

# Watch Out Democrats!

Why Trump is Heading  
for Victory in the 2020  
Election

Katie Roche

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## **Introduction**

The 2020 presidential election is coming soon. And it looks like the Democrat nominee Joe Biden is set for victory. Some commentators have even gone as far as to predict a Democrat Tsunami at the polls (1). Finally, Donald Trump will be gone. Or will he? This book will analyse the events in the run-up to the 2020 election. It will argue that Biden is unlikely to win. Why? Because the Democrats have failed to learn the lessons of the 2016 election. In 2016, the Democrats were complacent. The left saw Trump as a crazy oaf who had no chance of winning. Hillary Clinton didn't bother to visit key states like Michigan and Wisconsin (2). As well, the left has gone on a wild tangent, obsessing over niche identity politics issues such as transgender rights. Meanwhile, they left behind the Democrat's core voters- the working class. While the left was fixating on whether certain hairstyles were cultural appropriation, or how to keep college students from being 'triggered' by course content, people were becoming disillusioned by the left. And then Trump came along. He listened to the forgotten blue-collar voters. And he answered their concerns. While doing that, he stoked up their anger and anxieties. He encouraged them to ignore the mainstream media. He pandered to their worst impulses: racism, nationalism and isolationism. He changed America for the worse. And if the left doesn't do something radical soon, he'll have another four more years to add to that problem.

This book will be split into three sections. Section one will examine why Biden is unappealing to the electorate. During the primaries, Joe Biden was one of the least appealing candidates in the race. He embodies everything that people don't like about most politicians. There are many talented, vibrant people who could have won the nomination. Yet they went with Biden. The second section will look at how the left lost the support of the people. They have forgotten about the working-class. Instead, they have become the voice of identity politics and political correctness. They fight for absurd policies that have little chance of getting much support. The left is becoming isolated from the rest of the world. And that has been detrimental to the Democrats. The third section will examine how the left underestimate Trump and his supporters. They do not understand why Trump won in 2016. They are stuck in a little echo chamber where everyone despises Trump. For that reason, they can't grasp why he is so popular. Or how to win over the people who voted for Trump in 2016. The book will conclude by looking at what the Democrats can do to repair their reputation and win in the future.

## **Why Biden is Unelectable**

Biden is hardly the most appealing person to ever run for president. While he does have his strong points, he has many serious flaws that make him unelectable.

### **Lack of Charisma**

The biggest issue with Biden is that he is completely forgettable. He has no charisma and hasn't made much of an impression on the voters. What are his policies? If you asked the average voter what Biden would do for the economy, would they know? He hasn't done enough to get his message out. His main selling point is that he's not Trump. As well, he struggles with debating. When the presidential debates happen, this will probably be his Achilles' heel and at that point his poll numbers may fall. But that's not his only problem.

### **He is too Old**

Everyone says Trump is too old to be president. So what do the Democrats do? Go and pick someone even older. At 77 years of age, Biden will be the oldest person to ever have been elected president- a record which he will take from Donald Trump. Is he up to the job? He is a very knowledgeable candidate who from a practical perspective should be well qualified to be president. He must know all the procedures and people to talk to, and how to write high-quality bills. Bad laws are those that get overturned quickly, that aren't enforceable, leave loopholes, or don't have the intended effect. Normally, Biden's experience would be a good thing. But everyone is fed up of career politicians who seemingly never change anything for the better.

The Trump campaign have tried to turn this to their advantage. They make false equivalencies with Trump's achievements in office compared to what little Biden has done. Although this is not a fair comparison. While Biden has been in office for almost 50 years, he has been a senator and the vice president. Both of these positions are much less powerful than the presidency. Which is why Biden has not achieved as much as Trump has. Although, this is a clever way of making Trump's lack of experience look good and turn the experience argument on its head.

