

ABOUT NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN POLICY...

"We need to build bridges, not walls."

President Joe Biden

OVERVIEW:

President Biden's and former President Trump's national security and foreign policies are drastically different.

Trump promised he would put "America First," but Trump's America stood alone. His embrace of authoritarian leaders weakened the U.S.'s position in the world. It tarnished U.S. credibility, degraded American diplomacy, shredded international commitments, weakened our alliances, and ceded ground to adversaries, putting global peace and prosperity in jeopardy.

Biden, on the other hand, has responded to international challenges by forging coalitions, emphasizing democratic values, and expanding U.S. diplomatic efforts. He understands that it's not in America's interest to abandon allies and bow to dictators, and he continues to repair alliances that Trump damaged. Biden believes in strong American leadership and having the best-trained, best-equipped, and most effective military fighting force in the world to keep our homeland safe.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, as shown below:

Biden supports multilateral partnerships to achieve more peace, stability, and prosperity. Trump withdrew the U.S. from many international agreements, making the world less safe.

International Agreement	Trump	Biden
Paris Climate Accord	Withdrew the U.S.	Rejoined
World Health Organization	Withdrew the U.S.	Rejoined
United Nations Human Rights Council	Withdrew the U.S.	Rejoined
Iran Nuclear Deal	Withdrew the U.S.	Seeks to restart negotiations with Iran to end its nuclear program.
Trans-Pacific Partnership	Terminated	Advanced a successor agreement among nations across the region called the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Withdrew the U.S.	Rejoined

The *North Atlantic Treaty Organization* (NATO) is the bedrock of trans-Atlantic security. NATO has 32 member countries, including the U.S., that work together on political and security issues. Although Trump did not withdraw the U.S. from NATO, he continuously attacked and threatened withdrawal. This caused instability and played into Russian President Putin's goal of weakening NATO. Biden supports the NATO alliance and its recent inclusion of Finland and Sweden, making NATO stronger than ever – much to Putin's dismay.

Defying U.S. national security, Trump said he "would encourage" Russia "to do whatever the hell they want" to NATO countries that didn't meet alliance defense-spending targets.

Note: the European Union contributes and pays more to NATO than the U.S. pays.



CLIMATE CHANGE:

U.S. defense and intelligence leaders recognize that climate change is a U.S. national security threat. Climate change is a "threat multiplier." It affects global stability, military readiness, humanitarian crises, and the risk of war. It aggravates already-existing stressors abroad – things such as poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and social tensions - conditions that can enable terrorist activity and other forms of violence. Trump dismantled more than 100 environmental rules, an unfortunate U.S. record. Biden has reversed many of Trump’s

rollbacks, largely before their full negative impacts could be felt.

BORDER SECURITY:

Democrats and Republicans alike agree the U.S. southern border is a security threat. A bipartisan group of Senators negotiated a bill to enhance border security, essentially giving Republicans everything they wanted. However, the Republican Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, killed the bill in line with the demands of Trump. Trump wants to use the chaos at the border as a 2024 campaign issue and therefore doesn’t want the issue fixed, since a fix would give Biden a big “win.”

UKRAINE – RUSSIA WAR:

Biden is pro-Ukraine in its fight to keep its democracy against the invasion of Russia. Although both Biden and Trump have provided military, financial and diplomatic support to Ukraine, Trump would “strongly oppose” more aid for Ukraine if he’s re-elected. Biden imposed punitive sanctions on Russia for the invasion, leaving no doubt Biden is willing to take a tough stance against Moscow. Trump will leave Europe vulnerable if he abandons Ukraine. Despite 74% of Americans believing the war in Ukraine is important to U.S. interests, Republicans in Congress have not passed a new aid package, leaving Ukraine increasingly vulnerable to Putin’s advances. Biden carefully balances support to Ukraine while also avoiding steps that could draw the U.S. into direct conflict with Russia.

OTHER FOREIGN RELATIONSHIPS:

This table shows Biden’s and Trump’s stand on other U.S. foreign relationships.

Country	Biden’s and Trump’s Foreign Policy Positions
China	Trump engaged in a trade war that left relations in the worst state in decades.
	Biden resumed diplomacy between the U.S. and China, especially regarding the climate.
Taiwan	Trump would most likely not defend Taiwan’s right for self-rule.
	Biden defends Taiwan’s right for self-rule.
Iran	Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Iran nuclear deal and increased sanctions against Iran, precipitating several confrontations.
	Biden sought to engage the regime through negotiations on both its nuclear program and the release of American prisoners.
North Korea	Trump sought harmonious relations with North Korea to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, although North Korea continued to expand its nuclear arsenal.
	Biden’s approach to North Korea is practical and calibrated, building towards the complete denuclearization of North Korea.
Israel	Trump is fundamentally uninterested in a Palestinian state.
	Biden is committed to a two-state solution.