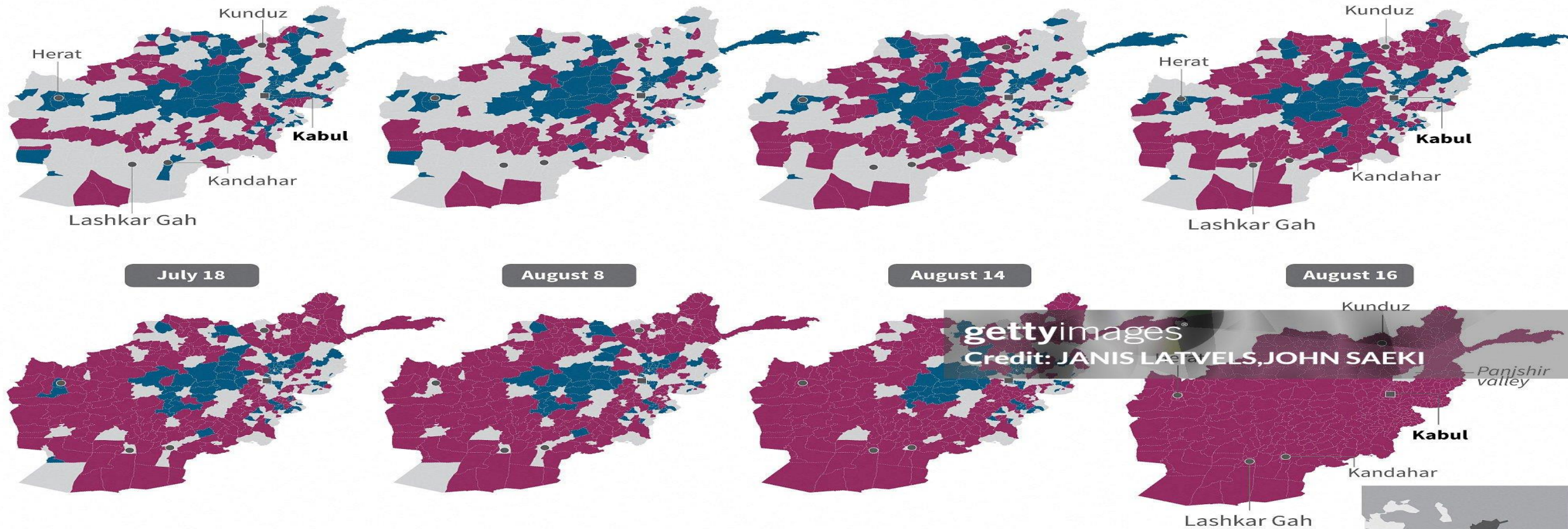
July 5

July 18

August 8

August 14

August 16



Mass exodus from Kabul

...US & UK troops ask for permission to leave



The lucky ones.



The unlucky ones



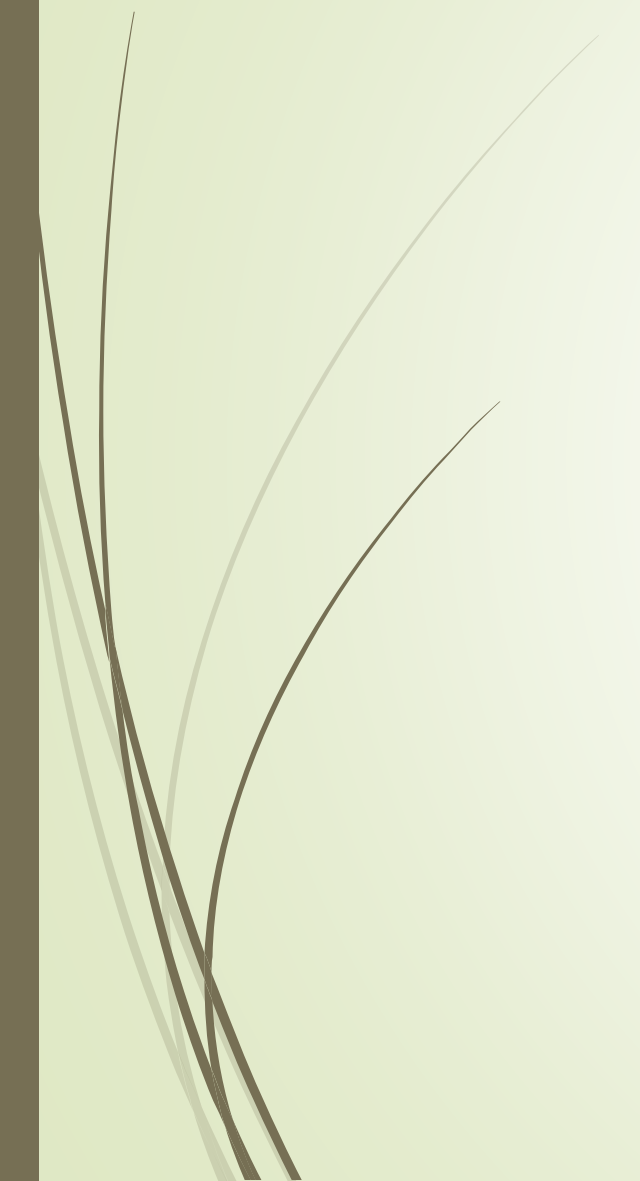
Afghanistan embraces its future
....its women will have none



Impact Afghanistan Debacle

On Afghanistan.....return to 7th Century

- On USA: Abject failure....21 years, 5,000 lives, £2.5 TN investment...
 - Biden Administration seen as inept...fuels MAGA “anti-globalism” message
 - US shift focus to Asia and border crossings from Central/ South America
 - On Allies: US credibility as Alliance partner in question
 - On Adversaries
 - Iran: Middle East “power vacuum”, opportunity to expand influence
 - China ridicule “US enters, then leaves in chaos” expands “Belt and Road Initiative
 - Russia recovers domination of Central Asia, US seen as disorganised and weak,
- Putin decision to invade Ukraine already made....sees “Window of Opportunity”



