

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT CARD

An Undergraduate Research Scholars Thesis

by

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Submitted to the LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research office at
Texas A&M University
in partial fulfillment of requirements for the designation as an

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Approved by
Faculty Research Advisor:

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May 2021

Major:

Political Science

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT.....	1
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	3
SECTIONS	
INTRODUCTION	4
1. PRESIDENTIAL ACTORS.....	16
2. A HOUSE DIVIDED.....	20
3. WHAT DOES A PRESIDENT LOOK LIKE? SETTING UP THE REPORT CARD.....	23
3.1 Economy.....	24
3.2 Foreign Affairs/Policy	24
3.3 Race	25
3.4 Crisis.....	25
3.5 Reaching Across the Political Aisle	26
3.6 Health Care.....	26
3.7 Immigration	26
4. WHAT DOES A PRESIDENT LOOK LIKE: FINDINGS.....	28
4.1 George H. W. Bush.....	28
4.2 William “Bill” Clinton.....	32
4.3 George W. Bush	35
4.4 Barack H. Obama	38
4.5 Donald J. Trump.....	41
CONCLUSION.....	45
REFERENCES	46

ABSTRACT

Presidential Report Card

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Every four years we choose a president that has the responsibility of representing all of us, but many times each of the candidates do not come close to being anything we want them to be. The Presidential Report Card is a way to allow for us as the citizens to be the ones who determines what we want as our Commander in Chief. In this I explore the previous research done by others who looked at the greatness of former presidents, Presidential Acting that presidents do to remain in the presidency, and the partisanship that we have began to see as a growing issue in this country. Each president that is being talked about in this research has found themselves, in some manner, having to deal with these issues, but for them to be labeled as “Great” then we must put their work to the test. Being president is not the easiest job in the world, many people know that, but this role requires unwavering effort on many fronts, and this shows in the legislation, bills, the advocacy that they do, and overall, how they seek to stand in the gap for the American people. Presidential Greatness for a long time has been a very talked about topic because greatness varies depending on the times that a president was in that determined the responses that they made for the situation, but what really needs to be questioned

is whether someone who made the greatness scales used their own personal political affiliation to determine the ratings? If this was not the case, then we need to find more ways to continue the work in evaluating presidential greatness, but if there was some partisanship in determining the numbers, then we need to go back and question if all these surveys have been using a fair ranking policy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Contributors

I would like to thank my faculty advisor, Dr. Robert Goidel, for his guidance and support throughout the course of this research.

Thanks also go to my friends and colleagues and the department faculty and staff for making my time at Texas AM University a great experience.

Finally, thanks to Dr. Perry for her encouragement and to my family for their patience and love.

Funding Sources

This Undergraduate research project received no funding.

INTRODUCTION

The 2020 Presidential Election has officially concluded, and we now have selected the President of the United States that will be leading this nation for the next four years, but are the people that we put up every four years to be the front runners for our political parties' people that we would like to see lead this nation? Is it not time that we start telling the truth about the people that we elect every four years to represent us and for us to say what we really want in a president? The President of the United States is supposed to be someone that we choose that represents the American people well in every endeavor that they involve themselves in. We choose a president to run this nation every four years because it is our hope that they are what we want, but they are not all that we want, and we do not have a way to define what it is that we are looking for in the president and it is my hope to finally develop a "rubric" for what the President of the United States should be. This "Presidential Report Card" will be something that the American people would ultimately be able to use to determine if a president were good based off these things and those who wish to come after them will already know what it is that they will be critiqued based off.

We hear many times different people on networks talk about what the American people want and how either presidential candidate is that person or their political party is the party that can represent all Americans in the office of the president, but it is due time that the people get a say in what it is the president should be and what that role should consist of. If the president is supposed to be picked by the people of this country and be representative of what the people want then the American people should define what it is that the president should be like in character, policies, etc. and those who choose to run for this position should be striving to always

be representative of these very ideals. When we vote for the President of the United States, we do that because we want to believe that the person that holds this very important seat is someone that will always move this country in the direction needed to always make sure that we are a nation is still highly revered by all other countries in the world. The president's role should be for the people by the people and now the people should be showing the government what they want to be representative of them.

When students get report cards at each grading period, they are meant to be constructive criticism for students to change the way that they do work, projects, and test and to also be a reflection on the work that a student does. This should be the same system that is used to show the president of the United States what the people think their performance is and for them to reflect on how to work towards being better and for those who seek to be the next president should be going off this model. With any grading system it changes over time based off certain variable because what was graded then is different from what is graded now, but there are some things that remain consistent because these are some core things about certain assignments that make the assignment or project what it is. This can also be the same judgement about the presidential report card. Things change about the role of the president and with each new administration they are faced with different issues germane to the direction of the country at that point in time, but there are some things that must always remain the same about what it is the president is tasked to do in this role.

Over the years there has been much literature that has come out about the success of each American president and what it was that made their administrations great. The literature points to various ways that the president can reach the people in various situations and the ways in which certain situations like the inauguration speech, state of the union address, etc. has been an event

that has caused many Americans to be inspired by the president to trust them and what they do next for this country. It is also necessary to point out that something that is unique to most presidents is how they managed in the state of a crisis. This is very necessary to point out because many of the issues that this country has faced were often things that we all saw coming or had no idea was on the way, so to see the president's response to these issues also adds some interesting insight to how great how they are in the end. What is also very important to note is that many of the surveys and polls that are given to the people to determine the greatness of the president during their administration comes during and/or after the person has been done being president which is very important because when we have that wholistic review on the administration or a certain event then we can make an assessment properly of the greatness of the president. With the addition of a report card this establishes an early rubric for the president that we can use so when it is time to give the ratings and rank the president, they can be placed based off these items that the people saw as important to the success of the president and the country.

The article title Presidential Greatness in a Polarized Era: results from the latest presidential Greatness Survey are very interesting because it brings up an important topic that many are beginning to see in this country which is how much political polarization affects many things in this country. Political polarization is not something that is new to the conversations had in this country, but this is something that is unique in this situation for various reasons. Many presidents, regardless of how many may feel due to these partisan divides, have done great things for the American people and those impacts are still felt today, but what the article points out is that many people have gone back and rerated our presidents based off political feelings because we are such a divided people now. This would be very important to think about because we are sinking deeper and deeper into partisan divides and this will ultimately affect the role that

president plays for all Americans, especially those who are of a different political party than them. Even when we look at the presidential cycle we just exited, there was so much partisan divides that has caused all of us to no be able to congratulate the winner of the election because we are more concerned with our candidate being president that we will want to rub it in the faces of the loser and not move us in a direction that we are more concerned with getting us to a place of coming together to get things done.

