

DONALD TRUMP

A Winner in Adversity

Known as the most powerful person currently in the world, Donald John Trump is the 45th President of the United States. A businessman and television personality before entering politics, he has faced consistent opposition and criticisms for his policies, statements and ideas. However, shrugging off everything that's negative, he has focused on work and achievements

“WHAT SEPARATES THE WINNERS FROM THE LOSERS IS HOW A PERSON REACTS TO EACH NEW TWIST OF FATE”

BY ANAM KUMAR

Trump has consistently received backlash for his populist, protectionist, and nationalist policies, by the world liberals. He has even been polled as the least popular US President in the history of modern opinion polls. His lack of experience in administration and politics has gone heavily against him. Figures have always spoken badly for him. While 64% Americans rated for Barack Obama that they had confidence in him to do the right thing when it came to international affairs, only 22% showed confidence in Trump on the same parameters. Actually, majority of voters have shown low opinions of his character and competence.

However, the question is: has this affected Trump? Not really, as he has continued with his policies, statements and ideas as if oblivious of any critic's or opponent's existence. It has definitely given him an advantage too; he is able to show he has done something, as consistently focusing





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on corrections, he has been able to deliver finally.

Actually, his wins are more than his losses, in any field, be it business, politics or his personal life. He has managed his businesses well, and according to March 2018 estimates by Forbes magazine, he is the world's 766th richest person with a net worth of US\$3.1 billion, and therefore one of the richest politicians in American history and the richest President of USA.

He has even co-authored several books, including *The Art of the Deal*, owned the Miss Universe and Miss USA beauty pageants from 1996 to 2015, and produced & hosted the reality television show *The Apprentice* from 2003 to 2015.

POPULIST & PROTECTIONIST

Trump's win of the US President's election wasn't easy, as he entered the 2016 presidential race as a Republican; however, he defeated sixteen opponents in the primaries. His political positions as populist, protectionist, and nationalist were severely criticised on media, but finally these very positions helped him seal the deal. He was even accused of making false public statements in his campaign. However, overcoming each and every stumble on his way to the White House, the final result was that he was elected President in a surprise victory over Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, as he became the oldest and the wealthiest person ever to assume the presidency, the first without prior military or government service, and the fifth to have won the election while losing the popular vote.

A few of his severely criticised policies include a travel ban on citizens from several Muslim-majority countries, citing security concerns. He also signed tax cut legislation, rescinded the individual insurance mandate provision of the Affordable Care Act, and opened the Arctic Refuge for oil drilling.

Internationally, following a foreign policy of America First agenda, he withdrew the US from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations, the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Iran nuclear deal. He even recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and imposed import tariffs on various goods from China, Canada, Mexico and the European Union.

These are not the only challenges he has faced. As recent as in May 2018, the US Senate Intelligence Committee reiterated what US intelligence agencies

have been claiming since Trump's election to the White House that Russia influenced the 2016 US presidential election with the goal of hurting the candidacy of Democrat Hillary Clinton and to help Donald Trump.

Of course, Trump has repeatedly denied accusations of collusion and obstruction of justice, calling the investigation a politically motivated witch hunt.

Then, Trump has never served in the military, for which he has been criticised too. While in college from 1964 to 1968, he obtained four student deferments, on the ground that he was not fit for service. After college, he obtained a 1-Y classification, which meant he was unqualified for duty except in the case of a national emergency. Finally, he obtained a "not qualified for service" certificate.

"TOGETHER, WE WILL DETERMINE THE COURSE OF AMERICA AND THE WORLD FOR YEARS TO COME. WE WILL FACE CHALLENGES. WE WILL CONFRONT HARDSHIPS. BUT WE WILL GET THE JOB DONE"

SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN

Having received an Economics degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Trump took charge of his family's real estate business in 1971, renamed it The Trump Organization, and expanded it into Manhattan, building or renovating several skyscrapers, hotels, casinos, and golf courses.

In 1978, Trump launched his Manhattan real estate business by purchasing a 50% stake in the derelict Commodore Hotel, and infusing about \$70 million into it with the Hyatt hotel chain, reopened it in 1980 as the Grand Hyatt Hotel. In 1978 itself, Trump obtained the rights to develop Trump Tower, a 58-story, 663-foot skyscraper in Midtown Manhattan. The building was completed in 1983 and houses both the primary penthouse condominium residence of Trump and the headquarters of The Trump Organization. In 1988 Trump acquired the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan, boosted it from a three-star to a four-star ranking, and sold it in 1995. In 1996, Trump acquired the Bank of Manhattan Trust Building, renovated it and renamed it the Trump Building. In 1997, he constructed the Trump Place, a multi-building development along the Hudson River, and sold his interest for \$1.8 billion in 2005. From 1994 to 2002, Trump owned a 50% share of the Empire State Building. In 2001, Trump completed Trump World Tower. In 2002, Trump acquired the former



Hotel Delmonico, which was renovated and reopened in 2004 as the Trump Park Avenue.

Talking of his casinos, he acquired a partially completed building in Atlantic City from the Hilton Corporation, and in 1985 turned it into an hotel and casino - Trump Castle. In 1988, Trump acquired his third casino in Atlantic City, the Taj Mahal. The Trump Organization also operates many golf courses and resorts in the United States and around the world. Trump had also established the Trump University as a for-profit education company, and even made cameo appearances in 12 films and 14 television series.

After becoming the President, Trump tries to stay away from his businesses to avoid any conflict of interest, and has left the management of his real estate business to his two sons, Eric and Don Jr., while his daughter Ivanka has joined Trump in the White House as his Assistant

and her husband is a Senior Advisor in the White House.

In news consistently for wrong reasons, Trump has nevertheless been recognized as a Person of the Year numerous times. Though he has made contentious policies and announcements on topics such as foreign policy with China, Iran and Russia; economy & trade; energy & climate; healthcare; immigration including travel ban and the much publicised family separation at border in April 2018; his support to Israel and his bilateral summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore in June 2018 holds hope that he would be able to achieve in his own unpopular style those things that were not possible for any previous US President.

Trump intends to run for a second term and has already started his campaign for a rerun. His various experiences of his first term should make him a better politician and administrator, next time.