



Lesson 134

Harris v. Trump in 2024

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Elections are one of the most consequential events a country can experience. A good leader could be elected that will preserve human rights, or a dictator could be elected that will seek to destroy those rights. In this lesson we will learn more about the 2024 United States elections, the most important external event in the United States right now.

Pre-Elections Events

Republican National Convention (RNC)

The Republican National Convention took place from July 15th-18th in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This event was Trump's first public appearance after his assassination attempt. On the first day they read the votes from the Republican primaries in the states (and territories) to nominate Donald Trump; Trump also revealed his pick for Vice President, Senator J.D. Vance, through Truth Social that day. Vance accepted the nomination on the third night of the convention, but Trump did not accept the nomination for President until the fourth (last) night. The convention consisted mostly of speeches by people who supported Trump and his extreme agenda. This included politicians and other people like Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene, Senator Ted Cruz, Governor Ron DeSantis, Dr. Ben Carson, Tucker Carlson, and Franklin Graham. Nikki Haley, the former ambassador to the United Nations and Trump's only real opponent in the 2024 Republican primaries, also spoke. Throughout her campaign she warned people against supporting Trump and when she suspended her campaign for President in March, she did not endorse him, but at that RNC she totally changed her position by endorsing Donald Trump. The Republican National Convention showed that the party is wholly behind Trump and whatever he will do if he wins reelection.

Democratic National Convention (DNC)

The 2024 Democratic National Convention took place from August 19th to August 22nd. The convention was held at the United Center in Chicago and attended by thousands of delegates and brought an estimated 50,000 people overall to the city. It was characterized as a national special security event and \$50 million in federal funding was spend on security alone. Because we are living in the age of social media, press space was not only provided to traditional journalists, but social media influencers were also invited to the event. "That engagement represented a recognition from the Harris campaign that reaching voters in the countdown to Election Day will require Democrats to go beyond a traditional media strategy and into new spaces," [CNN](#) *Influencers get prime DNC access as part of Harris' campaign strategy*. It was at the DNC that the Democratic Party voted for their party platform and voted to nominated Kamala Harris as the Democratic presidential nominee along with Tim Waltz as her running mate. This made her the first Black woman to be nominated for president by a major party. Notable speakers at the event included AOC (Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez), Jim Clyburn (former House majority whip), Joe and Jill Biden, Raphael Warnock (Senator), Karen Bass (Mayor of Los Angeles), Maxine Waters (US Representative), and Jamie Harrison (DNC chair).

Election Interference

Presidential candidates campaign for themselves in order to sway public opinion in their favor. But those candidates aren't always the only ones trying to change people's minds; outside countries who have more or less to lose based on what candidate wins, might attempt to influence people's vote. This is called election interference, and we saw it in 2016 where Russia was leaking information about Hilary Clinton on WikiLeaks and building profiles of thousands of people through Cambridge Analytica. Now in 2024, we can also see signs of election interference. Earlier in August of this year (2024) the Trump campaign was hacked and several of their documents and emails were leaked to the media. One of those documents was a 271-page file on J.D. Vance. Apparently, the hackers were able to get access to the account of a high-ranking member in the Trump campaign and use their account to steal the files. Trump claimed it was Iran behind the hacks, which the FBI later confirmed. The Trump campaign wasn't the only one targeted though - hackers did attack Kamala Harris' campaign but they were unsuccessful. These recent actions show us that the 2024 election will be a consequential one as others outside the United States are trying to influence the result.

Kamala Harris as the Nominee

Who is Kamala Harris?

When Joe Biden withdrew from the presidential race on July 21st, he endorsed Kamala Harris to be the Democratic nominee. Shortly thereafter Democratic Congressmembers, Governors, and former Presidents gave her their support, making the transition so late in the election cycle relatively smooth. Harris was born in Oakland, California; her mother was an Indian immigrant and her father is Jamaican. Her family moved around in several states when she was little, and both of her parents were involved in the Civil Rights movement and so she was exposed to those values at a young age. She eventually moved back to California with her mother (and sister) when her parents separated. She even lived in Canada for a while but moved back to the United States for college; she went to Howard University (a Historically Black College and University [HBCU]), and after that Law school in California where she graduated in 1989. Harris then worked her way through the California legal system to become the Attorney General in 2010. In those year years she worked with cases surrounding child sexual assault, LGBTQ+ rights, the Affordable Care Act, and the environment, while she handled these cases well, some people on the left dislike her tenure as an attorney for other things she did that they think were too harsh or unreasonable. In 2017, she was elected as one of the Californian Senators, and then in 2020 she ran for president before dropping out and joining Biden's ticket. As Vice President, Harris is the first Black, South-Asian, and woman in the position. She has also surpassed the record for the most tie breaking votes the Vice President has cast in the Senate - using her position to help push through Democratic legislation. Harris' nomination for President has really motivated the Democratic Party and her approval ratings have gone up significantly; it remains to be seen if that means Democrats will go out and vote.