Another tactic the Trump campaign has used is implying that Biden has Dementia. The Trump campaign has put an advertisement on television describing him as "diminished" (3). The campaign also runs a website called BarelyThereBiden.com, which features a compilation of videos where he makes gaffes, along with quotes from other Democrats about Biden's mental state. And these smears are working. According to a poll conducted by Zogby Analytics, 55% of the electorate believe that Biden may have Dementia (4). It's impossible to know if Biden actually does have Dementia. On the one hand, Biden sometimes seems quite confused. On the other hand, could it just be tiredness, normal gaffes, or even clips edited or shown out of context to make Biden look stupid? The trouble is, if voters were put off backing Trump because of his age, they don't have an option of voting for a younger candidate.

### **The Biden Family**

The second problem for Joe Biden is his family. The Biden family has come under scrutiny for various dodgy dealings. The Republicans have seized on this and made it a big part of the

campaign. Donald Trump Jr. has recently released a book that exposes the Biden's questionable conduct (5). Most of the criticism has been concentrated on Hunter Biden, Joe Biden's second son.

### **Hunter Biden**

While Biden was vice president, Hunter worked in Ukraine for Burisma, a natural gas company. He became tangled up in the impeachment hearing, after Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate Hunter in exchange for foreign aid. Trump Jr. claims that the Bidens are just as bad as the Trumps because they too profited from public office. He argues that the only reason Biden got the job was because the company wanted to use Hunter to get Joe Biden's influence. Trump asserts that Biden was not qualified for the job because he had no experience with the gas industry and he did not speak Ukrainian (5). Hunter's private sector work had come under scrutiny prior to this. Hunter worked for MBNA bank in the late 1990s, who were based in Delaware. At the same time, Joe Biden was fighting to pass legislation that made it more difficult for consumers to declare bankruptcy (6).

Could Biden have been influenced by Burisma? A photograph emerged of Hunter, Joe and Burisma executive Devon Archer playing golf in 2014, while Biden was vice president. It has raised questions about the Biden's involvement with Burisma (7). While it proves that Biden met Archer, the fact they played golf together doesn't prove that Biden was being influenced by Burisma. Hunter hasn't always been the most ethical person. But it's not the same as the Trumps using the presidency to bolster the Trump brand. While there probably was a bit of nepotism involved, the key difference is that working for someone isn't the same as having a company.

That's not to say that Hunter Biden is completely innocent. There are legitimate issues around him, and whether his behavior reflects well on his father. He was dishonorably discharged from the navy for drug use. He joined at the age of 42, which is older than would normally be allowed, and required a special waiver (6). He also had an affair with a stripper, resulting in him fathering a baby. He subsequently tried to duck out of paying child support, by claiming he had no money. He then refused to provide financial documents to the court (8). While he purportedly had no money, he was able to pay for \$12,000 per month rent on a Hollywood house (9). He also drove a sports car worth \$129 thousand (10) and he paid a \$450,000 tax lien within days (11). This is rather mysterious and suggests the money is coming from somewhere questionable.

Hunter Biden isn't exactly a credit to his father. But then again, he is his own man, and Joe Biden can't control what his adult son does.

### **Flip-flops**

Another problem with Biden is that he keeps changing his policies. In his platform, Biden has pledged to reduce the number of prisoners. He plans to do this by investing in rehabilitation. He has also promised to legalize cannabis and abolish the death penalty (12). These policies are good. But can he be trusted to implement them? As a senator, he was a proponent of mass incarceration. His 1994 crime bill is credited with pushing up the number of federal prisoners. This bill brought in longer prison sentences. It also introduced a 'three strikes' rule, where

people who committed three violent crimes were automatically sentenced to life. As well, it added extra crimes where the death penalty could be used (13). The trouble with flip-flopping is, it's hard to know what the candidate would do if they were elected. If Biden became president, would we get lefty progressive Biden? Or tough-on-crime DINO (Democrat in name only) Biden?

Furthermore, Biden has held some distasteful views over the years. For instance, he was anti-bussing. In 1977, he said that racial integration could lead to his children growing up in a "racial jungle" (14). It's not just race where Biden has been on the wrong side of history. In 1973, he described homosexual people as a security risk. In 1994, he joined a campaign to cut funding to states that 'promoted' homosexuality in schools. Later on, he was against gay marriage (15). He also spoke out against child care tax credits in 1981 (16). These actions should be judged by their time. But some were out of step, even for the period he was in. Especially on race.