Ukraine

Ukraine 2014-2022

■ In Ukraine

- Maidan Revolution 2014- remove Russian Oligarchs
- Russian occupation of Crimea, invasion East Ukraine
- Minsk Agreement 2015) freeze borders, East.. Ukrainian territory “autonomous”
- Low level warfare continues
- Ukraine “De-sovietises” military, reduces corruption, elect Volodymyr Zelensky 2019

■ In Russia

- Putin “Greater Russia” agenda...Ukraine “Russian”
- Claims Ukraine Nazis committing “Genocide” vs Russian speakers
- Demonization of West..NATO threat, cult of “Great Patriotic War”

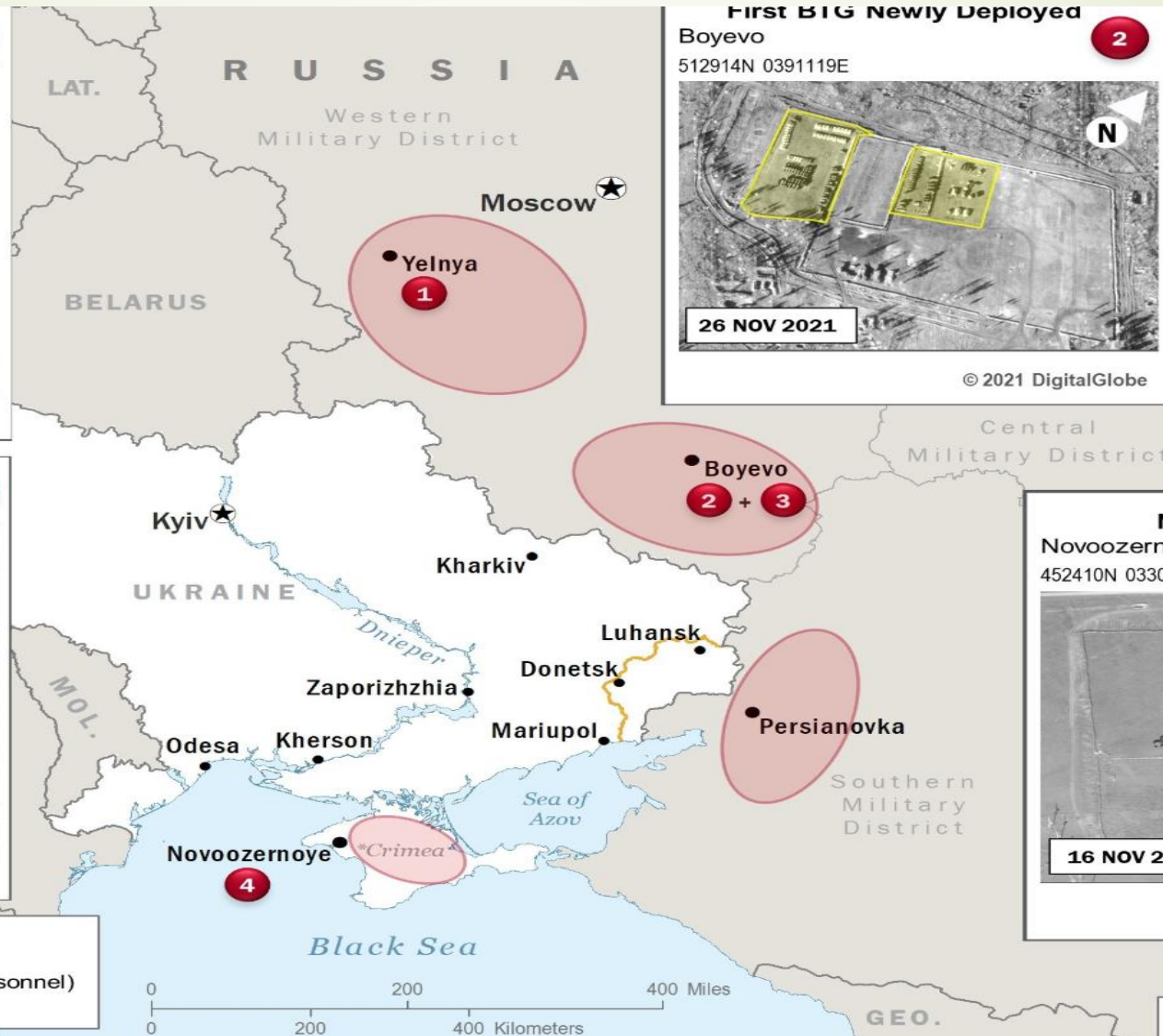
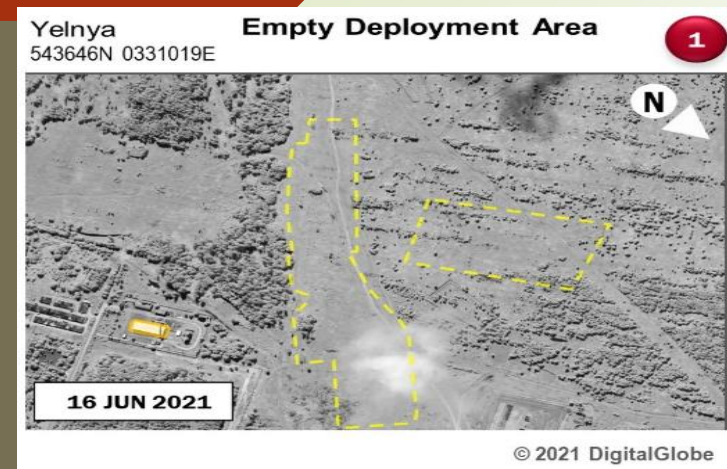
Failed Summit Ukraine (Zelensky) Macron & Putin

.....July 2019



Russian military build-up Winter 2021

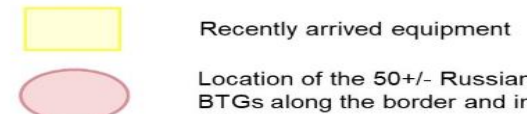
.....US/ UK intelligence "correct" ..and Ukraine



- ▶ 50 BTGs currently (+/- 70,000 personnel)
- ▶ Up to 100 BTGs expected (+/- 175,000 personnel)
- ▶ Up to 50 Regiments of Reservists Expected (100,000 personnel)
- ▶ Battalion Tactical Group (BTG)

Ukraine's Autonoma Respublika Krym (Autonomous Republic of Crimea) is occupied by Russia.
Autonomous Republic of Crimea

- ▶ Russian plans involve extensive movement of BTGs to / from the border to obfuscate intentions and to create uncertainty.