Sexism against Harris

“The first woman of color running as a major party's presidential nominee is expected to continue to draw political attacks with racist or misogynistic undertones until Election Day,” [TIME](#) *Act Like You Didn't Even Hear': Harris Fans Don't Want Racist, Sexist Attacks to Distract Her*. Harris has faced and will continue to face many attacks, not against her career and track record, but against her as a woman and as a Black person. For example, many Republicans say that she only got the position because she is Black- that the Democratic Party wants to be seen as inclusive. Trump, in addition to apparently just now finding out that Harris is Black, has said that she shouldn't be able to run because she wasn't born in the United States due to her parents being immigrants. She was born in California. As is the case with many women in power, it has been implied that Harris slept her way to where she is. Another attack against Harris is the question why she hadn't had any biological children, suggesting that she isn't fit for the position because she's not invested in the future of the country. “‘They hope to taint her with the suspicion of not having earned the positions she has achieved and harness the fears of those who resent seeing women and people of color in elite spaces,’ says Juliet Hooker, a Brown University political scientist and author of *Black Grief/White Grievance*, a book on race and politics,” *Vox The ugly calculus behind MAGA's racist and sexist attacks on Harris*.

Who are the Vice Presidential Nominees?

Who is Tim Walz?

On August 6, 2024, Kamala Harris announced that she chose Minnesota Governor Tim Walz to be her running mate for vice president. Walz was previously mostly unknown throughout the country but began to garner attention when during an interview with MSNBC, referring to Republicans, he said “These are weird people on the other side. They want to take books away. They want to be in your exam room.” The sentence went somewhat viral and began to put Walz in the spotlight. However, prior to being governor, Walz was a member of congress. He was seen as a moderate rather than a Democrat, since he voted for several liberal bills such as the Affordable Care Act, and bills to raise the minimum wage, but also voted for conservative ones such as funding the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and stricter rules around letting refugees into the United States. Walz was once endorsed by the NRA (National Rifle Association, a group mainly supported by Republicans), although he has supported an assault weapons ban (a bill Democrats want to enact). But when Walz was elected for governor in 2018, Republicans say he went from being centrist to simply left-wing. This is because during his time as governor, Democrats got complete control of the state congress and used that power to solidify abortion rights in the state, restrict guns, and more. Of course, as governor, Walz was responsible for signing these bills into law. Other than partisan issues, there have not been many major controversies surrounding Tim Walz. He was accused by Republicans for not taking action fast enough during the riots after George Floyd's death in 2020, but even Trump himself at the time approved of Walz's actions. Overall, because of his actions as governor, Walz was on the shortlist for potential vice president picks, and on August 6th, the Harris campaign made his choice official.

Who is J.D. Vance?

Ohio Senator J.D. Vance is Donald Trump's pick for Vice President, but he didn't always support him. J.D. (James David) Vance grew up in Ohio; his family lived in poverty, and he was raised by his grandparents (Vance is actually their name which he took years later). After high school he served in the U.S. Marine Corps in a non-combatant role for four years. When he came back, he went to college and then Law school. He then worked for Republican Congressmen, wrote a book in 2016: *Hillbilly Elegy*, that gave him some recognition, and started a nonprofit that was supposed to help with drug addiction (he was accused of using the charity to help his Senate campaign). When Trump was running for president in 2016 Vance said things like Trump was "America's Hitler", "noxious", and he "never liked him". But Vance had a change of heart, "I was certainly skeptical of Donald Trump in 2016, but President Trump was a great president, and he changed my mind," Vance said in his interview with Hannity. "I think he changed the minds of a lot of Americans, because again he delivered that peace and prosperity." Since then, Vance has been a public supporter of Trump, including saying that he would have helped find alternative electors for the 2020 election. Vance supports Trump's policies/views on things like immigration and foreign policy. He is also very sexist, he has spoken down about women in professional careers (including his female colleagues from Law school), and about women who don't have children. He has even claimed that masculinity is "suppressed" in men all their lives. Vance was elected to the Senate in 2022 with Trump's endorsement, which he believed helped him win. At 39, he is the first millennial on a presidential ticket which could help Trump's chances, but Trump also picked him for his support in Midwestern states.