### **Creepy**

Finally, like Donald Trump, Biden too has a reputation for acting inappropriately around women. Tara Reade, a former intern who worked for him when he was the senator for Delaware accused Biden of sexually assaulting her in 1993 (17). Not to mention, there are many photographs and videos of him touching women and girls inappropriately. A recent example was during the primaries, when he told a 10-year-old girl she was as smart as she is good-looking, and put his hands on her shoulders (18).

None of this bodes well for Biden. Indeed, the Democrats couldn't have picked a worse person for the time. But that's not his only problem. The left as a whole has become unpopular. The next section will look at why this is.



## **Why The Left Lost Public Support**

The left hasn't learned from the 2016 election. They have attributed Trump's victory solely to Russian interference and the electoral college system. And they have assumed that if they carry on without changing, in 2020, the 'right' outcome would happen. But the past shows the Democrats made many mistakes. And they haven't changed.

### **Identity Politics- Leaving Behind the Working Class**

In 2016, Trump unexpectedly won several Democrat strongholds, including Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Michigan. Had the Democrats held on to those three states, Clinton would have won the election. Why did the Democrats lose those states? Because the Democrats have lost touch with the things that matter to their voters. They are no longer the party of the working-class. Case in point: Biden told a group of coal miners who were at risk of losing their jobs that they could learn to code and get a job in the technology industry (19). Does he realize how ludicrous that sounds? If you're a 60-year-old miner with only a high school diploma with only a basic knowledge of computers, you're not going to be getting a job which involves coding. You certainly won't have a chance of competing with a 22-year old computer science graduate. Also, can Biden code? He should try it before telling everyone how easy it is. Coal and other fossil fuels should be phased out for the good of the environment. But at least propose a more realistic alternative work opportunities. Opportunities that are suitable for the skillset and interests of the people losing their jobs.

Something else has taken over from class as the main concern of the left: identity politics. Identity politics is about focusing on issues relating to minorities- such as race, disability and gay rights. As opposed to class, the traditional focus of the left. Identity politics is very much a middle-class concern. As the socialist Zygmunt Bauman explains, the cosmopolitan elite are fixated with identity issues that are the only way that they are divided. When the middle-class dominate the left, these matters become their main political concern. This results in the rise of identity politics (20). In the left nowadays, everyone is middle-class and well-educated. But people from various minority groups (such as ethnic minorities, gay, disabled and transgender) are well-represented. So they aren't aware of class inequalities and think of inequality purely in terms of identity groups.

Another issue closely linked to identity politics is political correctness. Political correctness doesn't just mean politeness. It is the snarky, sneering and arrogant way that some left-wingers conduct themselves. It's about correcting people, accusing people of bigotry and silencing dissent. It's as if these people are telling the rest of us that 'some people who are more informed, well-educated and overall better than you have decided that you shouldn't use this word or talk about that subject. Instead, you should shut up and leave your betters to run the country. There is a classed aspect to this. Generally, it's a middle-class person such as a university professor or an affluent liberal arts graduate who is dictating what is politically correct.

If the left carries on like this, the Democrats will lose again in November. This fixation on identity politics and political correctness cost the Democrats victory in 2016. It sparked a woke backlash, which led to voters being prepared to compromise their principles to fight the perceived overreach of the left (21).

## **Riots**

The death of George Floyd and the serious wounding of Jacob Blake at the hands of the police were both unforgivable tragedies. They demonstrated that the police force desperately needs reform. Peaceful protests fighting for that very cause began after George Floyd's shooting. But then riots broke out too. Many left-wingers argue that rioting is necessary because peaceful protest has not achieved meaningful change. They also argue that certain words and ideas constitute violence, so retaliation with physical violence is acceptable (22). As well, many left-wingers now argue that the concept of the police force is inherently racist and reform is impossible (23).