There is also an article called *The Presidential Ranking Game: Critical Review and Some New Discoveries* that really calls into question many of these rankings that people have for the “greatest” to the “worst” presidents based off the criteria that they gave in their rankings. It is very important for us a people to be critical of ranking systems when it comes to rating others, like they were in this article, because it would become very easy for us to lose sight of what is important to critique each president on and ultimately rank them all based off of these other ideals that have nothing to do with their overall success and also, as was mentioned earlier, partisan divides limiting how fair we are in different judgements of performance that each president deserves. They also point out that there is more information that ultimately comes out of these polls that those who conduct the polls reveal in these rankings. There is much to think about when we look at this article because there are many polls that come out that allows people

Another great article in this field of study is one that talks about the way in which we can predict the presidential greatness while they are in office. This article titled *presidential greatness and performance: Can we predict leadership in the White House helps creating the presidential report card* because in the article they ask they question of what are the determinants of the rated greatness of American presidents? This is important because when it comes to these measurements of the presidential greatness people put different things on what it is that

determines this type of greatness. There are so many things that people choose to think about when it comes to things that could potentially make a president's administration, but this article's question points looking at the main things that can determine this type of greatness. We can look at things like how much a president smiled and how much they gave speeches later, but things like foreign policies and handling of the economy may be more necessary to rate the president on.

Something that should be a consistent when talking about the greatness of the president of the United States is the way that they are able to handle a crisis. Presidents are tasked with being the ones that protect the wellbeing of the American people so in times of distress the American people look to the president to provide comfort of the current issues. When 9/11 happened that caused many within this country to be filled with so much pain and sorrow over the devastation of losing so many lives and this important building to us. What gave the people hope was having President George Bush speak after 9/11 in front of the House and the Senate and let us know that "We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail". This is very important because with the article title *The Contextual Determinants of Presidential Greatness*, they bring up the issue that for each presidential administration each president's ability to handle crisis like war, scandal, economy issues, etc. allows for insight to how great each of them are because of their ability to be able to handle these issues.

Another great article addresses the way in which each president uses charisma in a way that attracts people to them. The way in which the president uses words to pursue their supporters to them has long been a skill that has worked in the favor of the president. *Charming, Cold: Does Presidential Personality Matter* dives in this idea of the president using their personality/charisma as a way to attract supporters. In this article they introduce a notion that

many really would not consider in looking at presidential report card because it is such a small factor in a bigger game. The reason why charisma is so small is because no one really thinks to consider behavioral aspects in this because people are more concerned with the economy, foreign policy, the courts, jobs, and health care so the last thing they are worried about is whether the president smiles while they are on camera. This article though reels the discussion in a direction that causes one to think about the ways in which the president's personality may or may not inspire people to follow them.

There is one thing that we need to really focus on that no one really thinks to consider. Are these ratings really accurate? Should some of these presidents really be labeled as the greatest and other the worst? The article *An Analysis of Presidential Greatness and "President Rating"* digs into this because not all these ratings are correct in how they rate the former and current president. This is important to have because in thinking about creating a report card that will ask for people to rate and rank the president based on these things there should not be personal things that I have to say about the things that a president should be, but a wholistic review that the American people come up with because this is about the people in total and has nothing to do with my personal politics. Many times, that is where many get things wrong is that they are more concerned with having their own thinking into these ratings and not having the American people be the determinant of these ideals about greatness and taking this into account when asking if a president is great or not.

There have been others who have created a form of grading system for the president to have because there is such an interest for rating the president on the things that they do. As pointed out in *The Presidential Performance Study: A Progress Report* there has been major push for different forms of rating systems since the time of Arthur Schlesinger's poll in 1948. This is

very important to note because the idea of the presidential report card is not new, but the way that it will be evaluating is much different from what many have done in the past regarding talking about the success or failure of the president. Presidential greatness is something very important because there is much that could potentially affect that and with many people looking into this there can be great success in the way that we evaluate the performance of the president with fact and not aimless opinion that gives no adequate feedback on their greatness.

Race and politics have been a major issue for many because of the issues that this country has had with addressing inherent racism towards to the Black community and more specifically the way in which the president has handled this issue. It is no secret that in order to get the “Black vote” one must really appeal to Black people and the issues that we are faced with in this country that includes civil rights and race relations. The article Presidential greatness in the Black press: ranking the modern presidents on civil rights policy and race relations, 1900-2016 highlights the Black community because this community has had so many issues in this country that do not really get much attention. Each president spanning from the time of 1900-2016 has had ways in which they chose to address the issues of civil rights policies and race relation as it pertains to the Black community and their actions have been felt by the community in various ways. This is of the highest important to think of because this is another factor that could be a heavy determinant of greatness because if a president ignores the Black community, then they risk not being able to say they were great because they did not have that support from this community.

There has been much conversation surrounding the idea of getting rid of the electoral college because at the end of the day the popular vote really tells how the American people feel about the candidates who run for the office of the president. A Simple Method for Predicting

Presidential Greatness from Popular Vote Victory Margin gives an important perspective for many reasons. In the 2016 election Donald Trump won the presidential election based on how many electoral votes he had, but the same cannot be said about his success in the popular vote. He lost to Hillary Clinton by wide margins in the popular vote, which if we did not have the electoral vote, she would be president today, which really tells something interesting because how can one be unpopular, but still be great in the office of the president? Many would say that this is impossible because the success of the president comes from the people's willingness to rally behind the president, but it becomes hard for people to really rally behind you when are not the popular choice for the United States. This is of the utmost importance to look into because as it is we have a high distrust fir the electoral college in this country because of the idea that it does not represent the real voice of the people and to have an article that effectively speaks to this and talks about how there is a great chance that we could be looking at major issues even within our voting since more people will vote a presidential candidate in the popular vote, but in the electoral vote they could still lose is very interesting. This is very interesting to consider and investigate because this brings a good question into play which is how can president be great when they only receive a vote from a tiny part of the country and the rest does, but does not count?

The impact that a person makes in our lives. Their impact effects how we work, how we treat other, and the ways in which there is a standard that we put upon people. This is the same thing when it comes to the President of the United States. For many people, the president before one left such a positively profound country to where this expectation is expected to carry over into the next administration. Context, Opportunity, and the Potential for Presidential Greatness really goes into this notion of how great the next president can be when the previous one was so

great, and their impact has really resonated with American people in a way that cannot be easily duplicated. As they point out in the article there are presidents that to this very day we still speak of and the way in which they have really had a profound impact on the office of the president. This causes for the next president to really step their game up because they have so much to live up to while they are president. Another article speaks to this type of impact in the ways of symbolism and what that means to Black and Brown girls. Letters to Kamala: What the vice president-elect's victory means to these Pittsburgh-area Black and Brown girls really opens a person's eyes to see that sometimes the impact that a person can have is by being just like me in a position that another has never held before. This could be a great indicator of greatness especially if you were to take this same article and then look at the impact that the Obama administration could have being that he was the first Black President of this country and for many people that meant a lot to see him occupy this role because before President Obama many did not think it was possible for a Black person to be in the White House, but now this is a strong possibility for many within the community to try and run and have a major impact for this country.

