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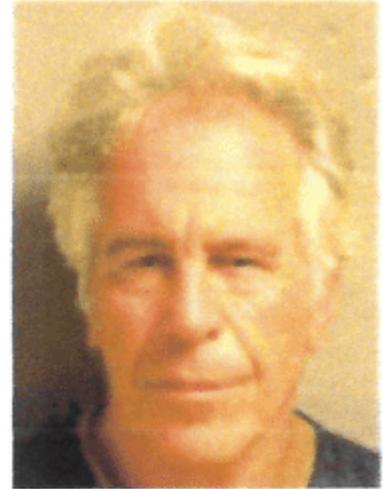
Jeffrey Epstein

Jeffrey Edward Epstein (/ˈɛpstiːn/ *EP-steen*;[[]2] January 20, 1953 – August 10, 2019) was an American financier and convicted sex offender.[[]3][[]4] Epstein, who was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York City, began his professional life by teaching at the Dalton School in Manhattan, despite lacking a college degree. After his dismissal from the school, he entered the banking and finance sector, working at Bear Stearns in various roles; he eventually started his own firm. Epstein developed an elite social circle and procured many women and children; he and some of his associates then sexually abused them.[[]5][[]4][[]6][[]7]

In 2005, police in Palm Beach, Florida, began investigating Epstein after a parent complained that he had sexually abused her 14-year-old daughter.[[]8] Epstein pleaded guilty and was convicted in 2008 by a Florida state court of procuring a child for prostitution and of soliciting a prostitute.[[]5][[]9] He served almost 13 months in custody, but with extensive work release. He was convicted of only these two crimes as part of a controversial plea deal; federal officials had identified 36 girls, some as young as 14 years old, whom Epstein had allegedly sexually abused.[[]1][[]10]

Epstein was arrested again on July 6, 2019, on federal charges for the sex trafficking of minors in Florida and New York.[[]11][[]12] He died in his jail cell on August 10, 2019.[[]13] The medical examiner ruled the death a suicide.[[]14] Epstein's lawyers have disputed the ruling, and there has been significant public skepticism about the true cause of his death, resulting in numerous conspiracy theories.[[]15][[]16] Since Epstein's death precluded the possibility of pursuing criminal charges against him, a judge dismissed all criminal charges on August 29, 2019.[[]17][[]18] Epstein had a decades-long association with the British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, leading to her 2021 conviction on U.S. federal charges of sex trafficking and conspiracy for helping him procure girls, including a 14-year-old, for child sexual abuse and prostitution.[[]19][[]20][[]21][[]22] Epstein also maintained long-term relationships with various high-profile individuals, including Donald Trump, Leslie Wexner, Bill Clinton, Alán Dershowitz, and Prince Andrew, Duke of York.[[]23]

Jeffrey Epstein



Epstein's final mugshot, 2019

Born	Jeffrey Edward Epstein January 20, 1953 New York City, New York, U.S.
Died	August 10, 2019 (aged 66) New York City, New York, U.S.
Cause of death	Suicide by hanging (disputed)
Resting place	I. J. Morris Star of David Cemetery, Palm Beach, Florida
Occupation	Financier · broker · educator · socialite
Title	Owner of Jeffrey Epstein VI Foundation
Criminal charge	Procuring an underage girl for prostitution; sex trafficking
Penalty	13 months with work release (2008)
Partner(s)	Eva Andersson (early 1980s)

Contents

- Early life
- Career

Bill Clinton lauded Epstein as "a committed philanthropist" with "insights and generosity".^[243] At the time Epstein was on the board of Rockefeller University, a member of the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Relations, and was a major donor to Harvard University.^[32]

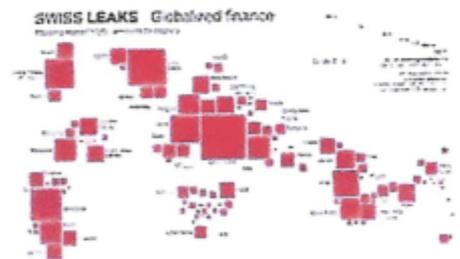
Epstein visited the White House while Clinton was president on four known occasions.^[244] In 1993, he went to a donor event at the White House with his companion Ghislaine Maxwell. Around the same time, he also met with President Clinton's aide Mark Middleton on at least three occasions at the White House. In 1995, financier Lynn Forester discussed "Jeffrey Epstein and currency stabilization" with Clinton.^[244] Epstein, according to his own accounts, was heavily involved in the foreign exchange market and traded large amounts of currency in the unregulated forex market.^{[30][32]} In 1995, Epstein also attended a small political fundraiser dinner for Bill Clinton which included 14 other people including Ron Perelman, Don Johnson, Jimmy Buffett, and dinner organizer Paul Proseri.^[245]

~~From the 1990s to mid-2000s, Epstein often socialized with the future President Donald Trump.~~^[246] Author Michael Wolff wrote that Trump, Epstein, and Tom Barrack were at the time like a "set of nightlife musketeers" on the social scene.^{[6][247]} Epstein and Trump socialized both in New York City and Palm Beach, where they both had houses.^{[234][246]} In April 2003, New York magazine reported Epstein hosted a dinner party in his Manhattan residence to honor Bill Clinton, who did not attend, although Trump did attend.^[248] According to The Washington Post, one person who knew Epstein and Trump during this time noted that "they were tight" and "they were each other's wingmen". In November 2004, Epstein and Trump's friendship ran into trouble when they became embroiled in a bidding war for a \$40 million mansion, Maison de L'Amitie, which was being auctioned in Palm Beach. Trump won the auction for \$41 million, and successfully sold the property four years later for \$95 million to the Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev. That month was the last time Epstein and Trump were recorded to have interacted.^[223]