Diplomatic moves to stop war

Macron and Putin January 2022....Long distance meeting



European leaders to Moscow
...Macron France
...Schultz German
...Johnson UK

Biden to Putin: phone only
...E Europe not Russian
...Ukraine sovereign country
....economic deterrence

Putin to Biden/ Europe
....E Europe "Russian"
...NATO to withdraw to west
...Ukraine Nazis
...denies plans to invade

Russian Invasion February- March 2022

Russia attacks Feb 22

Army of 200,000
...attacks everywhere
...simultaneously

Goals
...Kill Zelensky
...Seize Kyiv, Kharkiv
...All of East Ukraine

Assumptions
...Ukrainian welcome
...Army to collapse
...Zelensky dead



US and Ukraine War 2022-2023

➤ Biden response to invasion

- “Unprovoked and unjustified”. Putin the aggressor, imposes economic sanctions
- US **rapid** delivery of \$55Bn “Survival Aid”..missiles, tanks, anti-tank weapons
- Europeans deliver \$60BN, mostly humanitarian aid....lack of unity, fear of escalation

➤ Trump and war

- Focus on pressuring Zelensky to share wrong doings Hunter Biden...response, no crime
- Putin “ ‘This is genius.’ Putin declares a big portion of the Ukraine — of Ukraine — Putin declares it as independent. Oh, that’s wonderful....’ You gotta say that’s pretty savvy.”
- Claims war European problem and Europe not responding

US public 80% in support of aid 2022/2023

Ukraine resistance

Russian army outskirts Kviv..US offers Zelensky evacuation February 25th
: ...Zelensky “ I need ammunition, not a ride”



Russian offensive collapses

...Ukrainian army prepared, organised, armed

.....Tank columns annihilated, rapid delivery US & UK missiles



Volodomor Zelensky (1978.....)

Zelensky “Comedy Factory” 1995



► Early life

.....Jewish family, grandparents killed in holocaust, father Soviet Army

...father computer scientist, mother engineer

....Studies law....joins comedy group

► Entertainment career 1995-2019

► Late night comedy, Paddington Bear

► Hosts Russian “X factor” leaves Russia after Crimea

► Performs for Ukrainian army Donbas 2015/16

► Film “Servant of the People

► Runs for President 2019: anti corruption...wins

Visiting the wounded Donbas 2015a defining moment



Faces of War

Zelensky 2019



Zelensky September 2022



Ukraine Counterattacks

Recover territory March, April –November 2022

Russian resumes offense...deadlock



2022 Mid-Terms and its impact

- Biden popularity declines from 55% to 40%
 - Persistent inflation, slow start infrastructure projects
 - Afghanistan withdrawal seen as chaotic and humiliating
 - Trump attacks on Hunter Biden dominate Media and weaken support
- MAGA resurgent....Trump
 - Trump dominates news cycle: anti aid to anyone, war European problem
 - Trump completes MAGA take-over of Republicans:
 - Supreme Court (6-3 MAGA bias) rule vs abortion energises evangelicals (80% Trump) who turn out to vote...energises women, but low turn-out

Republicans (MAGA) take over House ...enough to reduce then block aid

US and Ukraine 2023-2025

- ➡ Congress mandates reduction of aid, allows loan programme
- ➡ Public support declines from 80% to 50%
 - ➡ Failure of over-hyped 2023 Counter offensive
 - ➡ MAGA message of isolationism resurgent...Trump led
- ➡ Biden convinced Trump aiding Putin...and only he can stop re-election

New International event energises USA: Gaza

Full Scale War returns to Europe..."Stalemate"

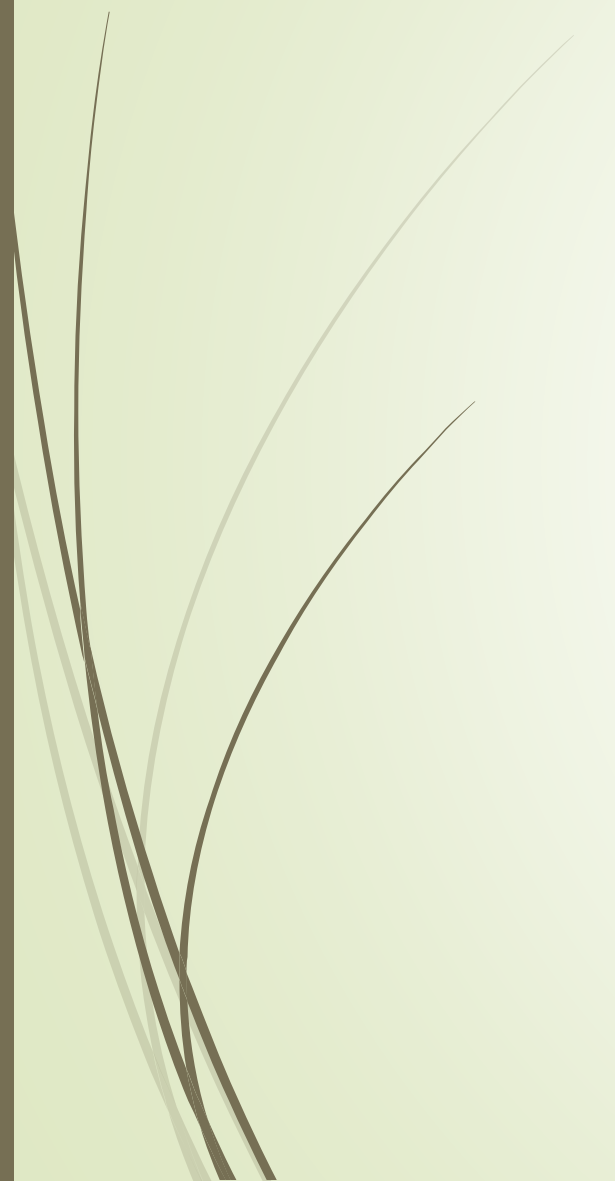
1.5m Russians killed, wounded by 2026, 500K Ukrainians
Bakhmut 2023