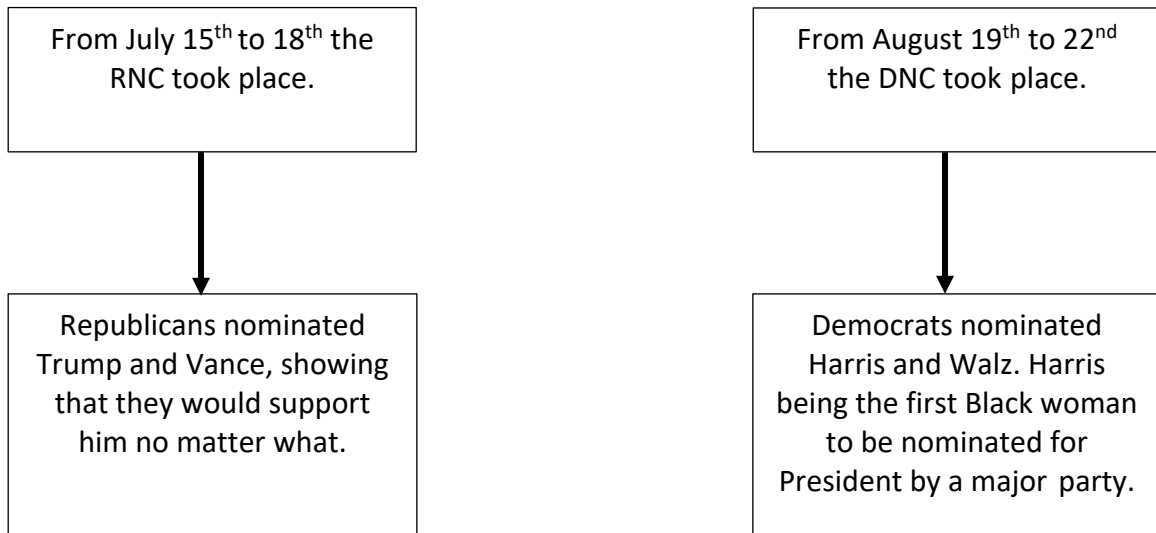
Our Place in the Election

Our Duty to Vote

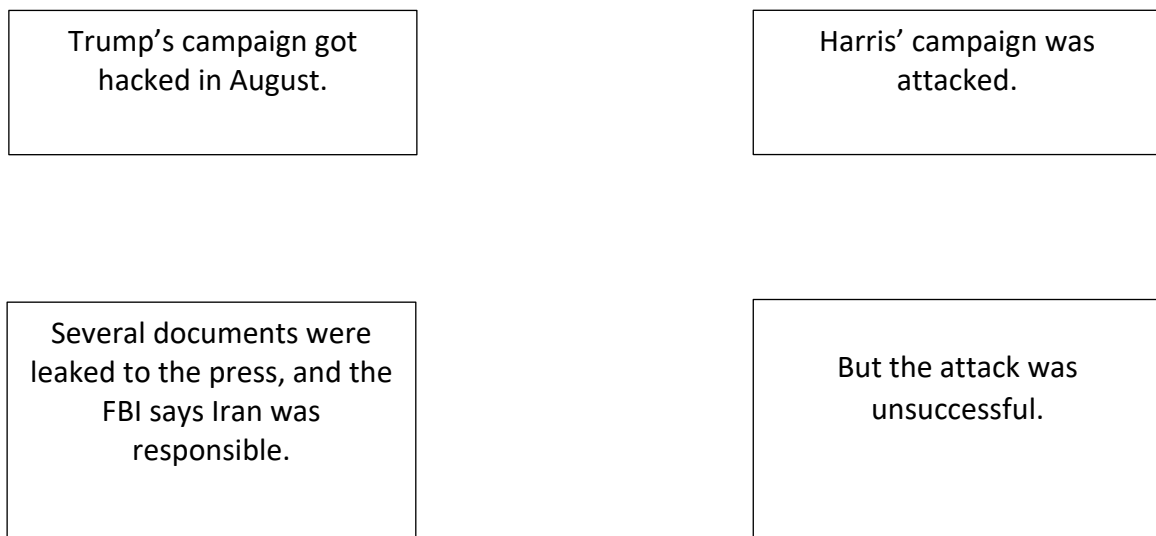
Vote in the upcoming election. Knowing what Trump is capable of and knowing what he stands for and wants to implement should he get a second term; it is our duty to vote against him. Harris stands for the equality that this Movement stands for. Each history has a test that requires people to vote on the correct side to pass the test. For our history, it is voting for Harris and equality and against Trump and inequality. In the Millerite history, the issue that they were dealing with was temperance. So just like we have to vote for equality, they had to vote for temperance- that was their religious duty just like it is ours. As members of this Movement, we should understand how important politics are and how important being on the right side of history is. (See more in YPG Lesson 108.)

In summary:

The RNC and DNC



Election Interference



Kamala Harris as the Nominee

When Joe Biden withdrew from the presidential race, he endorsed Harris.

There have been many sexist and racist attacks against Harris.

Later several Congressmembers, governors, and former presidents also endorsed her to be the Democratic nominee.

Some Republicans say she only got nominated because the Democrats want to be inclusive. Others say she shouldn't be in power since she has no biological children.

Who is Vance and Walz?

Trump chose J.D. Vance as his Vice-Presidential nominee.

Harris chose Tim Walz as her Vice-Presidential nominee.

J.D. Vance is a Congress member from Ohio who used to oppose Trump, but now supports him. Vance is also known to be very sexist.

Tim Walz is the governor of Minnesota who was previously a moderate, but when he became governor, he moved further left through passing liberal policies.

What is our place in this election?

It's important to vote in the upcoming election.

Trump represents sexism and inequality and it's our duty to vote against it.

Official Youth Prophecy Group website:

youthprophecygroup.org

If you have any questions or comments on any of the material contact us at:

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Find all the YPG lesson videos at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeltzVajTXgSQL-o2XOq_g

Link to YPG Zoom meetings which are at 10:00am Pacific Time on the 1st Sunday of the month:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87170293849>