Wealth

The exact origin of Epstein's wealth is unknown.^[249] Leslie Wexner was one source of Epstein's original wealth.^[249] An assistant of Epstein also stated that he got his fortune started through Robert Maxwell, the media mogul father of Ghislaine Maxwell.^{[250][251]}

When Epstein pleaded guilty in 2008 to soliciting and procuring prostitution, his lawyers stated he was a billionaire with a net worth of over one billion dollars.^[249] A number of sources, however, have questioned the extent of Epstein's wealth and his status as a billionaire. According to an article in The New York Times, his "fortune may be more illusion than fact". Epstein lost "large sums of money" in the 2008 financial crisis, and "friends and patrons"—including retail billionaire Leslie Wexner, "deserted him" following his pleading guilty to prostitution charges in 2008.^[56] New York magazine claimed that "there's scant proof" of Epstein's "financial bona fides",^[249] and Forbes also ran an article entitled "Why sex offender Jeffrey Epstein is not a billionaire".^[252]



Swiss Leaks files indicate Epstein had millions stored in offshore accounts. Map shows global extent of account holders in the leaked files.^[65]

Spencer Kuvin, an attorney for three of Epstein's alleged victims in the case where Epstein pleaded guilty to sexual activity with minors, stated that "he and his team 'pursued every possible angle' to find out Epstein's net worth but found that much of his wealth is offshore."^[252] An investigation by the Miami Herald of the Swiss Leaks documents indicated that Epstein had multiple financial accounts with millions of dollars in offshore tax havens. In the Paradise Papers, records showed

EPSTEIN SEX CRIMES - CO-CONSPIRATORS

Non-prosecution agreement (NPA) (2006–2008) - POWERFUL PEOPLE TOOK PART

In July 2006, the FBI began its own investigation of Epstein, nicknamed "Operation Leap Year".^[110] It resulted in a 53-page indictment in June 2007.^[71] Alexander Acosta, then the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, agreed to a plea deal, which Alan Dershowitz helped to negotiate,^[111] to grant immunity from all federal criminal charges to Epstein, along with four named co-conspirators and any unnamed "potential co-conspirators". According to the *Miami Herald*, the non-prosecution agreement "essentially shut down an ongoing FBI probe into whether there were more victims and other powerful people who took part in Epstein's sex crimes". At the time, this halted the investigation and sealed the indictment. The *Miami Herald* said: "Acosta agreed, despite a federal law to the contrary, that the deal would be kept from the victims."^[1]

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The controversial non-prosecution agreement

Acosta later said he offered a lenient plea deal because he was told that Epstein "belonged to intelligence", was "above his pay grade" and to "leave it alone".^{[52][53][112]} Epstein agreed to plead guilty in Florida state court to two felony prostitution charges, serve 18 months in prison, register as a sex offender, and pay restitution to three dozen victims identified by the FBI.^{[1][89]} The plea deal was later described as a "sweetheart deal".^[113]

A federal judge later found that the prosecutors had violated the victims' rights in that they had concealed the agreement from the victims and instead urged them to have "patience".^{[114][115]}

External video

 [Documentary: Who is Jeffrey Epstein, accused of sexually abusing teen girls? \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jDPzW9COsU\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jDPzW9COsU)
Perversion of Justice, *Miami Herald*, November 29, 2018.

According to an internal review conducted by the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility, which was released in November 2020, Acosta showed "poor judgment" in granting Epstein a non-prosecution agreement and failing to notify Epstein's alleged victims about this agreement.^[116]

Conviction and sentencing (2008–2011)

On June 30, 2008, after Epstein pleaded guilty to a state charge (one of two) of procuring for prostitution a girl below age 18,^[117] he was sentenced to 18 months in prison. While most convicted sex offenders in Florida are sent to state prison, Epstein was instead housed in a private wing of the Palm Beach County Stockade and, according to the sheriff's office, was after 3½ months allowed to leave the jail on "work release" for up to 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. This contravened the sheriff's own policies requiring a maximum remaining sentence of 10 months and making sex offenders ineligible for the privilege. He was allowed to come and go outside of specified release hours.^[100]

Epstein's cell door was left unlocked, and he had access to the attorney room where a television was installed for him, before he was moved to the Stockade's previously unstaffed infirmary. He worked at the office of a foundation he had created shortly before reporting to jail; he dissolved it after he had served his time. The Sheriff's Office received \$128,000 from Epstein's non-profit to pay for the costs of extra services being provided during his work release. His office was monitored by "permit deputies" whose overtime was paid by Epstein. They were required to wear suits, and checked in "welcomed guests" at the "front desk". Later the Sheriff's Office said these guest logs were destroyed per the department's "records retention" rules (although inexplicably the Stockade visitor logs were not).^[118] He was allowed to use his own driver to drive him between jail and his office and other appointments.^{[100][118]}

Epstein a massage". She claims she was taken to his mansion, where he exposed himself and had sexual intercourse with her, and paid her \$200 immediately afterward.^[106]

Perversion of Justice, Miami Herald, November 30, 2018.