Ukraine War Impact on USA

- Increases political polarisation
 - Democrats support Ukraine, Russia the enemy
 - Republicans : cut off aide, leave war to Europe, Russia “misunderstood”
- US an unreliable ally
 - foreign policy dependent on price of petrol, votes of key districts
 - MAGA and Trump influence “not gone away”
- Significantly reduces US influence in Europe
 - NATO European nations steps up military investment, Finland, Sweden join
 - Europe replaces US as major aid provider (\$80Bn vs \$15Bn US by 2024)

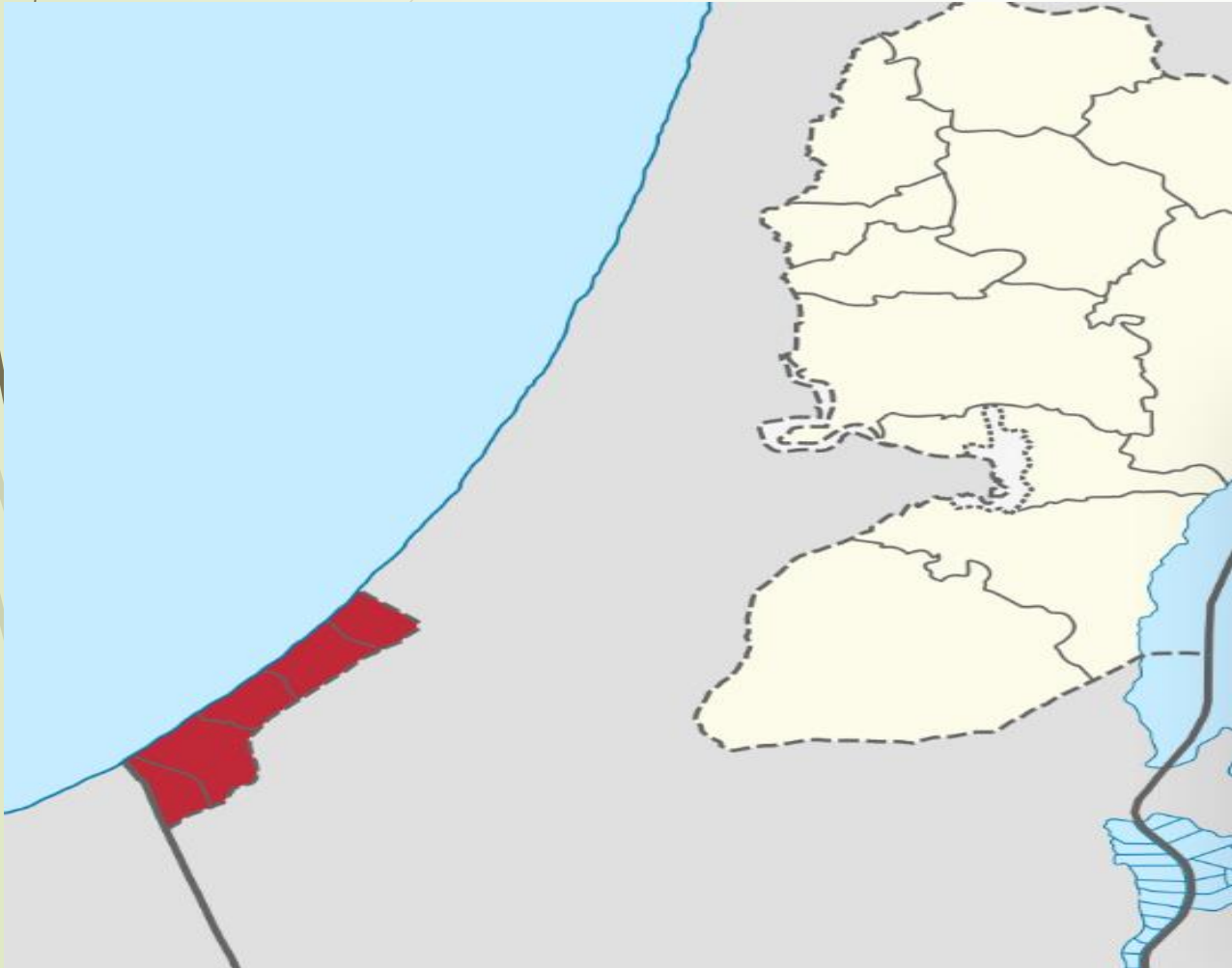
US aid critical to Ukraine **survival** 2022/2023...and Biden's Leadership



GAZA

A brief history of Gaza

Gaza Strip (25 miles long, 5 miles wide)



Before 1967

- ... Ottoman district 1517-1918
- ... British Mandate 1918-48
- ... Egyptian territory 1948-68
- ... population 80,000

Israeli occupation 1969-2005

- ... Israel occupation 1968
- ... Palestinian refugees ..pop rises to 2,000,000
- ... Jewish settlements
- ... 1990 Oslo Accords.. "autonomy"
- ... 2005 Israel leave.. inc settlements
- ... Palestine Authority control

Hamas takeover 2007

- ... Hamas win "elections"
- ... War with PLA
- ... Assume political, economic control

Hamas

Origins: Muslim Brotherhood...founded 1987 ,,funded by Iran and Qatar

➤ Goals

- Elimination of Israeli State, return of occupied lands to Arabs
- Establish Hybrid clerical/ secular state based on Sharia law...science. education

➤ Methods

- Terrorism legitimate weapon vs technologically advanced Israel
- Rocket attacks vs Israel, suicide bombers
- Operate civilian government provide schools, police, military, hospitals

➤ Impact:

- Constant war with Israel
- Blockade of Gaza ...by both Israel and Egypt

Benjamin Netanyahu (1949.....)