But how will riots help? Do they think people will say:

“Now that all the windows in my street have been smashed, my car has been burned out and all the shops have been looted, I've realized that police violence is a serious issue and I'll join the fight to abolish the police”.

Or

“We must get rid of the police because these violent riots show society can function perfectly well without them”.

What do the rioters actually aim to achieve? Looting a business won't stop police violence. It galvanizes opposition to the riots and sends the message that things are out of control. Ultimately, these rioters are helping Trump's election prospects. In 1968, race riots helped Richard Nixon to get re-elected (24). And there's a good chance they'll help Trump get re-elected too. Like Nixon, Trump is positioning himself as the law and order candidate. Yes, the riots happened on Trump's watch. But Biden has been very soft on them. He is trying to please everyone. But he has ended up pleasing no-one. He's creating the perception that if he becomes president, the police will be cut and nobody will be around to control future riots. At the same time, if he promises to come down hard on any future rioters, he will lose support from the anti-police movement. In any case, rioting is not helping.

## **The Left is Disorganized**

Another big problem is that the left is disorganized. They are not working together for a Democrat victory. For example, one glimmer of hope is the current Democrat platform. It discusses solutions to jobs going overseas. It also proposes increasing Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and introducing paid family and parental leave. Furthermore, the platform also states that a Biden government would raise the minimum wage and improve access to Medicare and food assistance programs. As well, they have pledged to end “forever wars” (25). It responds to the concerns of Trump voters, yet it is firmly progressive.

What is disappointing to see is how little notice liberals have taken of this. Most reports about the platform are in conservative media outlets. The liberal press should be shouting off the rooftops about this platform and enthusiastically singing praise for a Biden government. But they're not. Why? Because they are too distracted by identity politics.

## **Splitting the Vote**

Let's face it. Biden is hardly the most appealing candidate. So voters will look for other candidates to vote for. As a result, the vote will be split.

### **Kanye West**

Rapper Kanye West has announced he is running for president. He freely admits he did this to split the Democrat vote (26). He has no realistic prospect of winning. He isn't on the ballot for some states (26). But he can take a few Biden voters, especially young black men. After all, if you're a young black man, would you really want to vote for a candidate who doesn't want to have people like you near his family? Black voters are a huge part of the Democrat vote. In 2016, 80% of black men who voted in the election supported Hillary Clinton (27). Losing any of those votes is a disaster for the Democrats.

### **The Green Party**

Another threat to the Democrats is the Green Party candidate, Howie Hawkins. In 2016, the Green party got 1% of the overall vote (28). This is small, but enough to help the Democrats lose the election. Especially in marginal states. For example, Hillary Clinton lost Michigan by 10,704 votes. The Greens got 51,463 votes in this state (29). So if one in five people in Michigan who voted Green had voted Democrat instead, Hillary would have won that state. This example demonstrates how only a relatively small number of votes can make a huge difference to the outcome of the election. And there's nothing to stop it happening again in 2020.

Nobody owes the Democrats their vote. But American politics is a two-party system. Only the Republicans or the Democrats can win. Voting for another candidate is a wasted vote. Nonetheless, the way the left have behaved over the past decade haven't made it easy to support them. Which is one of the reasons why people turned to Trump. The next section will examine Trump's popularity.

## **Trump is More Popular than You Think**

To the average left-winger, the idea that Trump might be re-elected feels preposterous. Everyone disagrees with his policies. And nobody likes him as a person. He is clearly destined to be defeated in November.

Or \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ he?

### **The MAGA Movement**

Trump has a huge fanbase that's virtually unheard of for a politician. People who voted for Trump in 2016 still love him now. There aren't many people saying "I voted for Trump, but he's done a bad job, so this time, I'll vote for Biden". Compared to Trump, there isn't a decisive pro-Biden movement. Nobody describes themselves as a big Biden fan or seems particularly excited at the prospect of a Biden presidency. As Michael Moore, the left-wing documentary maker who correctly predicted Trump's victory in 2016 has pointed out, Trump's fanbase still have a great deal of enthusiasm for him. Conversely, the Democrats don't have much passion for Biden (30).