A similar \$50-million suit was filed in March 2008, by a different woman, who was represented by the same lawyer.^[129] These and several similar lawsuits were dismissed.^[130]

All other lawsuits have been settled by Epstein out of court.^[131] Epstein made many out-of-court settlements with alleged victims.^[130]

Victims' rights: *Jane Does v. United States (2014)*

A December 30, 2014, federal civil suit was filed in Florida by Jane Doe 1 (██████████) and Jane Doe 2 against the United States for violations of the Crime Victims' Rights Act by the U.S. Department of Justice's NPA with Epstein and his limited 2008 state plea. There was a later unsuccessful effort to add ██████████ ██████████ (Jane Doe 3) and another woman (Jane Doe 4) as plaintiffs to that case.^[132] The addition accused Alan Dershowitz of sexually abusing a minor, Jane Doe 3, provided by Epstein.^[133] The allegations against Dershowitz were stricken by the judge and eliminated from the case because he said they were outside the intent of the suit to re-open the plea agreement.^{[134][135]} A document filed in court alleges that Epstein ran a "sexual abuse ring", and lent underage girls to "prominent American politicians, powerful business executives, foreign presidents, a well-known prime minister, and other world leaders".^[136]

This long-running lawsuit is pending in federal court, aimed at vacating the federal plea agreement on the grounds that it violated victims' rights.^[137] On April 7, 2015, Judge Kenneth Marra ruled that the allegations made by alleged victim ██████████ against Prince Andrew had no bearing on the lawsuit by alleged victims seeking to reopen Epstein's non-prosecution plea agreement with the federal government; the judge ordered that allegation to be struck from the record.^[134] Judge Marra made no ruling as to whether claims by ██████████ are true or false. Though he did not allow Jane Does 3 and 4 to join the suit, Marra specifically said that ██████████ may later give evidence when the case comes to court.^[138]

On February 21, 2019, in the case of *Two Jane Does v. United States*, Senior Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida Kenneth Marra said federal prosecutors violated the law by failing to notify victims before they allowed him to plead guilty to only the two Florida offenses. The judge left open what the possible remedy could be.^[139]

██████████ v. Epstein (2015)

In a December 2014 Florida court filing by Bradley Edwards and Paul G. Cassell meant for inclusion in the Crime Victims Rights Act lawsuit,^[140] ██████████ ██████████ (then known as ██████████), alleged in a sworn affidavit that at age 17, she had been sexually trafficked by Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell for their own use and for use by several others, including Prince Andrew^[141] and retired Harvard Law professor Alan Dershowitz.^{[8][142]} ██████████ also claimed that Epstein, Maxwell and others had physically and sexually abused her.^[143] She alleged that the FBI may have been involved in a cover-up.^[144] She said she had served as Epstein's sex slave from 1999 to 2002, and had recruited other underage girls.^[145] Prince Andrew, Epstein, and Dershowitz all denied having had sex with ██████████. Dershowitz took legal action over the allegations.^{[146][147][148]} ██████████ filed a defamation suit against Dershowitz,

External video

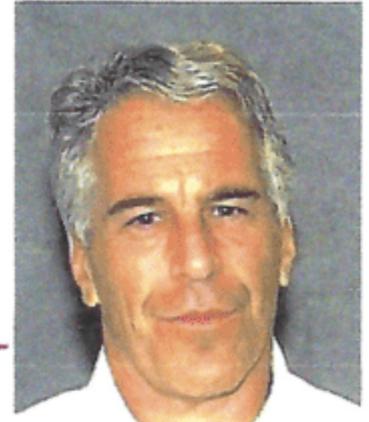
 [Where are they now? The biggest players in the Jeffrey Epstein case \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPjn6rcJqsl\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPjn6rcJqsl)

Perversion of Justice, The Miami Herald, November 29, 2018.

Relationship with Jeffrey Epstein

Accounts differ on when Maxwell first met American financier Jeffrey Epstein. According to Epstein's former business partner, Steven Hoffenberg, Robert Maxwell introduced his daughter to Epstein in the late 1980s.^[49] *The Times* reported that Maxwell met Epstein in the early 1990s at a New York party following "a difficult break-up with Count Gianfranco Cicogna Mozzoni" (1962–2012) of the CIGA Hotels clan.^[50]

Maxwell had a romantic relationship with Epstein for several years in the early 1990s and remained closely associated with him for more than 25 years until his death in 2019.^{[22][48][51]} The nature of their relationship remains unclear. In a 2009 deposition, several of Epstein's household employees testified that Epstein referred to her as his "main girlfriend" who also hired, fired, and supervised his staff, starting around 1992.^[52] She has also been referred to as the "Lady of the House" by Epstein's staff and as his "aggressive assistant".^[53] In a 2003 *Vanity Fair* profile on Epstein, author Vicky Ward said Epstein referred to Maxwell as "my best friend".^[54] Ward also observed that Maxwell seemed "to organize much of his life".^[54]



2006 mugshot of Epstein, by Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

Politico reported that Maxwell and Epstein had friendships with several prominent individuals in elite circles of politics, academia, business and law, including former Presidents Donald Trump and Bill Clinton, attorney Alan Dershowitz, and Prince Andrew, Duke of York.^[55]

Maxwell is known for her longstanding friendship^[56] with Prince Andrew, and for having escorted him to a "hookers and pimps" social function in New York.^[57] She introduced Epstein to Prince Andrew, and the three often socialised together.^[58] In 2000, Maxwell and Epstein attended a party thrown by Prince Andrew at the Queen's Sandringham House estate in Norfolk, England, reportedly for Maxwell's 39th birthday.^[59] In a November 2019 interview with the BBC, Prince Andrew confirmed that Maxwell and Epstein had attended an event at his invitation, but he denied that it was anything more than a "straightforward shooting weekend".^[60]

