

A.23

The English-speaking world – Politics

The U.S. presidential elections 2024

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Am 5. November 2024 finden in den USA die 60. Präsidentschaftswahlen statt. Zunächst sah es so aus, als ob sich der Kampf um das Präsidentenamt aus dem Jahr 2020 wiederholen würde: Joe Biden gegen Donald Trump. Doch Ereignisse wie das Attentat auf Trump und Bidens Rücktritt veränderten die Situation. Aber unabhängig davon, wer der neue Präsident oder die neue Präsidentin wird, die Wahlkampfthemen bleiben die gleichen: sie reichen von Wirtschaftspolitik über den Ukraine-Krieg sowie den Nahostkonflikt bis hin zum Umgang mit Immigranten und der gesetzlichen Regelung von Schwangerschaftsabbrüchen. In dieser Kurzeinheit setzen sich die Schülerinnen und Schüler mit den Parteien, zentralen Wahlkampfthemen sowie Hoffnungen und Sorgen der amerikanischen Wähler sowie den jüngsten Ereignissen auseinander.

Overview

Topic 1: International interest in the election

M 1 “U.S. election 2024: Why the world is watching so closely”

Topic 2: Opinions from the electorate

M 2 2024 presidential election: “It’s like 2020 all over again, with higher stakes”

Topic 3: A whole new ballgame

M 3 Worksheet – Turbulent times

Worksheet – International interest in the election

Pre-reading discussion

1. During Trump's term in office his policy was "America First". Discuss whether this is a valid political attitude.



Working with the text

2. Read the article. Then decide whether the statements are true (T), false (F) or not mentioned in the text (N). Provide an explanation for each of your decisions using your own words. Add an analysis of situations where relevant.



Statements		F	N
As conflicts around the world increase, America has seen its importance decrease. <u>Explanation:</u>			
America's traditional foreign friends are not too concerned about the presidential election yet. <u>Explanation:</u>			
Ukraine could be the first casualty of the election outcome. <u>Explanation:</u>			
The journalists sees some criticism to Trump running for re-election as being hypocritical. <u>Explanation:</u>			
Foreign interference in the last presidential election is a cause for concern this year. <u>Explanation:</u>			

Working with a cartoon

6. Describe and analyse the cartoon.
7. Comment on the appropriateness of the cartoon for the presidential election.



Topic 3: A whole new ballgame

Worksheet – Turbulent times

The race for the White House began with an unprecedented situation of an ex-president battling with the incumbent one. No one, however, could foresee these developments:

- 27th June: Joe Biden's abysmal performance in a TV debate with Donald Trump
- 13th July: an assassination attempt was made on Donald Trump at a political event
- 21st July: after much pressure, Biden announced he would not stand for re-election



Commenting on Joe Biden's resignation

1. On 27.12.2023, the Guardian newspaper wrote "The 60th US presidential election [...] will be quite unlike any that has gone on before [...] America is sitting on a powder keg and the fuse has been lit."¹ Comment on these opinions.
2. The Republican House Speaker, Mike Johnson, and the Democrat ex-president Barack Obama responded to Joe Biden's announcement that he would not stand for re-election. Examine each statement and express your opinions concerning them.
 - a) Mike Johnson: "If Joe Biden is not fit to run for President, he is not fit to serve as President [...]. He must resign the office immediately. November 5 cannot arrive soon enough."²
 - b) Barack Obama: "We will be navigating uncharted waters in the days ahead. But I have extraordinary confidence that our leaders of our party will be able to create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges."³



1 David Smith: "Sitting on a powder keg": US braces for a year, and an election, like no other. Found at: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/dec/27/politics-2024-trump-biden-election-democracy-authoritarian> [last access: 25/07/2024]

2 Phil McCusland and Bernd Debusmann: Republicans call on Biden to leave White House. Found at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cnd0ek9el6ro> [last access: 25/07/2024]

3 Found at: <https://barackobama.medium.com/my-statement-on-president-bidens-announcement-1eb78b3ba3fc> [last access: 25/07/2024]

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