Netanyahu 2021



- Early life
 - Educated US & Israel
 - Israeli army 1967-1973...anti terrorism
 - To US MIT Architecture. Boston Consulting (Romney)
- Early political career prior to 2008
 - Returns to Israel 1978, anti-terrorism
 - Ambassador to UN 1984-88
 - Israeli PM 1996-99 war with Hamas
 - “targeted assassinations Hamas
 - Opposition leader...move to Right/ corruption charges
- Political career PM 2000-2021, 2022+
 - Implicit support “Greater Israel”, No 2 state solution+
 - Expand settlements, Palestinians “tenants”
 - Iran existential threat to Israel ...and USA
 - Targets MAGA, popular US...enemy terrorists

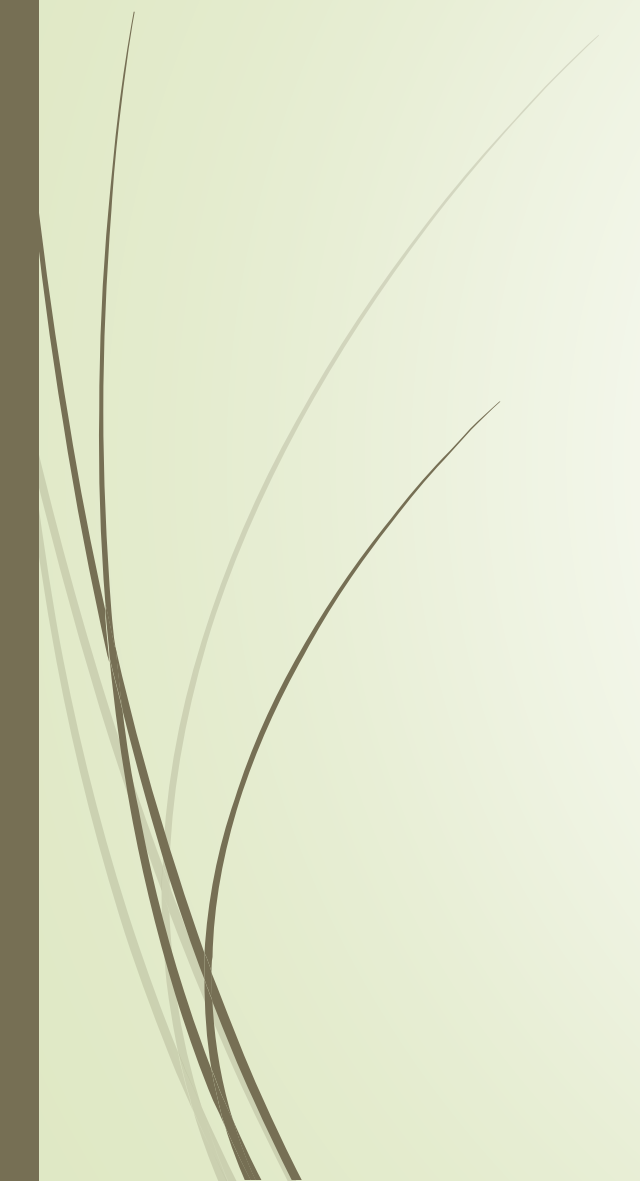
Rising tensions & impasse 2007-

West bank... "2 State solution" no longer viable

- Jewish settlements increase (from 270,000 1990- 700,000) & 70% land vs 20% for 2m!
- Terrorist attacks....the building of walls by Israel to "contain and control" Palestinians
- Gaza...Impoverishment and hopelessness
 - Unemployment from 30% to 50%, 70 poverty, 50% electricity, contaminated water
 - Hamas sustained by Iran....only vehicle for "resistance"
- Israel: Ultra Conservatives in power "Greater Israel", Netanyahu constant "war"
- USA:
 - Trump/ MAGA: 100% Israel, Strong pro Israel lobbies AIPAC, Evangelical "Christians for Israel)
 - Biden: security support for Israel, humanitarian aid, nominal 2 State solution support
 - Republican Congress dominated by pro Israel lobbies (AIPAC, "Christians for Israel")



Hamas Attack on Israel



October 7, 2023

Memorial to the 350 children killed at festival



Goals:
Break impasse
Maximise terror
Disrupt Israeli politics

Surprise attack
6,000 Hamas break out
1,200 Israelis killed, (900 civilians, 400 soldiers)
.....250 hostages

Israel response
....repulse attack
...1,200 Hamas killed
...bomb Gaza/return hostages

Impact
Israel united/ world support
2 year campaign
Hostage recovery...at first
Then destroy Hamas
“cleanse” Gaza

US response to Gaza Crisis

- Biden: “act of supreme evil”
- Hamas branded a terrorist organisation
- US citizens included in hostages...focus of recovery
- US ramps up aid to Israel
 - “US ready to offer **unconditional** support
 - Military aid increased 5X from \$4Bn to \$16Bn
 - Bi-Partisan support for Israel....at first

Israeli undertakes mass bombing campaign followed by invasion

Gaza City 2019



Gaza City 2025

...legitimate response or “collective punishment”?