In 1995, Epstein renamed one of his companies the Ghislaine Corporation; based in Palm Beach, Florida, the company was dissolved in 1998.^[52] As a trained helicopter pilot, Maxwell also transported Epstein to his private Caribbean island.^{[61][6]}

In 2008, Epstein was convicted of soliciting a minor for prostitution and served 13 months of an 18-month jail sentence. Following Epstein's release, although Maxwell continued to attend prominent social functions, she and Epstein were no longer seen together publicly.^[9]

By late 2015, Maxwell had largely retreated from attending social functions.^{[9][62]}

Civil cases and accusations

Civil suits

█ *v Maxwell* (2015)

Investigations of Russian election interference

FBI Crossfire Hurricane and 2017 counterintelligence investigations

Special counsel investigation

First impeachment

Impeachment trial in the Senate

2020 presidential election

Claims of voting fraud, attempt to prevent presidential transition

Concern about a possible coup attempt or military action

2021 Capitol attack

Second impeachment

Post-presidency (2021–present)

Public profile

Approval ratings and scholar surveys

Social media

Relationship with the press

False statements

Promotion of conspiracy theories

Racial views

Misogyny and allegations of sexual misconduct

Incitement of violence

Popular culture

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Personal life

Early life - CONNECTIONS TO NEW YORK

Donald John Trump was born on June 14, 1946, at Jamaica Hospital in the borough of Queens in New York City,^{[2][3]} the fourth child of Fred Trump, a Bronx-born real estate developer whose parents were German immigrants, and Mary Anne MacLeod Trump, an immigrant from Scotland. Trump grew up with older siblings Maryanne, Fred Jr., and Elizabeth, and younger brother Robert in the Jamaica Estates neighborhood of Queens, and attended the private Kew-Forest School from kindergarten through seventh grade.^{[4][5][6]} At age 13, he was enrolled at the New York Military Academy, a private boarding school,^[7] and in 1964, he enrolled at Fordham University. Two years later, he transferred to the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in May 1968 with a B.S. in economics.^{[8][9]} In 2015, Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen threatened Trump's colleges, high school, and the College Board with legal action if they released Trump's academic records.^[10]



Trump at the New York Military Academy in 1964

* At least 26 women, including his first wife, have publicly accused Trump of rape, kissing and groping without consent, looking under women's skirts, or walking in on naked teenage pageant contestants.^{[803][804][805]} In 2016, he denied all accusations, calling them "false smears" and alleging a conspiracy against him and the American people.^[806]

Incitement of violence

Research suggests Trump's rhetoric caused an increased incidence of hate crimes.^{[807][808]} During his 2016 campaign, he urged or praised physical attacks against protesters or reporters.^{[809][810]} Numerous defendants investigated or prosecuted for violent acts and hate crimes, including participants of the January 6, 2021, storming of the U.S. Capitol, cited Trump's rhetoric in arguing that they were not culpable or should receive a lighter sentence.^{[811][812]} A nationwide review by ABC News in May 2020 identified at least 54 criminal cases from August 2015 to April 2020 in which Trump was invoked in direct connection with violence or threats of violence mostly by white men and primarily against members of minority groups.^[813]

Popular culture

Trump has been the subject of parody, comedy, and caricature on television, in movies, and in comics. Trump was named in hundreds of hip hop songs since the 1980s, mostly positive. Mentions turned largely negative and pejorative after he began running for office in 2015.^[814]

Notes

- Presidential elections in the United States are decided by the Electoral College. Each state names a number of electors equal to its representation in Congress and (in most states) all delegates vote for the winner of the local state vote.
- Rick Renzi, Robert Hayes, and Duke Cunningham

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Trump appointed three justices to the Supreme Court: Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett. In 2016, Senate Republicans had taken the unprecedented step of refusing to consider Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland to fill the vacancy left by the death of Antonin Scalia in February 2016, arguing that the seat should not be filled in an election year. Gorsuch was confirmed to the seat in 2017 in a mostly party-line vote of 54–45, after Republicans invoked the "nuclear option" (a historic change to Senate rules removing the 60-vote threshold for advancing Supreme Court nominations) to defeat a Democratic filibuster.^[458] Trump nominated Kavanaugh in 2018 to replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy; the Senate confirmed Kavanaugh in a mostly party-line vote of 50–48, after a bitter confirmation battle centered on Christine Blasey Ford's allegation that Kavanaugh had attempted to rape her when they were teenagers, which Kavanaugh denied.^[459] Five weeks before the November 2020 election, Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett to fill the vacancy left by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Eight days before the election, after 60 million Americans had already voted, Senate Republicans confirmed Barrett to the Supreme Court without any Democratic votes. Many observers strongly criticized the confirmation, arguing that it was a gross violation of the precedent Republicans set in 2016.^[460]



Trump and his third Supreme Court nominee, Amy Coney Barrett.