What does it mean for the president to be considered great? What are the different variables that affects the ways they are able to be considered great in history? There is so much to think about that could make a president great. As was mentioned early on, each administration had its own set of issues that it faced so where one president can say they were great because they eliminated a terrorist organization another can say that they were great in history because they were able to handle the economy. In the article called What is presidential greatness it explores the way a president can be labeled as great. Can all be critiqued the same since various issues they were faced with were much different from the others so the way that each one of

them are ranked is hard to do because of what their administrations were tasked to do. The president's role looks nothing as it did when George Washington was president and that is a good thing, but the greatness that we gave to President Washington for his acts of leadership in a time when we were trying to establish our country away from the hands of the British could never be the same greatness that President Obama had when he led us through that horrible recession. With the presidential report card this would be allowing the chance for many to adequately define greatness and come up with a clear definition that all presidents could fall under since they all do hold this office and have the charge of being the leader of the American people.

Polls are a very good way to collect data for something so that way assessments can be made, and people can look at these assessments for valuable information. These can be broken down to different levels to allow the opportunity for those who conduct these polls to ask specific questions for clarification on certain things like that was done in the Siena 6th Presidential Expert Poll 1982-2018. In their poll they were able to go through different things like the relationship between the president and congress, the economy, party leadership, and foreign policy. This poll does something that is unique when it comes to polling. Everything cannot be put into polls because there is so much to consider in polling as it is, but we must look at the small things that may be important to consider. Examples of this could be the next president's ability to be continue the work of the previous president, which is something worthy of being studied, but because there are so many other bigger issues like foreign policy, we have to leave that to something like a miniature comparison between two presidents to see how well this was executed.

Most of the literature that is created when comes to the idea of presidential greatness talks mainly about what the president does after they are elected to office and does not really talk much about the standard that really is in place before the president gets into office. The idea of the presidential report card will taking all the things that have been discussed previously by many who study presidential greatness and talking with the American people about the ways a president can be great in their eyes. Then there will be an evaluation of the presidents that we have had in the past and grade the based off these different issues which would ultimately lead to a ranking that would be fair because it will be coming from the American people. It is very important that every component be about the American people because the people are the ones that must deal with all the policies of the president and should be the ones that set what should be the standard for the President of the United States.

We need to allow for there to be a true way that the American people define this type of greatness that we give to presidents. In this way we have a more organized way that we can call presidents great because there will be people producing different rankings that will place certain presidents in different places based on their criteria, but since the American people would be in full control of this criteria scholars who produce, ranking systems would have to look this as a way to rank the presidents on the greatness. It is my belief that by having the American people, from different political and social backgrounds, come together to create different criteria that can establish how the president is supposed to be for the American people and from there grading the presidents from before on this same criterion that was established to have a more concrete ranking list. I do expect to find some difficulty with the way in which some of the criteria for presidential greatness will be chose because of partisan issues that we have in this era. I also expect to find a better system that we use to determine presidential greatness. By creating this

report card, we will be able to help to condense decades of work down in a way that makes way for better understandings and more studying to be done on the idea of a president being called great and more importantly which presidents can truly walk away with the title of being great for these various issues this country has been faced with during their administrations.

1. PRESIDENTIAL ACTORS

The role of the President has been one that has changed with each new administration. From the time of the American Revolution with President George Washington to the ongoing issues of Covid-19, the president has had to change for the situation they are in. Many people think that presidents think the way that they do on their own, which may be true for some presidents, but what must be discussed is the ways in which a president's political "acting" is influenced by the people. Presidential acting refers to the way that a president will be one way behind closed doors, but once that crowd is out their ready for them then it is almost like a switch that gets flipped in them that causes them to become a new person.

Journalist Yamiche Alcindor wrote in an article titled Trump insists on using racist language. Will that approach win him support? she looks at the various things that former President Trump said during his time in office that can be deemed racist by many. One of the most notable things from the article is the retweet that Trump made during a time of very tense racial issues in the country where you can hear a person yell out, "White Power." That cause an uproar amongst Black, Indigenous, People of Color across this country, but the question that this begs is how much was President Trump doing on his own and "performing for a vote? It is a serious thing to think about as we look at how much these issues were very divided amongst the people of this country where we had people that thought that in no way, he was wrong for what he did while other thought that he should have been impeached for event thinking that such a thing was acceptable to repost in the first place.

Our president is designed to act in a certain manner to fit what the people want in that time. As we have move through many administrations, we have seen the emergence of many

issues that cause us to vote for a particular person because they said or did something that aligned with a certain emotion that we may be feeling at the time. The acting that each president has done to get the people to rally behind them has been something that has worked for years. Even when they say something that can be deemed as completely false or just wrong in general, we see an outpouring of defense that they would get from their supporters and that is something that gets discussed, but many do not understand how this could be.

Presidential acting can become tricky for the American people though. When we look at actual film actors like Johnny Depp, for a long time many of us did not know what this man actually looked like. He has played the Mad Hatter, vampire, wizard, chameleon, computer, barber/murderer, chocolate making and eating tycoon, and so on, but up until a certain point in many people's lives no one really knew what he looked like and that is exactly what presidential actors are like. Many presidents get in the American people's faces, especially communities that they poll the least favorable with, and "act" in a way that will draw a group of people to them. A good example of this on a more local level is the 1958 and 1963 Alabama Governor's race. In Ian Lopez's book *Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals have reinvented Racism & Wrecked the Middle Class* he talks about the journey that Alabama's governor George Wallace went through to get the seat. He was once a man that treated Black people nicely and even had support from the NAACP (Lopez 29), but when his opponent received nomination from the Klan that is when he knew that he had to change his ways to get the results that he wanted. He has been quoted saying that "no other son-of-a-bitch- will ever out-nigger me again. (Lopez 29)" Reasons like this are why we need the presidential report card.

In the United States, we have created a system that values what the people want versus what is needed and this has caused major issues between the role of the president that is

supposed to protect the American people and trying to be popular enough to win re-election. As Covid-19 was raging throughout the United States, many thought that former President Donald Trump was going to take an aggressive stance against Covid-19 and enforce physical distancing, masks, and places of business that do not necessarily need to be open during a pandemic being closed and properly compensated for the money lost during this time, but he did none of that. With many American's expressing their disdain of the idea of having to follow all these Covid guidelines, he decided to play along with that to make himself seem more favorable by telling governors to end the shutdowns, do not worry about wearing a mask, Covid is a hoax, etc. this is the type of acting that many presidents more often choose to participate in. There could be a present issue that we all can clearly see, but out of the interest of their party they will deny all of that to be re-elected.

In the presidential report card, I will be diving deeper behind the acting that they did in front of the cameras and to the press because what is noticed is that what all presidents say in front of the camera can be a completely different thing in the long run. One of the most famous examples of that was the *Border Wall* that was supposed to go up. Former President Trump swore during the campaign trail and the during his first couple of months as president that, "Mexico will pay for the wall" (BBC). Did they pay for the wall? No! This type of acting Trump caused a stand still on his plans, and in turn caused him to look bad as president because his campaign promise was not being met like he said it would. Using this type of acting as president, where it begins to sound like a high school's student council election in which students will promise free dress code Friday's, but the principal will not even budge on it, can cause for some to have this big vote of no confidence in you as president and that ultimately will lower the scores that you could potentially get on your rating as the leader of this country.