70,000-100,000 killed, 170,000 wounded, (90% homelessness, pushed to 20% of land...humanitarian crisis



US Foreign Policy under Biden

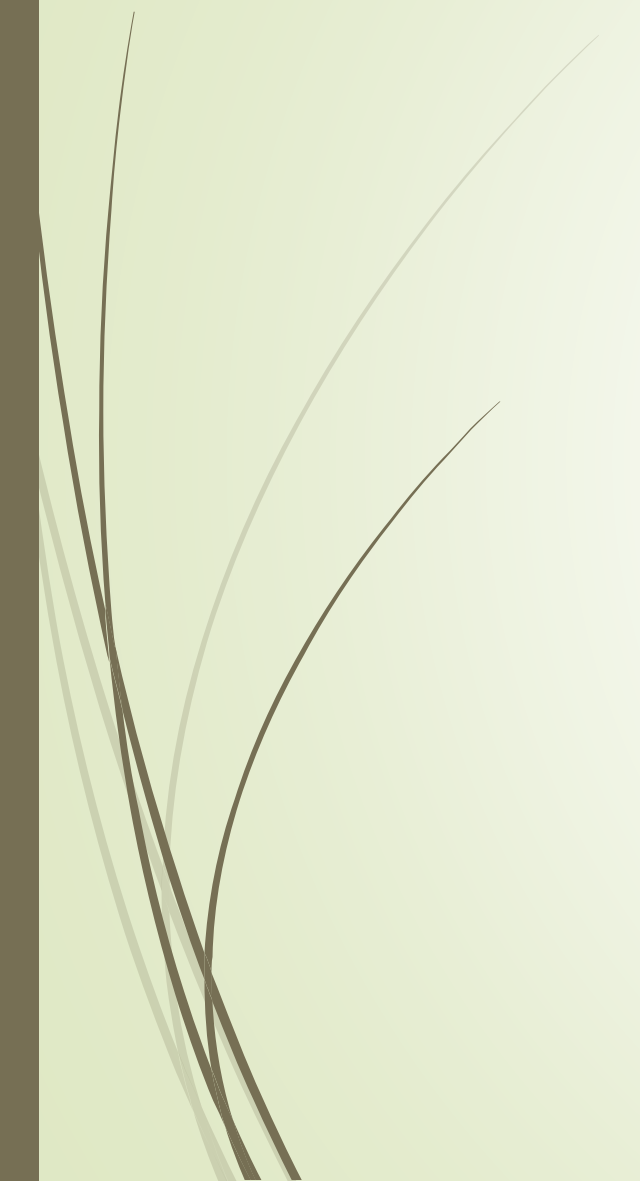
Initiatives

- Strengthens Ukraine sovereignty
- Restores Pacific Trade Agreements to counter China
- Bans sales of high technology to China

Failings

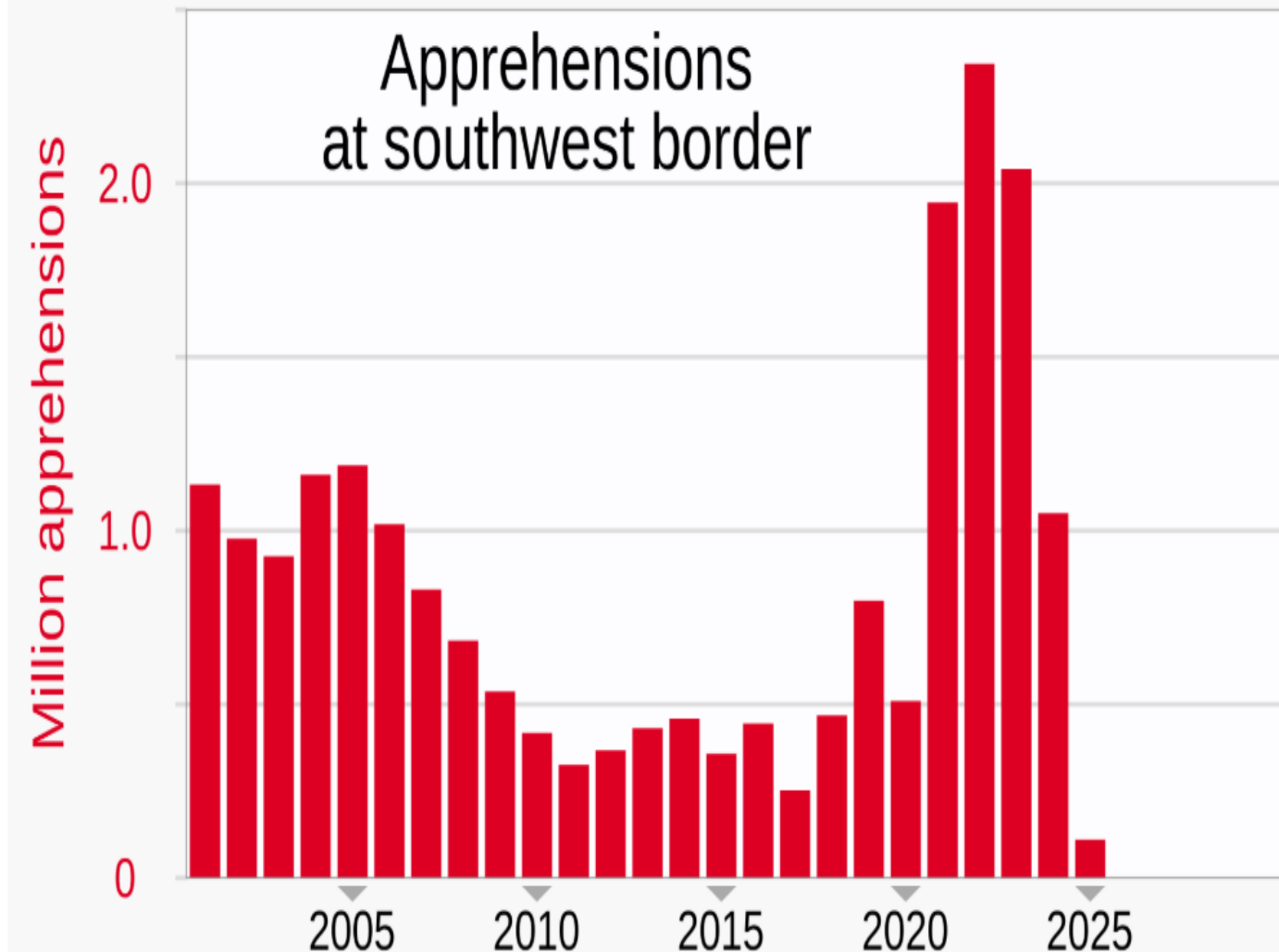
- Afghanistan withdrawal chaotic and reduces US prestige
- Loss of “neutrality” in Middle East due to “unconditional support for Israel
- Loses “argument” for global US role as MAGA influence returns