As president, Trump disparaged courts and judges whom he disagreed with, often in personal terms, and questioned the judiciary's constitutional authority. Trump's attacks on the courts have drawn rebukes from observers, including sitting federal judges, who are concerned about the effect of Trump's statements on the judicial independence and public confidence in the judiciary.^{[461][462][463]}

COVID-19 pandemic

In December 2019, COVID-19 erupted in Wuhan, China; the SARS-CoV-2 virus spread worldwide within weeks.^{[464][465]} The first confirmed case in the U.S. was reported on January 20, 2020.^[466] The outbreak was officially declared a public health emergency by Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar on January 31, 2020.^[467]

Trump's public statements on COVID-19 were at odds with his private statements. In February 2020 Trump publicly asserted that the outbreak in the U.S. was less deadly than influenza, was "very much under control", and would soon be over.^[468] At the same time he acknowledged the opposite in a private conversation with Bob Woodward. In March 2020, Trump privately told Woodward that he was deliberately "playing it down" in public so as not to create panic.^{[469][470]}

Initial response

Trump was slow to address the spread of the disease, initially dismissing the imminent threat and ignoring persistent public health warnings and calls for action from health officials within his administration and Secretary Azar.^{[471][472]} Instead, throughout January and February he focused on economic and political considerations of the outbreak.^[473] By mid-March, most global financial markets had severely contracted in response to the emerging pandemic.^[474] Trump continued to claim that a vaccine was months away, although HHS and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officials had repeatedly told him that vaccine development would take 12–18 months.^[475] Trump also falsely claimed that "anybody that wants a test can get a test," despite the availability of tests being severely limited.^[476]

Epstein attended local public schools, first attending Public School 188, and then Mark Twain Junior High School nearby.^[26] In 1967, Epstein attended the National Music Camp at the Interlochen Center for the Arts.^[29] He began playing the piano when he was five.^[30] He graduated in 1969 from Lafayette High School at age 16, having skipped two grades.^{[31][32]} Later that year, he attended classes at Cooper Union until he changed colleges in 1971.^[31] From September 1971, he attended the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University, but left without receiving a degree in June 1974.^{[31][32]}

Career

Teaching

Epstein started working in September 1974 as a physics and mathematics teacher for teens at the Dalton School on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.^{[31][33]} Donald Barr, who served as the headmaster until June 1974,^{[34][35][36]} was known to have made several unconventional recruitments at the time, although it is unclear whether he had a direct role in hiring Epstein.^{[33][37][38]} Three months after Barr's departure, Epstein began to teach at the school, despite his lack of credentials.^[38] Epstein allegedly showed inappropriate behavior toward underage students at the time.^{[33][37]} He became acquainted with Alan Greenberg, the chief executive officer of Bear Stearns, whose son and daughter were attending the school. Greenberg's daughter, Lynne Koepfel, pointed to a parent-teacher conference where Epstein influenced another Dalton parent into advocating for him to Greenberg.^[35] In June 1976, after Epstein was dismissed from Dalton for "poor performance",^{[33][39][40]} Greenberg offered him a job at Bear Stearns.^{[30][41]}

Banking

Epstein joined Bear Stearns in 1976 as a low-level junior assistant to a floor trader.^[42] He swiftly moved up to become an options trader, working in the special products division, and then advised the bank's wealthiest clients, such as Seagram president Edgar Bronfman, on tax mitigation strategies.^{[32][43][44]} Jimmy Cayne, the bank's later chief executive officer, praised Epstein's skill with wealthy clients and complex products. In 1980, four years after joining Bear Stearns, Epstein became a limited partner.^[42]

In 1981, he was asked to leave Bear Stearns for, according to his sworn testimony, being guilty of a "Reg D violation".^{[45][32][30]} Even though Epstein departed abruptly, he remained close to Cayne and Greenberg and was a client of Bear Stearns until its collapse in 2008.^[42]

Financial consulting

In August 1981, Epstein founded his own consulting firm, Intercontinental Assets Group Inc. (IAG),^[46] which assisted clients in recovering stolen money from fraudulent brokers and lawyers.^[30] Epstein described his work at this time as being a high-level bounty hunter. He told friends that he worked sometimes as a consultant for governments and the very wealthy to recover embezzled funds, while at other times he worked for clients who had embezzled funds.^{[30][47]} Spanish actress and heiress ██████████ was one such wealthy client, whom Epstein helped in 1982 to recover her father's millions in lost investments, which had disappeared when Drysdale Government Securities collapsed because of fraud.^[48]

During the 1980s, more than 70 banks had lent Trump \$4 billion,^[120] but in the aftermath of his corporate bankruptcies of the early 1990s, most major banks declined to lend to him, with only Deutsche Bank still willing to lend money.^[121] After the 2021 United States Capitol attack, the bank decided not to do business with Trump or his company in the future.^[122]

In April 2019, the House Oversight Committee issued subpoenas seeking financial details from Trump's banks, Deutsche Bank and Capital One, and his accounting firm, Mazars USA. In response, Trump sued the banks, Mazars, and committee chairman Elijah Cummings to prevent the disclosures.^{[123][124]} In May, DC District Court judge Amit Mehta ruled that Mazars must comply with the subpoena,^[125] and judge Edgardo Ramos of the Southern District Court of New York ruled that the banks must also comply.^{[126][127]} Trump's attorneys appealed the rulings,^[128] arguing that Congress was attempting to usurp the "exercise of law-enforcement authority that the Constitution reserves to the executive branch".^{[129][130]}

Post-presidential investigations

Since leaving the presidency, Trump has been the subject of several probes into both his business dealings and his actions during the presidency. In February 2021, the District Attorney for Fulton County, Georgia, announced a criminal probe into Trump's phone calls to Brad Raffensperger.^[131] Separately, the New York State Attorney General's Office is conducting civil and criminal investigations into Trump's business activities, the criminal investigation in conjunction with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.^[132] By May 2021, a special grand jury was considering indictments.^{[133][134]} On July 1, 2021, New York prosecutors charged the Trump Organization with a "15 year 'scheme to defraud' the government". The organization's chief financial officer, Allen Weisselberg, was arraigned on grand larceny, tax fraud, and other charges.^{[135][136]} In December 2021, the New York State Attorney General's office subpoenaed Trump to produce documents related to the business.^[137] On April 25, 2022, New York state judge Arthur Engoron held Trump in contempt of court for failing to comply with the subpoena. He imposed a fine of \$10,000 per day until he complies.^[138]