Presidential acting as a specialty card that gets used is not a bad idea but using this does not always produce the best results. All Americans have the common notion that politicians are great salespeople because they know how to use this very done up script that will get them elected and everything, they told us in that script, most of the time, does not even come close to being address in any policies that they do. Going back to the situation with Trump's border wall. The script told us that the citizens of this country will never pay for it, but that ended up almost being the case after all plans to fund it failed. Because of this acting the wall did not get built, we had a 35-day lockdown, and this issue probably went on to cause deeper divide in our parties.

2. A HOUSE DIVIDED

It is no secret that we are currently a nation divided on many things, especially politics. In the times that we live in it is more common that people will avoid the conversation on who they support politically than to tell people out of fear of being isolated for their political affiliation. There was a time when even if you had your own political affiliations you could still fairly talk about the other side of the aisle and not completely trash that side. In recent years we have not been able to see the work done by each president, no matter their political affiliation, because we are so partisan in our outlook on how this country should look, how the president should act, and the legislation they should ultimately pass. President Washington warned us from having political parties because he claimed that they would, “usurp for themselves the reins of government; destroying afterwards the very engines, which have lifted them to unjust dominion” (Pruitt 2020). This is strikingly true in many cases because now we see that any of the people that represent our political affiliations do what they want and are more concerned with doing what they feel will get them re-elected or even get them a fair run for the office of the President.

In the charts done by Iman Ghosh, it shows just how we moved in the division of our political formations. These charts show how from 1994 till 2017 how far we have begun to divide as a nation in our politics. There are those that point to the Presidency of Obama as the point in time that we became a divided nation, but there are others who point to the times when former President Bill Clinton was in office and he had a constant back and forth with Newt Gingrich as the point in time when our political divide in this country began to deepen. No matter how conservative or liberal a person will identify to be we should all still be able to see good intent but hold each accountable respectfully. That is not the case for the times we are in.

Each party must be on top and no one can really tell them what to do and even if you get someone from the opposing party to be on the president's cabinet it is usually someone that tends to vote in favor of more policies and initiatives that their primary party usually are not in favor of.

Even as I was doing a lot of the research and looking at how some presidents were described, the rankings they received, and overall which party always came out on top, I found all of that to be very interesting because I looked at the results from the lenses of my own personal political affiliations. This is something that in some ways we all do this. Our personal affiliations do not allow us to be able to fairly say that any elected official that is on the opposite side of my affiliation automatically cannot do any good because you are different from what I stand for. We have also all wrapped ourselves in what we have believed to be the principles of the party, but not what is best for the citizens of this country. Even if we hold our sides, it should still always come down to us doing what is best for the American people and not what will be best for the party I represent. Having our own values is not a bad thing, but it has caused us to not get much done because we are so divided.

Having loyalty to your party is a good thing, but at the same time can lead to serious issues in the long run because not everyone thinks the same as you and many would probably not be too interested in investing any time into anything that our leaders have to say. Even though we live in such a divided time there are still some good things that can come from having loyalty to the party that one identifies with. For starters it is very important to know what your party stands for so that way it does not divulge into just a mess of topics and guessing on what it is you all are about. Then there is the sense of community that comes with being in the party because this allows for us to foster group identity within this ever-growing country. There are more things

that are good about party identity, but that still does not take away that extreme party lines lead to division in our country and will also have a major negative impact on our government. Deep partisan lines have caused us to not be able to work together on much of anything now. The negative impacts that being in this divide is causing us not to get things done, more fighting amongst ourselves over those who will undermine our democracy, and it ultimately shows that we are not as strong as we claim to be. There is absolutely nothing wrong with having your party affiliation, but if it is going to be at the expense of what is needed for the American people then we do not need parties anymore because the division we have now is not worth losing a country that stands for the liberty and freedom that many abroad long for.

3. WHAT DOES A PRESIDENT LOOK LIKE? SETTING UP THE REPORT CARD

Each time a president leaves office there is a greatness survey to add the one that just left to this list and to see where they would be placed and how everyone already on this list would be ranked. There are already so many greatness surveys out there so it can be difficult to label presidents appropriately because one survey will tell you that President Lincoln is ranked number two on being great, but another will tell you that he should be labeled as number 20 on this list for some other reasons. These surveys have changed over time to fit the needs of what the new ages of each president was dealing with. There are many pieces of criterion that will be similar, but overall, they will all be different depending on the age and the situations each president was dealing with when they all took office.

The presidents that will be viewed for this survey will be former presidents George H.W. Bush, William “Bill” Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack H. Obama, and Donald J. Trump. Each one of the presidents have had an immaculate effect on the nation that we see today, so they are the ones that will be looked at in the greatness that they had. In each of their presidencies the issues of the economy, foreign affairs/policy, race, crisis, reaching across the aisle, health care, and immigration. There are many things that ultimately shape the presidency of each of these individuals, but in some capacity all presidents have had to deal with these issues no matter what time in history it was. There are many reasons that these were chosen, but to go into the actual results of how each of these gentlemen did as it pertained to these different criteria, we must first understand the aspects of what will be looked at in each of these different things.

3.1 Economy

The economy is an issue in this country that continues to fluctuate with each president. Some presidents will claim they solved the issue while others inherit the issues that the previous president had trying to keep the economy afloat. Our economy changes with the times and the president must be able to keep up with it and help the people at the same time which will require a plan that they have. If this plan does not work then they could almost surely expect for their re-election bid to not go as well as they may hope for it to because the people have no faith in the especially if they cannot help them through tough economic times, but on the other side of things if their plans are working then people will always think highly of them

3.2 Foreign Affairs/Policy

Despite President Washington's warning against making so many relationships/alliances with foreign entities we still have so many to this very day. How we foster and nurture these relationships is different under each administration. Under some presidents, there were countries we would have never in a million years done any form of agreement or even had a conversation with, but then with some other presidential administrations, that relationship dynamic was a completely different thing altogether. Our relationships with leaders and the policies that we form with them is something that is tested every day because at any moment our relationship with a country could radically change because of who is in charge. The United States is one of the major power houses in the world, so it is especially important that we maintain as many good relationships as we can with different countries. This can get messy though, as we have seen in many situations like World Wars, trade agreements, etc.

3.3 Race

Race is one of those topics that people will actively try to avoid speaking about because it naturally comes with different viewpoints on how to properly deal with race, is it even an issue for some people, do presidents care about the issues that BIPOC face in this country, and their plans to solve it. Even from the times of George Washington, race has always had to come up and be considered in legislation, representation, and ultimately how it effects racial categories. Race will always be one of those topics that we need a solution on because it was embedded into our constitution without having to put any particular race down on paper. Race has always played a major role in the laws that were made, resources that are given (i.e., the census), countries we dealt with primarily, who got citizenship in this country, etc. Depending on how a president chose to address race, determined the support from certain racial/ethnic groups in this country.