So, how did Trump get this huge fanbase? Trump was famous before politics. But he got popular because he listened to blue-collar voters who felt left behind by the political establishment. The first matter he acted on was international trade. Low paid work has gone to China. The people hardest hit by this are low-qualified workers. You could say people should become more qualified. But not everyone can be a highly skilled worker. If more people were able to do skilled work, all that would happen is specialist work will become low-value work. Also, even from a left-wing perspective, moving manufacturing to China is an issue. They have few regulations for their workers and for products. Furthermore, manufacturing in China contributes to global warming, both through their weak environmental regulations, and from the carbon footprint of having to transport items from China to the USA. Because China isn't playing by the same rules as the USA, they can make products for less than American manufacturers. Americans employed in manufacturing felt they had been cheated out of their jobs by trade deals which incentivized companies to move manufacturing to China. Which is why Trump is opposed to free trade with them.

The second topic Trump tackled is immigration. Immigration is a tricky subject. For left-wingers, it is natural to sympathize with immigrants. They are outsiders. They are often fleeing difficult economic or social circumstances. But at the same time, immigration hurts poorer Americans. It's a free marketeer's dream- people from abroad are willing to work for lower wages and poorer conditions than American citizens. Especially illegal immigrants, who cannot report their employer to the authorities without risking being deported. This leaves fewer jobs for American citizens. Which is why working-class voters are concerned about immigration.

Trump also managed his campaign very well. In 2016, Trump was definitely the underdog in the campaign. He spent half as much on his campaign as Clinton did. To start with, he ran his campaign from a small office in Trump Tower, which later moved to a large store room (31). But he spent his money wisely. As well, the campaign logistics were carefully managed, so that either Trump or a surrogate were in the right states at the right time. For instance, Lara and Eric Trump focused on the south, where Lara is from, while Don Jr. was sent to speak in states

with a big hunting culture. Ivanka often spoke at events relating to women's issues. And no two people were ever in the same part of the country, to make sure the whole country was covered by someone from the campaign. For example, Trump would do the east coast while Mike Pence did the west (31).

As well, he 'owned' his underdog status. He started referring to himself and his supporters as "the deplorables" (31). He sold himself as an ordinary person who was coming in to clean up politics. Trump promised hope. Something different. Something for the people who were fed up of being ignored by the establishment. Not necessarily what people would agree with. But something that people felt would work.

### **Filter Bubble**

At this point you might be thinking "Trump can't have that many fans. I don't know anyone who likes him". The reason we might think that nobody likes Trump is because of the filter bubble. We surround ourselves with people who think the same way as we do, and the internet makes that effect worse. Online algorithms and site personalization mean we are increasingly only being shown content that validates our views. This is known as the filter bubble (32). It can feel like everyone agrees with you, when actually, few people do. For example, abolishing the police appears to be very popular. Looking at left-wing social media and news sites, it would be easy to get the impression that a large section of the population support abolishing the police. But actually, only 11% of people support this (33). In your circle, when everyone is saying a certain thing, it's natural to assume everyone else shares those views. So you aren't exposed to Trump supporters.

### **Beware of the Polls**

But of course, Biden is leading in the polls. That means he'll win. Right? Not necessarily. If done right, polls are very accurate. But in past years, they have been predicting results wrong. Remember that Hillary Clinton was ahead in the polls in 2016. And look how that turned out. Polls can be inaccurate because of many factors.

### **Flawed Polls**

First, polls can be impacted by volunteer bias. Volunteer bias occurs because people who participate in polls want to have their opinion counted. These people are more likely to be opposed to the incumbent candidate (34). This effect has been exacerbated because many companies now use internet polls as opposed to phone calls or asking voters in person. It is thought to be worse because completing an online survey requires the participant to opt in. Online polls also involve more effort than answering a phone call or talking to an interviewer face-to-face (34). In this case, volunteer bias means that Biden voters would be more likely to take the survey than Trump voters, as Trump is the incumbent. This leads to the polls overstating Biden's popularity.