Media career

*Books

Using ghostwriters, Trump has produced up to 19 books on business, financial, or political topics under his name.^[139] His first book, *The Art of the Deal* (1987), was a New York Times Best Seller. While Trump was credited as co-author, the entire book was written by Tony Schwartz.^[140] According to *The New Yorker*, "The book expanded Trump's renown far beyond New York City, making him an emblem of the successful tycoon."^[140] Trump has called the volume his second favorite book, after the Bible.^[141]

Film and television

Trump made cameo appearances in many films and television shows from 1985 to 2001.^[142]

Trump had a sporadic relationship with the professional wrestling promotion WWE since the late 1980s.^[143] He appeared at WrestleMania 23 in 2007 and was inducted into the celebrity wing of the WWE Hall of Fame in 2013.^[144]

The alt-right movement coalesced around and supported Trump's candidacy, due in part to its opposition to multiculturalism and immigration.^{[199][200][201]} Duke enthusiastically supported Trump and said he and like-minded people voted for Trump because of his promises to "take our country back".^{[202][203]} In an interview after the election, Trump said that he did not want to "energize the group" and that he disavowed them.^{[204][205]}

Financial disclosures

Trump's FEC-required reports listed assets above \$1.4 billion and outstanding debts of at least \$315 million.^{[31][206]} Trump did not release his tax returns, contrary to the practice of every major candidate since 1976 and his promises in 2014 and 2015 to do so if he ran for office.^{[207][208]} He said his tax returns were being audited, and his lawyers had advised him against releasing them.^[209] After a lengthy court battle to block release of his tax returns and other records to the Manhattan district attorney for a criminal investigation, including two appeals by Trump to the United States Supreme Court, in February 2021 the high court allowed the records to be released to the prosecutor for review by a grand jury.^{[210][211]}

In October 2016, portions of Trump's state filings for 1995 were leaked to a reporter from *The New York Times*. They show that Trump had declared a loss of \$916 million that year, which could have let him avoid taxes for up to 18 years.^[212]

Election to the presidency

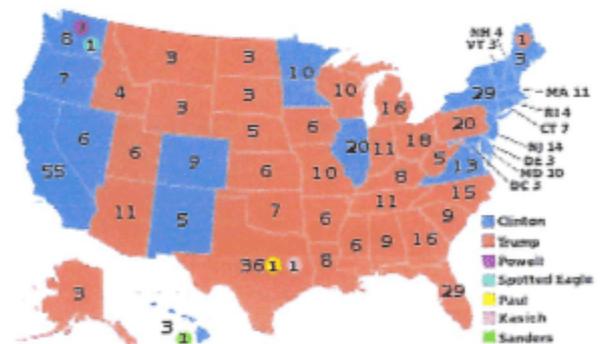
On November 8, 2016, Trump received 306 pledged electoral votes versus 232 for Clinton. The official counts were 304 and 227 respectively, after defections on both sides.^[213] Trump received nearly 2.9 million fewer popular votes than Clinton, which made him the fifth person to be elected president while losing the popular vote.^[214]

Trump's victory was a political upset.^[215] Polls had consistently shown Clinton with a nationwide—though diminishing—lead, as well as an advantage in most of the competitive states. Trump's support had been modestly underestimated, while Clinton's had been overestimated.^[216]

Trump won 30 states; included were Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, which had been part of what was considered a blue wall of Democratic strongholds since the 1990s. Clinton won 20 states and the District of Columbia. Trump's victory marked the return of an undivided Republican government—a Republican White House combined with Republican control of both chambers of Congress.^[217]

Trump was the oldest person to take office as president at the time of his inauguration.^[218] He is also the first president who did not serve in the military or hold any government office prior to becoming president.^[219]

Trump's election victory sparked numerous protests.^{[220][221]} On the day after Trump's inauguration, an estimated 2.6 million people worldwide, including an estimated half million in Washington, D.C., protested against Trump in the Women's Marches.^[222] Marches against his travel ban began across the country on January 29, 2017, just nine days after his inauguration.^[223]



2016 electoral vote results. Trump won 304–227

While in college, Trump obtained four student draft deferments during the Vietnam War era.^[11] In 1966, he was deemed fit for military service based upon a medical examination, and in July 1968 a local draft board classified him as eligible to serve.^[12] In October 1968, he was classified 1-Y, a conditional medical deferment,^[13] and in 1972, he was reclassified 4-F due to bone spurs, permanently disqualifying him from service.^[14]

Family

In 1977, Trump married Czech model Ivana Zelníčková.^[15] They have three children, Donald Jr. (born 1977), Ivanka (born 1981), and Eric (born 1984). Ivana became a naturalized United States citizen in 1988.^[16] The couple divorced in 1992, following Trump's affair with actress Marla Maples.^[17] He and Maples have one daughter, Tiffany (born 1993).^[18] They married in 1993, separated in 1997, and divorced in 1999.^[19] Tiffany was raised by Marla in California.^[20] In 2005, Trump married Slovenian model Melania Knauss.^[21] They have one son, Barron (born 2006).^[22] Melania gained U.S. citizenship in 2006.^[23]