3.4 Crisis

During each administration they all had to step up and handle a crisis that they either inherited or it came about during their time in office. It is usually easy to just point the fingers at them for how and why something happened, but what must always be considered is how they handled the situation ultimately, because their success is always going to equal our protection. Presidents usually walk into office knowing that at any moment they might get called to respond to a situation that they were expected but may not have been completely prepared for. For many Americans, there is not an expectation that the president will have all the answers but will be able to respond appropriately in the case that something does happen.

3.5 Reaching Across the Political Aisle

In many situations it is not always easy to find a common ground with people that you do not see eye to eye with, but as we climb up the ladder of leadership, it becomes less about what we want and more about what is best for all of us. This will require that the leader be willing to reach out to those that may not necessarily agree with how they think. In this country we have seen a huge divide in our political parties, but for a president to get the results that they need it is going to require them to work with the opposing party to get it done. Not every time it is expected that all deals partnerships with the other political party will go smoothly but making the effort on behalf of the American people is what matters most in these situations.

3.6 Health Care

We need a health care plan. The one that we have now gets mixed reviews from both sides of the political aisle. President Obama created a plan, but to many people there was so much wrong with that that plan that they have tried for years to do away with it. The issue is... what comes after it is gone? Do they have something in place that will still allow for people to go to sleep at night knowing that their conditions are covered, and they are insured? Without these plans it leaves people willing to settle with anything that seems as though it is the right fit. Many of our citizens live in fear of not having the proper Health Care that they need and that is something that a president needs to be actively finding solutions on.

3.7 Immigration

For as long as I have been alive, the conversation about our immigration policy has come up and always been a topic of discussion for people because it affects many Americans in some way. This is one of the many topics that we are very divided on an answer for because we branded ourselves as a place where refugees can come to, to start a new life and change their

situation, but on the flip side to this there is a feeling of not wanting immigrants here because they are taking jobs, but many would argue that we did not want the jobs that immigrants are taking to begin with. Our immigration is one that continues to need to be revamped because no one has figured out a solution that will allow for us to live up to our promise of being a country that lets all in while at the same time making sure that we just do not let anybody in that could probably not have the best intentions for being in this country. Being the president in this situation means ultimately being hated by one side of the political spectrum because the other side will feel as though the plan, they have in place is not the right plan at all.

With all these different categories there is much to be considered. Each of the presidencies of each of these men were at different points in time so there is no telling the full scope of what it truly meant to deal with all these things and to still have a solution to the issue. The work that they all have done will ultimately contribute to their greatness/grade. By looking at these categories we will be able to see how at the most fundamental level of the role of the president how these men have been able to handle the assignment they were given.

4. WHAT DOES A PRESIDENT LOOK LIKE: FINDINGS

When looking at the news articles, news reports, their own testaments, how those closest to them describes certain moments, etc. these presidents had views from all sides of the political spectrum that weighed in deeply on their time in office. Even to this very day when similar issues with another president comes up, the previous one that had to deal with this exact issue is mentioned. The greatest example of this would be with former presidents Obama and Trump. When the issue of immigration was happening under the Trump administration and he was instituting his Zero-Tolerance Policy and he also had the facilities, there were many people hammering down on him hard for it, but he reminded people that former President Obama had started the policy and the facility first. Each of these different categories will show how each man handled the topic that came up during their time and office and hopefully there will be a way to see how great they are because of it.

4.1 George H. W. Bush

Many will claim that the primary reason while Bush only had one term was because of his poor to moderate plans for the economy. Former President Bush walked into office with an economy that was doing fine, and the unemployment rates were going down. During later parts of his administration, he faced a recession that would affect so many Americans in the worst ways. As Bush was running for re-election, “Unemployment peaked at 7.8 percent in June 1992” (Talton). This is not good for any president that is seeking to get back into office. If it were not for these number being the way that they were then we probably would have seen Bush as a two-term president as well, but the economy means so much to many Americans, especially in the business sector, that to not have had a grip on the issue looks really bad on your end. The

economy during this time was picking up, but how effective can the economy be when there are not any jobs being created that will allow for people to be in this booming economy. Ultimately Bush would probably not do so well in the eyes of his economic achievements because he was not able to maintain the economy that his predecessor left him.

Being president of the free world requires you to have to work with many foreign powers who may have a different structure to their country altogether. Bush dedicated a lot of time working to improve and help our foreign neighbors. He has been noted saying that “our differences ended at the water's edge” (Knott), which for many people signals that he wanted us to have more unity amongst all of us and it shows in many of the actions that he took. During his time as president, Bush took calculated approaches to foster the relationships that we had with other foreign leaders while still allowing this country to be one that. He stepped in bravely during the Persian Gulf War and led this country to victory of the tyranny of Iraq. Many countries joined in on the efforts that was put out by the United States all because of the effective leadership of Bush. He also made it his mission to tackle the issues of communism in Latin America. Communism has always been a sore spot for many presidents in this country. Bush put out “Operation Just Cause” to handle the issues that Manuel Noriega was stirring for now two presidents. This operation was a success and really made the president look good in the eyes of history as he was able to still let this country loom strong on the world stage, but at the same time making sure we look like the welcoming country we claimed to be.

President Bush was in office years after one of the most difficult times in American history. The Civil Rights era was one of those periods of time when to be on the wrong side of history could greatly affect someone moving forward. He chose to veto the Civil Rights Bill of 1990 because he felt as though, “despite the use of the term 'civil rights,' " the legislation

"actually employs a maze of highly legalistic language to introduce the destructive force of quotas" (Devroy 1990). For many civil rights leaders, who he has shared good relations within the past, this made him look like his predecessor Reagan. Civil Rights did not like Regan because they saw that he was racist. The policies that President Reagan would make and the rhetoric he would use was completely abhorrent. For Bush to be described as "Reagan in disguise" does not look good especially since everyone knows that one of the most powerful votes to have behind you is the Black vote. He did try to change this view with the appointments of Black people to high positions of leadership in this country. The appointment of Collin Powell to Secretary of State, and Dr. Louis Sullivan to Secretary of Health and Human services looked good for him, but appointing Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court did him no justice and really would put his score at a not available in race (Whack). Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is someone that thinks on the complete opposite side of how many Black Americans feel in this country, and it is also fair to mention that before the appoint of Justice Thomas he had to deal with the accusations of sexual misconduct from a former employee of his named Anita Hill. Bush's grade with race would be something that is indefinable because he had very great moments, but he also had very bad moments as well.

The crisis that to this day everyone remembers from Bush's time in office would hands down be his inaction on the AIDS crisis. This crisis had seen upwards of at least 114,000 who had contracted the deadly diseases and passed away from it (Gessen 2018). He could have done something during his time as Commander in Chief, but his action caused many in the LGBTQIA+ community to lose their lives during this time. In a conversation with Urvashi Vaid, NPR's journalist Ailsa Chang spoke about the inaction that President Bush had during this time and the very line that gets Bush to rank low on crisis is, "He absolutely deserves credit for

signing those bills, but he does not deserve credit for the existence of those bills. Let us be clear. Each of those bills came about because of AIDS activist pressure, because of congressional leadership and not because of White House leadership” (Chang, Vaid 2018). This to me shows that even though he was supposed to be president for us all he failed to move/act in a timely fashion and that is not acceptable for a president to do. His score in crisis must be low on this one because it was his responsibility to act, but he did not and that just cannot be even when the people you probably do not want to help are of completely different ideological sides than you.