The biggest test politically –a surge in immigration
.....foreign policy “comes home”



Immigration Crisis 2023-2025

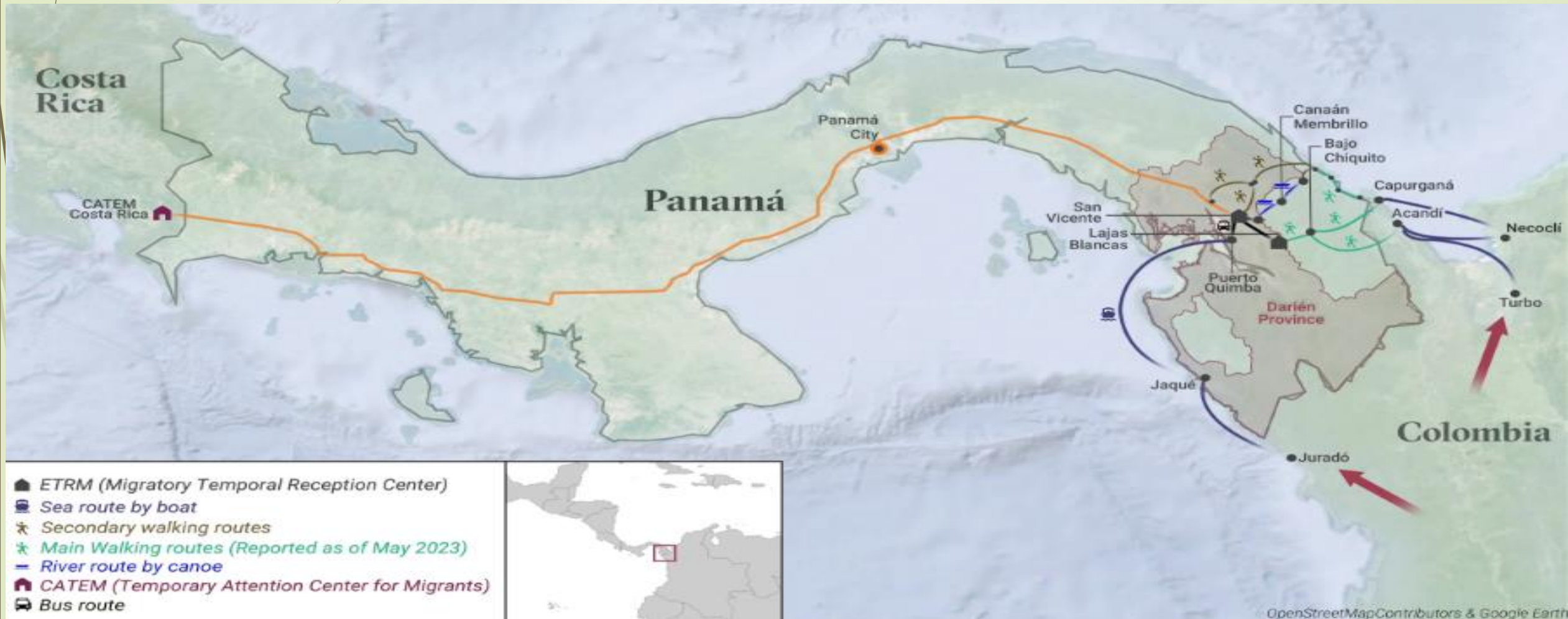
Immigration surge ...illegal immigration doubles



- Push factors increase
 - Increase violence
 - Economic collapse Venezuela
 - Covid economic slow downs
- Pull factors
 - US economy recovery
 - US employees seek low cost labour
 - End of Trump Administration: Biden “easy”
- Internationalisation & Industrialisation
 - Global migrant supply chains evolve
 - “Caravans” created reduce cost/ improve safety, increase income

Darien Gap

..no road, dense jungle, disease, violence



“Caravans”...emerge 2018...intensify 2023
...\$5,000 to join, form north of Darien Gap



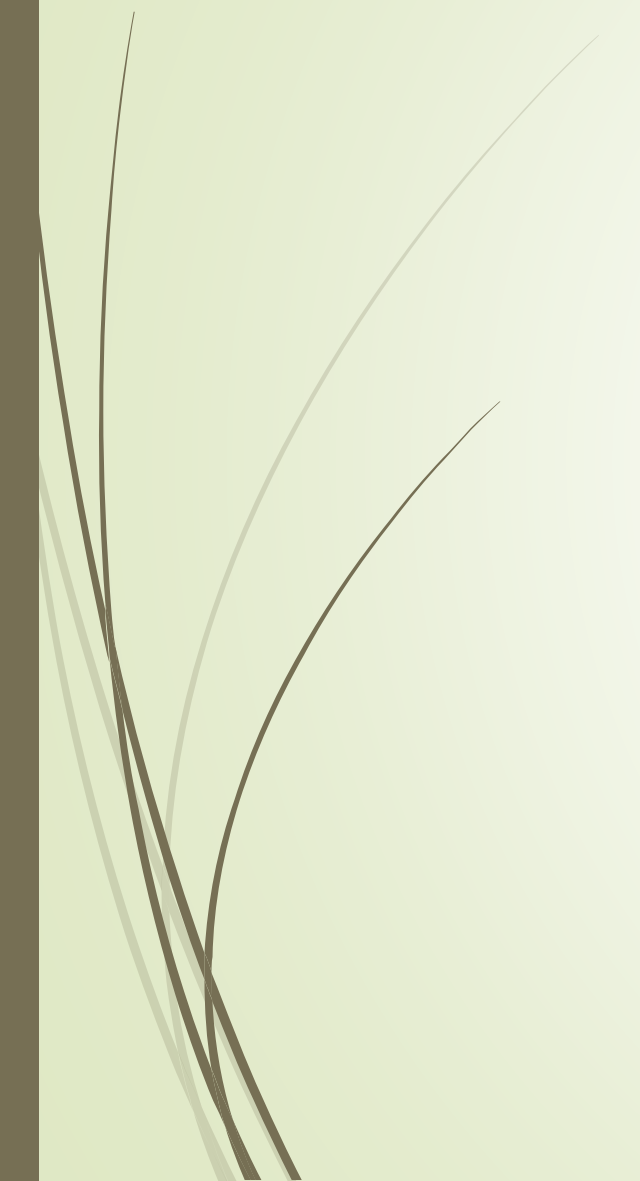
US Right Wing Media view:
..."heading to a neighbourhood near you"



gettyimages®
Credit: JOSE TORRES

Biden Administration Response

- 
- Initial response 2023: humane
 - End family separation
 - End “Remain in Mexico”...asylum seekers can stay in US
 - Root cause analysis: VP Kamala Harris tour of South America
 - System overloaded...labelled “Catch and Release”
 - Biden policy change
 - Immigration reform....rejected by Senate...Trump influence.
 - Uses Executive Orders to tighten asylum`
- Immigration declines 2024 ..but political damage immense