Religion

Trump went to Sunday school and was confirmed in 1959 at the First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica, Queens.^{[24][25]} In the 1970s, his parents joined the Marble Collegiate Church in Manhattan, which belongs to the Reformed Church.^{[24][26]} The pastor at Marble, Norman Vincent Peale,^[24] ministered to the family until his death in 1993.^[26] Trump has described him as a mentor.^[27] In 2015, the church stated that Trump was not an active member.^[25] In 2019, he appointed his personal pastor, televangelist Paula White, to the White House Office of Public Liaison.^[28] In 2020, he said he identified as a non-denominational Christian.^[29]

Wealth

In 1982, Trump made the initial Forbes list of wealthy people for holding a share of his family's estimated \$200 million net worth. His losses in the 1980s dropped him from the list between 1990 and 1995.^[30] After filing mandatory financial disclosure forms with the FEC in July 2015, he announced a net worth of about \$10 billion. Records released by the FEC showed at least \$1.4 billion in assets and \$265 million in liabilities.^[31] Forbes estimated his net worth at \$4.5 billion in 2015 and \$3.1 billion in 2018.^[32] In its 2021 billionaires ranking, it was \$2.4 billion (1,299th in the world), making him one of the wealthiest officeholders in American history.^[33]

Journalist Jonathan Greenberg reported in 2018 that Trump, using the pseudonym "John Barron" and claiming to be a Trump Organization official, called him in 1984 to falsely assert that he owned "in excess of ninety percent" of the Trump family's business, to secure a higher ranking on the Forbes 400 list of wealthy Americans. Greenberg also wrote that Forbes had vastly overestimated Trump's wealth and wrongly included him on the Forbes 400 rankings of 1982, 1983, and 1984.^[34]

Trump has often said he began his career with "a small loan of one million dollars" from his father, and that he had to pay it back with interest.^[35] He was a millionaire by age eight, borrowed at least \$60 million from his father, largely failed to repay those loans, and received another \$413 million (adjusted for inflation) from his father's company.^{[36][37]} In 2018, he and his family were reported to have committed tax fraud, and the New York tax department began investigating.^[38] His investments underperformed the stock and New York property markets.^{[39][40]} Forbes estimated in October 2018 that his net worth declined from \$4.5 billion in 2015 to \$3.1 billion in 2017 and his product licensing income from \$23 million to \$3 million.^[41]

In 2004, Trump co-founded Trump University, a company that sold real estate training courses priced from \$1,500 to \$35,000.^[94] After New York State authorities notified the company that its use of the word "university" violated state law, its name was changed to Trump Entrepreneur Initiative in 2010.^[95]

In 2013, the State of New York filed a \$40 million civil suit against Trump University, alleging that the company made false statements and defrauded consumers.^[96] In addition, two class actions were filed in federal court against Trump and his companies. Internal documents revealed that employees were instructed to use a hard-sell approach, and former employees testified that Trump University had defrauded or lied to its students.^{[97][98][99]} Shortly after he won the 2016 presidential election, Trump agreed to pay a total of \$25 million to settle the three cases.^[100]

Foundation

The Donald J. Trump Foundation was a private foundation established in 1988.^{[101][102]} In the foundation's final years its funds mostly came from donors other than Trump, who did not donate any personal funds to the charity from 2009 until 2014.^[103] The foundation gave to health care and sports-related charities, as well as conservative groups.^[104]

In 2016, *The Washington Post* reported that the charity had committed several potential legal and ethical violations, including alleged self-dealing and possible tax evasion.^[105] Also in 2016, the New York State attorney general's office said the foundation appeared to be in violation of New York laws regarding charities and ordered it to immediately cease its fundraising activities in New York.^{[106][107]} Trump's team announced in December 2016 that the foundation would be dissolved.^[108]

In June 2018, the New York attorney general's office filed a civil suit against the foundation, Trump, and his adult children, seeking \$2.8 million in restitution and additional penalties.^{[109][110]} In December 2018, the foundation ceased operation and disbursed all its assets to other charities.^[111] In November 2019, a New York state judge ordered Trump to pay \$2 million to a group of charities for misusing the foundation's funds, in part to finance his presidential campaign.^{[112][113]}

Legal affairs and bankruptcies

Fixer Roy Cohn served as Trump's lawyer and mentor for 13 years in the 1970s and 1980s.^[114] According to Trump, Cohn sometimes waived fees due to their friendship.^[114] In 1973, Cohn helped Trump countersue the United States government for \$100 million over its charges that Trump's properties had racial discriminatory practices. Trump and Cohn lost that case when the countersuit was dismissed and the government's case went forward.^[115] In 1975, an agreement was struck requiring Trump's properties to furnish the New York Urban League with a list of all apartment vacancies, every week for two years, among other things.^[116] Cohn introduced political consultant Roger Stone to Trump, who enlisted Stone's services to deal with the federal government.^[117]

As of November 2016, Trump and his businesses had been involved in more than 4,000 state and federal legal actions, according to a running tally by *USA Today*.^[118]

While Trump has not filed for personal bankruptcy, his over-leveraged hotel and casino businesses in Atlantic City and New York filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection six times between 1991 and 2009.^[119] They continued to operate while the banks restructured debt and reduced Trump's shares in the properties.^[119]