Whether you are a Republican or Democrat it is your responsibility as president to do what is right and talk with those that do not align politically with you. President Bush was described as a man that was, “decent” and “willing to work with the other side” by former senator from Wyoming Alan Simpson (Bloomberg 2018). This is of the utmost importance to be able to work with the opposing political side because many presidents find it increasingly hard to do that considering how divided we are in this nation. Simpson went on to talk about how Bush had allies in the Democratic who would stick up for him whenever the newer Democrats would come in with the intent to stir up drama. In the area of reaching across the aisle, Bush would probably been seen as being rated high because we live in a time of unprecedented divide and to be able to work with your fellow members of the other side really shows the willingness to do what is best for the nation.

Bush never had a health care plan. He automatically receives a low rating on this issue because not having a plan should not be an option for any president. Someone that worked with Bush noted that, “he could care less about health insurance” (Newman). Our health care policy should be one of the most important issues to presidents. Bush not having a proper health care plan could be one of the big reasons why he did not win re-election because it was definitely the

reason why there was not a republican that filled a vacancy that occurred after the passing of a republican senator.

Despite Bush being a Republican, because many republicans tend to have an immigration plan that is the most favorable, his plan was progressive. His plan opened the “front door” to legal immigration while providing “needed enforcement authority” (Mann 2018). His plan gave a great standard how to solve the issue of immigration without causing any issues. The issues of immigration have been something that we have been dealing with for so long and it needs to be addressed and Bush’s plan has been noted as the “gold standard for solving America’s immigration issues”. President Bush would hands down receive a most favorable because this plan allowed for us to admit a significant number of immigrants and at the same time regulate immigration that eliminates a back door.

4.2 William “Bill” Clinton

Clinton’s economic policies produced, “the longest period of uninterrupted economic growth in modern history” (Egan, Kurtz, Yellin, Houp 2019). Unemployment under Clinton was at an all-time low, just under 4%, the economy was booming once again, and the stock market spiked dramatically. Of the presidents that will be looked at, President Clinton created the most jobs of all of them at 18.6 million (Amadeo). This really allowed for the president to look good in the business sector of this country because we now with the economy boosting there are no worries about much of anything. He would be graded fairly well in this particular area because he was able to bring us back up after Bush and take us to new heights.

In the area of Foreign affairs/policy Clinton would get a rating that is undetermined. He did some good things, but he also has a track record of reacting to slowly in situations that require an immediate response to the issue. In 2004 there was a great genocide that took place in

Rwanda that cost the lives of over 800,000 people in the area. President Clinton could and should have done more to stop this genocide from happening. On the other side of the foreign affair's conversation about Clinton, he established an effort called the doctrine of enlargement which was an effort that worked on "expanding the community of market democracies around the world, embraced free trade, multilateral peacekeeping efforts and international alliances, and a commitment to intervene in world crisis situations when practical (i.e., with little risk and low cost in U.S. lives) and morally defensible" (Riley). His grade would be undetermined due to him having a good and bad record of how handled the issues of foreign policy.

During the time of President Clinton race is something that he still must answer up for to this very day. Clinton's implementation the 1994 Crime Bill was something that he thought would help racial biases in people of color being arrested in an over exaggerated amount. It did not and make the issues of racial profiling even worse. Even current President Joe Biden has had to answer up for his role in aiding in the passage of this bill. He did have a favorable outlook on him with how Black people looked at him despite him passing this bill (Stanage). 2015). Just because he had such a good approval rating does not mean that he would get the best rating on the greatness scale when it comes to race because he passed a bill that is still affecting many people of the Black community today.

The Balkan Crisis will forever be one of the biggest moments in time that United States had to intervene and help the people of Sarajevo. Media outlets in the country basically pressured Clinton to move which does not look good for him in determining how great he is because he could have acted sooner than he did. This crisis was handled poorly by President Clinton. For many people he could have acted sooner and the agreements that were made seemed to be not in the best interest of everyone in this country like then Senator John McCain (Reimann 2017). In

the area of this crisis Clinton will be graded poorly because his inability to react in a timely fashion cost many lives and his inability to have a feasible plan that everyone can get onboard with caused a major delay in the solutions that could have been.

During his time as President, there were many that found this administration to be the point in time where our divided nation really began to divide more. It has been noted that during his time as president he had much to deal with the republicans and more specifically Newt Gingrich. During his first two years as President Clinton made some moves that was seemingly unpopular by many republicans and Gingrich capitalized on that. They were able to use the very things that many did not like as a weapon against him to get more Republicans in office (Linge 2018). On this President Clinton would receive a fair rating because he did not directly have anything to do with how Gingrich decided to do things to cause the divisions that we see now.

President Clinton's Health care plan was a failed plan that caused for his rating in the health care area to be very low. He planned for his Health Care Plan to be out and available to the public before the end of 90 days. He put his wife in charge of the effort and that caused many issues because she was not an elected official so everything that was happening needed to be in the public eye. Even though they did not meet their 90-day agreement, this team continued to make this plan and when it was finally done President Clinton said, "At long last, after decades of false starts, we must make this our most urgent priority: giving every American health security, health care that can never be taken away, health care that is always there (Clinton 1993). In the end the plan had no real support and did not really get that far at all. Overall, in the health care sector it is fair to say that he did not do so well because for one he did not produce and there was so much to be looked at and it did not pass on many occasions.

Immigration is timeless and has no party bounds. We blame Trump for his part in immigration, but Clinton had a plan that made it hard for some immigrants to get citizenship! He passed a law that for many people can be either good or bad. The Amnesty Law of 1996 gave legal ways for a person to face deportation if deemed necessary. This policy has is not something that is looked at favorably in the eyes of Democrats because it is not something that they personally align with since this is the party that usually gets on board with the idea of allowing immigrants to stay, but many Republicans also do not see the issue with this Law because it allowed for a tighter grip of the immigration issue. This is an issue that depending on where you fall politically that determines how you would grade President Clinton.

4.3 George W. Bush

With President Bush his luck on the economy was not the best in the world. Taking the reins of the economy that former President Clinton left a lot of responsibility for the legacy President. He unfortunately did not handle this appropriately. With the recession that this country faced in 2001 that left many issues for this administration's economic plans, but also with the 2001 attack in New York that really did a big number on the economy in this country. We did see a good turnaround during Bush's presidency, but that did not last much longer because as we were getting ready to usher in a new President, we had the worst economic recession that we have ever seen in this country. Overall, is presidency as it pertained to the economy was probably not the best that we could have seen. There was so much that he could have done, but he did not seize the moment right. Of all the presidents that are being looked at on this list, he did the worst as it pertained to the economy.