The Trouble with Trump

The “King in waiting”

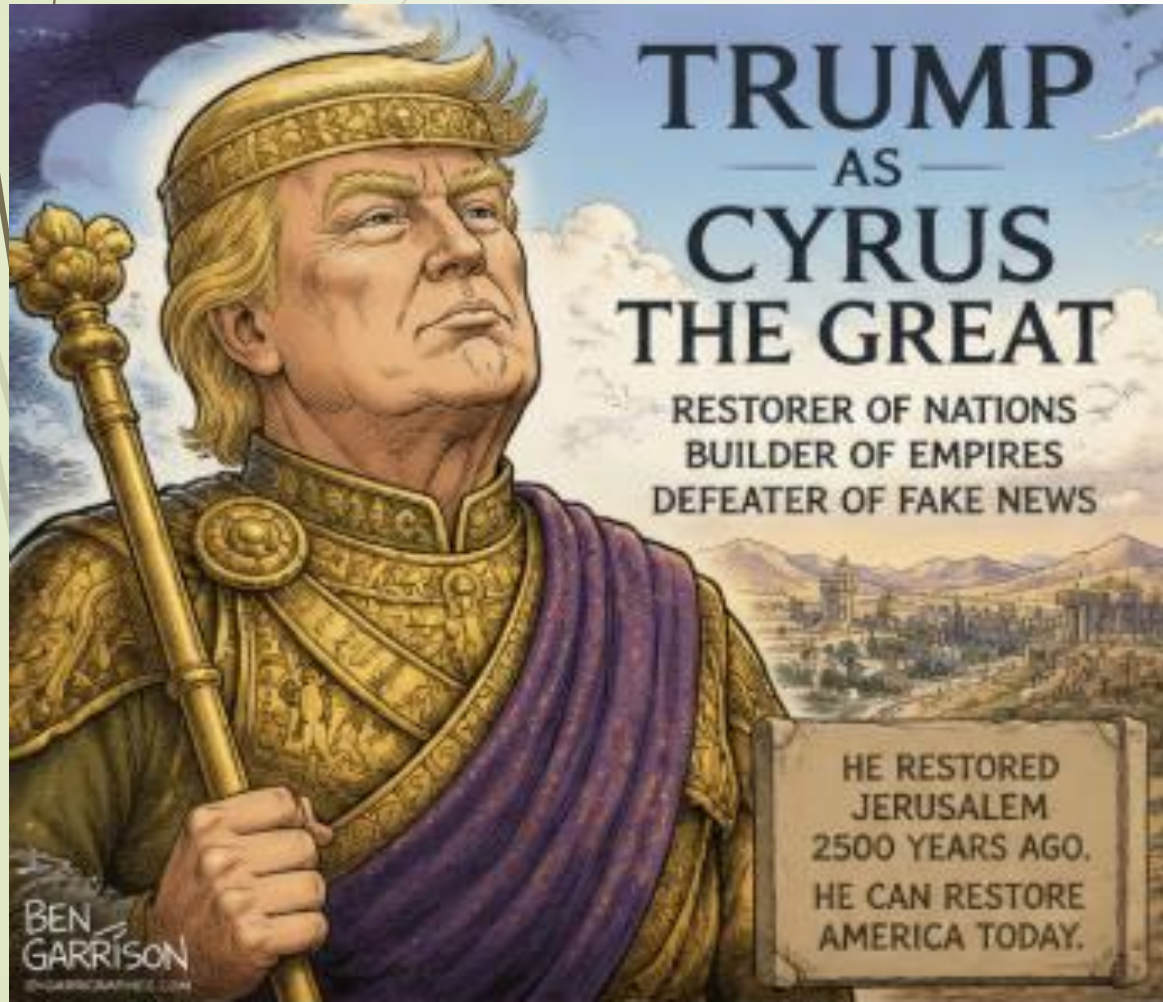
- ▶ Continue to deny validity of 2020 election
 - ▶ 75% Republicans, 35% Independents believe elections stolen... zero evidence
- ▶ Multiple lawsuits...Trump the “victim”...control of Judiciary
 - ▶ Convicted use of “hush money” vs porn star “Stormy Daniels”
 - ▶ Retains classified documents at Mira Lago...dismissed by Trump appointed Judge
 - ▶ Efforts to overturn elections Washington DC and Georgia (delayed by Trump judges)
 - ▶ Convicted sexual harassment writer Jean Carrol
 - ▶ Convicted of fraudulently inflating asset values New York, Florida to secure loans
- ▶ Announces decision to run / continue Presidency 2025
 - ▶ Commissions Project 2025 to maximise impact when re-elected
 - ▶ Revives “Make America Great Again” campaign theme

Evangelical Christian support (85% MAGA)

...Trump as “Cyrus the Great” alive

...the greater the flaws, the greater “proof” of the Divine

AI Generated Image



Christian Zionists in Jerusalem





Biden: Trump existential threat to US democracy

Only he has the experience, trust to beat him



Biden decides to run again April 2023

Only he has experience and trust to win

Underestimates strength and venality of his opponent

Overestimates his own abilities to confront him

Next and final Talk 59:
MAGA 2.0 & possible American futures

Monday July 6th 10:00