During the 1980s, more than 70 banks had lent Trump \$4 billion,^[120] but in the aftermath of his corporate bankruptcies of the early 1990s, most major banks declined to lend to him, with only Deutsche Bank still willing to lend money.^[121] After the 2021 United States Capitol attack, the bank decided not to do business with Trump or his company in the future.^[122]

In April 2019, the House Oversight Committee issued subpoenas seeking financial details from Trump's banks, Deutsche Bank and Capital One, and his accounting firm, Mazars USA. In response, Trump sued the banks, Mazars, and committee chairman Elijah Cummings to prevent the disclosures.^{[123][124]} In May, DC District Court judge Amit Mehta ruled that Mazars must comply with the subpoena,^[125] and judge Edgardo Ramos of the Southern District Court of New York ruled that the banks must also comply.^{[126][127]} Trump's attorneys appealed the rulings,^[128] arguing that Congress was attempting to usurp the "exercise of law-enforcement authority that the Constitution reserves to the executive branch".^{[129][130]}

Post-presidential investigations

Since leaving the presidency, Trump has been the subject of several probes into both his business dealings and his actions during the presidency. In February 2021, the District Attorney for Fulton County, Georgia, announced a criminal probe into Trump's phone calls to Brad Raffensperger.^[131] Separately, the New York State Attorney General's Office is conducting civil and criminal investigations into Trump's business activities, the criminal investigation in conjunction with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.^[132] By May 2021, a special grand jury was considering indictments.^{[133][134]} On July 1, 2021, New York prosecutors charged the Trump Organization with a "15 year 'scheme to defraud' the government". The organization's chief financial officer, Allen Weisselberg, was arraigned on grand larceny, tax fraud, and other charges.^{[135][136]} In December 2021, the New York State Attorney General's office subpoenaed Trump to produce documents related to the business.^[137] On April 25, 2022, New York state judge Arthur Engoron held Trump in contempt of court for failing to comply with the subpoena. He imposed a fine of \$10,000 per day until he complies.^[138]

Media career

*Books

Using ghostwriters, Trump has produced up to 19 books on business, financial, or political topics under his name.^[139] His first book, *The Art of the Deal* (1987), was a New York Times Best Seller. While Trump was credited as co-author, the entire book was written by Tony Schwartz.^[140] According to *The New Yorker*, "The book expanded Trump's renown far beyond New York City, making him an emblem of the successful tycoon."^[140] Trump has called the volume his second favorite book, after the Bible.^[141]

Film and television

Trump made cameo appearances in many films and television shows from 1985 to 2001.^[142]

Trump had a sporadic relationship with the professional wrestling promotion WWE since the late 1980s.^[143] He appeared at WrestleMania 23 in 2007 and was inducted into the celebrity wing of the WWE Hall of Fame in 2013.^[144]

Despite a campaign promise to eliminate the national debt in eight years, Trump approved large increases in government spending and the 2017 tax cut. As a result, the federal budget deficit increased by almost 50 percent, to nearly \$1 trillion in 2019.^[240] Under Trump, the U.S. national debt increased by 39 percent, reaching \$27.75 trillion by the end of his term; the U.S. debt-to-GDP ratio also hit a post-World War II high.^[241] Trump also failed to deliver the \$1 trillion infrastructure spending plan he had campaigned on.^[242]



Trump speaks to automobile workers in Michigan, March 2017

Trump is the only modern U.S. president to leave office with a smaller workforce, by 3 million, than when he took office.^[235]

Energy and climate - DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR

Trump rejects the scientific consensus on climate change.^{[243][244]} He reduced the budget for renewable energy research by 40% and reversed Obama-era policies directed at curbing climate change.^[245] In June 2017, Trump announced the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Agreement, making the U.S. the only nation in the world to not ratify the agreement.^[246]

Trump rolled back more than 100 federal environmental regulations, including those that curbed greenhouse gas emissions, air and water pollution, and the use of toxic substances. He weakened protections for animals and environmental standards for federal infrastructure projects, and expanded permitted areas for drilling and resource extraction, such as allowing drilling in the Arctic Refuge.^[247] Trump aimed to boost the production and exports of fossil fuels;^{[248][249]} under Trump, natural gas expanded, but coal continued to decline.^{[250][251]}

Deregulation

On January 30, 2017, Trump signed Executive Order 13771, which directed that for every new regulation administrative agencies issue "at least two prior regulations be identified for elimination".^[252] Agency defenders expressed opposition to Trump's criticisms, saying the bureaucracy exists to protect people against well-organized, well-funded interest groups.^[253]

Trump dismantled many federal regulations on health, labor, and the environment, among other topics.^[254] Trump signed 14 Congressional Review Act resolutions repealing federal regulations, among them a bill that made it easier for severely mentally ill persons to buy guns.^[255] During his first six weeks in office, he delayed, suspended or reversed ninety federal regulations,^[256] often "made after requests by the regulated industries."^[257]

Health-care

During his campaign, Trump vowed to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA).^[258] In May 2017, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives passed a bill to repeal the ACA in a party-line vote but repeal proposals were narrowly voted down in the Senate after three Republicans joined all Democrats in opposing it.^{[259][260]}

Trump scaled back the implementation of the ACA through Executive Orders 13765^[261] and 13813.^[262] Trump expressed a desire to "let Obamacare fail"; his administration cut the ACA enrollment period in half and drastically reduced funding for advertising and other ways to encourage enrollment.^{[263][264]} The 2017 tax bill signed by Trump effectively repealed the ACA's individual health insurance mandate in 2019,^[265] and a budget bill Trump signed in 2019 repealed