Foreign policy is a consistent for many people who actively keep up with this country because it means that many things that we do now still be there when we go the store tomorrow,

when we do any sort of business, the handling of future conflict, and how well we look on the world stage overall. President Bush...

During his time as president, Bush had to deal with the issues of race in a brand-new way in the 21st century. Being one of the first presidents of the 21st century means that dealing with this issue was going to require a new approach to an old issue.

September 11, 2001 will always go down in history as one of the days in American history that completely shook us all, and still shakes us to this very day. In the back everyone's mind we all knew that we were going to have to deal with the terrorist that were lurking around. Bush's immediate response and candor during this time of utter confusion and turmoil really showed that he knew how to properly handle the task at hand. During the time of Bush's re-election campaign, he attended the Republican National Convention where they spoke of his reactions to 9/11. Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani spoke about Bush's leadership by calling him, "a great leader", as well as making comparisons between Winston Churchill and President Bush as well (Wash. Times 2004). Bush's leadership during a crisis would receive a very high score because he was able to be a comforting storm for the American people. This meaning that at home in the U.S. he gave us all the reassurance needed that we were going to get through this, but he also ramped us up to be ready to plan an attack on those that would dare test the United States of America.

If President Clinton's administration was the beginning of the political divide that we see now in this country, then that means that President Bush had to now steer this horse in an interesting direction, but he did not. There was only one main instance in which he actively reached across the aisle to get help to pass the No Child Left Behind Act (Gregg 2020). Bush should have made an active effort to reach across the aisle to work with democrats just like his

father did. He would get a not-so-great rating here because if there is a major political divide happening then this would have been the perfect time to reach across and work with those that you normally do not work with or think ideologically the same with.

The health and wellbeing of all citizens in this country should be the President's main concern. Bush understood that and was able to create a plan that has been viewed better than Obamacare. Republicans are known to be ones that are always trying to save a dollar and with Bush's Medicare plan "ended up costing 50 percent less than the CBO initially estimated it would" (Pope 2017). This plan made sure that quality was brought back into what doctors were looking at with their patients instead of just getting so many patients into their offices because they were getting the money to do so. Bush is able to be ranked high in greatness because of his Medicare plan since there was a lot of accountability that was put into place with it. We did not have to worry about doctors just checking up on the most unnecessary things when we go to the doctor under Bush's plan because they were required to care about what they did.

Under Bush our immigration policies were fair, a little strict, but fair. He has been described as someone that really cares about immigrants especially with saying, "it helps to remember that America's immigrant history made us who we are" (Trimble 2019). His policies were ones that sought to strengthen our southern border and at the same time provide a better way to get immigrants citizenship without the process being difficult (Bush Whitehouse). This would land a President Bush with a great score because he wants to see immigrants come to this country to get citizenship, but at the same time making sure that our current citizens are safe from the dangers of those who will seek to do harm to us. Immigration plans that are comprehensive and that seek to make the situation better and ultimately not ruin future relations with other nations is one that deserves to be viewed favorably.

4.4 Barack H. Obama

Former President Obama inherited the recession that ultimately affected the economy that he wanted to produce. When he took office, he had to quickly find ways to turn us around out of this recession, but he would never be able to make great strides with it. The effects of this recession did help him to look good because he had a great plan in place, but he never had got us to heights that many would have wanted. Despite the recession he was able to create 8.9 million jobs during his eight years as president. Under President Obama, the unemployment rate fell to 4.7% which also was good for this country and the first thing he did in office was signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act which, “that ensure fair pay for all Americans and that help businesses to attract the strongest talent can not only narrow the pay gap, but also boost productivity and benefit our economy” (Earnest). His grade as it pertains to the economy would be fair, but not all the way the best. He gets a fair grade because when entering in office he had to deal with a recession that caused for him to never truly boost the economy in the direction that he wanted to, but he still was able to pass great laws.

The relationships we had with foreign entities under this president is one that many could speak about in many cases. Obama had fair policies. He was able to assassinate Osama bin Laden, who was the leader of the terrorist organization al Qaeda. A big misstep on his part however was his outlook on ISIS. He referred to them as a “JV team” which was a huge mistake considering the damages they have been able to cause Syria (Nelson 2015) He also began to foster some great relationships with other big countries and crackdown on how we dealt with our enemies abroad. One of the most notable moments during the Obama presidency was where he had a full stare down with President Vladimir Putin. This was a big moment for many people because this was setting the bar with the United States that we are not in any way friends with

Russia. It is much fair to say that Obama can be rated at a nice rate with his foreign affairs plans and his foreign policies. President Obama made it his mission to actively make sure we were making appropriate relationships with foreign leaders where necessary but remaining tough of dictators. He does still have much to answer up for as it pertains to how he handled ISIS.

As a Black man living this country, I can truly say that President Obama represented something for me that I never thought I would ever see. Many Black Americans and other groups of color liked what Obama represented, but felt he could have done way more than he did for People of Color. Without a doubt, having President Obama as the first Black man elected to serve in the highest position of this country was monumental for BIPOC. The problem was though that he could not see all the racism that was all around him. He was called some of the most obscene thing by those of the opposing party and other citizens like then citizen Trump (Dyson 2016). Overall former President Obama would receive a fair ranking in race. It would be fair because he represented that we probably would have never seen in this country and did it with so much excellence, but he chose to make light of all the racism he was dealing with.

When the recession hit this country, many people freaked out because no one knew what would happen next. This crisis was something that arguably would be one of the main reasons why former President Obama was able to swoop another presidential term. His ability to walk into office at the height of a recession and can flip the tables quickly so we did not slip into a depression was very important. President Obama was able to then make the unemployment rates slow down for a bit of time, but then began to lower the unemployment numbers (Bernstein 2017). When President Obama left office the unemployment rates were 4.7%, and he was able to give that to Trump to manage as he saw fit (Jackson). Overall Obama for me would receive a

high rating in the area of crisis because instead of blaming Bush, defecting to the House/Senate, or avoiding the issue he chose to actively address it and get the American people out of it.

President Obama tried his best to reach across the aisle and work with the republican party, but even those closets to him feel as though that was too ambitious. Obama's Former Deputy Chief of staff went to CNN to talk about how then President Obama was very ambitious about getting the approval of republicans that they did so much and kept trying to do so much to get still only "three Republican votes" (Gillespie 2021). In some ways this is a back-and-forth ting because Obama definitely wanted to put the best foot forward and get the support from republicans but coming into office many of them had already made it known that they were not going to try and work with him on anything. I would honestly grade Obama fairly high. To some that may seem like a bias, but it is not because going back to an earlier point that was made, as the president they are responsible for reaching across the aisle even if only one person picks up the phone and answers the call to work together. He gets a high score for willing to put in the work and work with those who may not have wanted anything to do with him.