Furthermore, most polls only let participants choose between the Democrats and the Republicans. But in real life, there's the option of voting for small parties or independent candidates too. This can lead to people giving a misleading response. For instance, a person taking a poll was planning to vote for Hawkins. They were only given the choice of selecting Biden or Trump in the poll. They might say they are voting for Biden because out of the choices

given, they prefer him to Trump. But they are not actually going to vote for Biden. Therefore, their response does not reflect their true voting intentions. When this happens repeatedly, it makes the poll inaccurate.

### **Shy Tory Factor**

Shy Tory factor, (Tory refers to the British Conservative party, where the term originated) is where people are too embarrassed to say that they are planning on voting for a right-wing party or candidate. This can distort the polls. The concept of Shy Tories originated when Neil Kinnock, the leader of the Labour Party was predicted to win the 1992 British election. But the incumbent Conservative Party won. Polling companies came to the conclusion that people had not told them that they had voted Conservative. This often occurred when voters were interviewed face-to-face or on the phone, suggesting voters felt uncomfortable about admitting they had voted Conservative (35). Could this be a factor in Trump's victory too? Are people embarrassed about admitting they support him? More to the point, is that why the polls were wrong in 2016? Indeed, there was some evidence of a Shy Tory factor in that year. Prior to the election, Morning Consult and Politico found that Hillary Clinton polled one percent higher in phone polls than online polls. This suggested there was a small shy Tory factor at play (36). However, research conducted after the election found that nine percent of voters had not disclosed their true voting behavior to the pollsters. This resulted in polls underestimating the number of Trump voters by three percent (37). Given how close the 2016 election was, this small number made a big difference. So, don't assume that Biden will win because he's ahead in the polls. The polls aren't necessarily right. And Trump has more support than you think.

## Conclusion

Don't bet on a Biden victory in November. Biden is the right candidate at the wrong time. If you're someone who doesn't follow politics closely, what would you think of Biden? Would you see him as an improvement on Trump? It feels very much as if the election is a choice between two corrupt, elderly, creepy and bigoted men.

As well, the Democrats haven't learned the lessons of 2016. They are repeating all the same mistakes. They are not reaching out to their supporters. They are obsessing over arcane identity politics issues that few people understand and even fewer people agree with. They are sinking into an identity politics hole where everyone agrees with them, while they're missing out on the matters that affect the rest of the world. And so we can expect the same outcome.

Meanwhile, Trump and his supporters are sailing along nicely. Trump's supporters still think he is a wonderful person who has done great things for America. More importantly, he has won over many would-be Democrat voters in marginal states. He has listened to what they say and responded to their concerns. That's what won him the 2016 election. And it'll win the 2020 election too. Trump supporters will turn out and vote. They are passionate and empowered. On the other hand, it's hard to imagine that Biden will get the same support at the polls. Trump will hold on to most of the states he won in the previous election. It will be 2016 all over again.

To win in 2024 and beyond, the Democrats need a left-wing MAGA-style movement lead by a powerful and inspiring leader. A leader who listens to people who feel ignored by the Washington elite. A person who can bring something unique to the job. Maybe someone who has done things with their life other than politics. Someone who genuinely cares about the people affected by their policies. And someone who doesn't take supporters for granted.

In the meantime, the left needs to stop obsessing over identity politics and start thinking about class again. Moreover, political correctness must go. If you're a left-winger, think about what you actually want to achieve. When you correct someone for some 'microaggression' do you want to make the world a better place? Or do you want to feel superior to others? Do you want to achieve social change when you participate in violent protests? Or do you just want to have fun causing trouble? Because you have to think of the big picture. Coming across as arrogant, smug, and out of control is not the solution. You can't strongarm people into agreeing with you. You have to gently convince them they are wrong and accept that people will disagree with you. That's what the left need to remember. To win, the Democrats need people who voted for Trump in 2016 to support Biden. Treating Trump voters like pariahs and accusing people of being secret bigots will not achieve that. If the Democrats ever want to be in power again, reaching out, listening and understanding why people voted Trump is what needs to be done.

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