President Obama established his own health care policy and for many people it worked and for others there were to many things that were wrong with it. Obamacare, as it has been famously called was a health care policy that was able to help millions of people with pre-existing conditions get the proper health care that they deserved. It did have some issues to it like forcing people to have to get health insurance eve if they did not want it. One of the biggest pieces to this plan was that "Obamacare requires that companies with at least 50 employees provide affordable insurance to their staffers who work more than 30 hours a week" (Luhby 2019). This is important because as is mentioned in the article, this now opens the list up for those who work in certain businesses to receive the benefits of Obamacare just for working 30

hours. His health care plan allows for him to be ranked pretty high in health care because his plan covered many bases despite many articles that claimed Obamacare was bad. Beforehand doctors could turn patients away with pre-existing conditions and now they can't and more people are getting insured.

Obama legacy on immigration will get him a ranking of undecided for now. He made moves that were very back and forth and that cause uproar as well as praise for what he was doing for the immigrant community. Under Obama, the country had seen the highest number of deportations ever recorded. This caused many Mexican immigrants and activists to speak out in disdain towards him and this policy he chose to go with. He was called "deporter-in-chief" with having over 2.8 million undocumented immigrants deported (Sakuma 2017). He also created the Dream Act which allowed for citizenship for children of immigrants to be granted access to citizenship. This policy gave more than 800,000 young immigrants in the program. This is why he gets an undecided rating because it's hard to say he was all the way bad in immigration because he did a lot of good.

4.5 Donald J. Trump

Inheriting an economy that is doing well puts a lot of pressure on a president to keep it up by expanding the work they do with the progress that was already started then in turn they are able to claim they were a part of something big. That is what Trump did. I think. Former President Trump inherited the economy that President Obama created and all he had to do was take that work and keep the unemployment numbers down and create jobs. Trump continued the work that was started before him, but when Covid-19 hit that did a major number on our economy. He did try to bring the country back up, but that did not get us back to the level that were at before the pandemic raged (BBC News). He would be another one that would need to be

graded fairly because he did try to move the country lower than what his predecessor did, but because of the pandemic that did not help him at all.

Our relationship across seas and with neighboring countries is one that under this administration will go down in history as the wildest issue ever. Many of the relationships we had fostered under former presidents began to look different with Trump. We had major agreements and pacts that we made under former President Obama and Trump completely bowed us out of all of them. One of our most notable ones was the Paris Climate Agreement. He also promised that during his time as president that will put “America First”, but he still found ways to be in the business of other countries (Calmes 2020). In this area as well, Trump would receive a moderately low rating because there were many constructive agreements that were in that he pulled us from and he made many promises to get out troops back and put America first, but he did not do that well.

Even as former President Trump was still only the nominee for the Republican party the issue of race was till something he chose to speak on and addressed in various ways during his time in office. He made comments during the campaign trail that would suggest his feelings for Mexicans were not the best. He would be noted saying that “They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people” (Reilly 2016). This is very questionable considering that the two former republican presidents before him chose to foster healthy relations with Mexico. His comments about Black Lives Matter and Covid were also some of the most racist rhetoric out there. When Covid kicked off, President Trump was noted calling this virus the “China Virus” and/or “Kung Flu” (Trump 2020). Then with Trump calling Collin Kaepernick a S.O.B. for kneeling during the national anthem is one of those things that just is wrong because he could have called for a meeting with the football player. On the

issue, Trump gets rated poorly because of his inability to use some of the most recent examples of how to foster great relationships with government and those that are BIPOC.

Covid-19 will go down in history as the crisis that shook us all and depending on who you ask about how Trump handled this issue, that will determine the response that you will receive, but he did not handle this well at all. Instead of immediately acting on Covid-19 he chose to undermine the threat. Calling this virus “totally harmless” cost this country over half a million but having a reasonable action plan would have probably been much better than undermining the issue (Hellmann 2020). Trump had the responsibility to do what was right and try his hardest to eradicate the issue, but undermining it is what lead us to be a year into this pandemic and we are still having to follow many of the early guidelines put in place to protect us all.

In the early parts of his Presidency, when Sean Spicer was still Press Secretary, it was claimed that Trump wanted to work with Democrats to work on a proper health care plan in this country. Press Secretary Spicer said, “Starting Friday afternoon through late yesterday, [Trump] has received a number of calls, as well as other members of the senior staff that have been working on healthcare, from members of both sides saying that they would like to work together” (Easley 2017). This is very important for this view of this administration to be put out like this because there is so much rhetoric that suggests that Trump had a deep disdain for democrats, but I am pretty sure he understood that in order to get many of his plans in motion he needed the democrats help. Putting Trump at a high rate for this criterion because of his willingness to see past party and do what is best for the American people.

During his time in office, President Trump was not as focused on health care as many other presidents were, but he still did great things for the American people in that area. In many

parts of Trump's health care plan it has increased "consumer choice and affordability in the healthcare marketplace" (Pipes 2020) which for many employers is very important because beforehand they were paying so much for the insurance of their employees to receive adequate health insurance. Making everything more cost efficient definitely is something that many people would have seen as the most efficient to do because that allows for better service at less of a cost. Trump gets a fairly high rating here because his plan helped save money and anyone who loves to retain as much money as possible when spending large sums of money can appreciate what Trump did.

All throughout this presidency it is easy to find how Trump felt about immigrants from particular countries over some from other countries. It has been noted that in 2019 immigration only happening at about 200,000 people a year compared to other year before him (Camarota 2020). If you are looking at this from the point of view of many republicans though then more than likely you will not see anything wrong with this, but democrats were not in favor of these plans at all. He also had a lot of rhetoric about a border wall that was supposed to be constructed, but never really was started on, that would also help the issues of undocumented immigrants entering illegally. I would rate him fairly here because he did promise an "America first" stance that fits 100% with his immigration policy. He also made it very clear on where he stood on the issue of immigration and allowing all of them in at one time.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, each president will go down in history for the work that they have accomplished or the things they did wrong while they were in office. Depending on a person's political formation, this will determine how they view the greatness of each president. Because we are so divided as a country it is almost impossible to be able to rate a president as great or not because we are all naturally inclined to look at greatness of anything from the lenses of our own affiliations. Even in the media coverage they all received it varied over different sites. Naturally, they all reported the facts of whatever situation they each president were in at the time, but the other commentary that they would get from that source was different depending on which president was being referenced at the time. On some of the greatness rankings Democrat/Liberal presidents ranked much higher than republicans/conservatives on some greatness surveys while on other surveys Republican/Conservative presidents were ranked much higher than their political opposites. What does mean for the future? We need a system that will allow for us to effectively rate the greatness of each of president that goes into office that will not be based in the political affiliations of anyone. Is it possible to get that system? Probably not right now because it will be constructed from the affiliations that the person who created it has. We are at a point where many people are starting to choose not to adopt any form of political identity, so maybe looking forward this is possible for us to do. At this point in time, we are more divided than ever before and for us to be able to rate a president for any work done in office or even overall on a greatness scale then that is going to require us to have to have a system that grades during the presidency of each president and can put them on a greatness ranking without it coming from a place of partisanship.

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