

Weekly Commentary 41

Who won the Trump vs Kamala debate? Does it matter?

The debate happened last week on a Tuesday. Most people said that Kamala won. At least she did not lose. In retrospect, it was a debate that was for Trump to lose. And the fact that he did not win it like he did against Biden in late June led most pundits to say that he has lost. Expectations were too high for Trump to defeat a person who is widely thought to be the inferior candidate. As expectations about these things go, Trump did not prevail.

How true is this? The fact of the matter is that nowadays, the country is so divided, that whether the source is Republican or Democratic, the verdict will be biased in that direction. From my own exposure to the numerous analyses, it is hard to find an objective assessment. So my choice of which analyses I present below must admittedly be biased by who the writer or organization is. As such, I stay away from American analysis of the debate.

Did Harris win the debate or did Trump lose it?

Kamala Harris was the consensus winner of Monday's presidential debate – thanks largely to Donald Trump.

By **Al Jazeera staff**

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In the hours following Kamala Harris and Donald Trump's first, and possibly last, in-person face-off, political commentators and unofficial polls seemed to largely crown her the winner of the night.

A CNN poll revealed that debate watchers declared Harris a winner by a comfortable 63-37 margin. A YouGov poll had Harris winning by 43-28 among registered voters. Even pundits at Fox News, the conservative TV network, agreed she bested Trump.

Harris rattled Trump, baited him on the size of his rallies, and both she and the moderators pushed back and instantly fact-checked some of his most extravagant claims. While she did not offer much substance on some of the issues most pressing to voters – like immigration – she exuded a level of confidence critics previously said she lacked and left the debate stage beaming as her opponent stewed.

Then, to top the evening off, Taylor Swift endorsed her.

It may all matter little. Official post-debate polls of undecided voters have not been released yet and will take several days, but it is not clear whether either candidate's performance will change many minds.

But did Harris actually win, or did Trump just unravel, making her the winner? **(As one commentator said, there was no KO as Trump did to Biden; and she won on points).**

Al Jazeera checked in with half a dozen experts on debating, political speech, psychology and communications. Some said she successfully tapped into his weaknesses, while others noted that her strategy aimed at unsettling him, but came at the cost of failing to tell voters more about her own policies. Others questioned the value of political debates at all, decrying a spectacle of little substance and utility to undecided voters.

She knew what buttons to push

"She won the debate and not just by default," Tomeka M Robinson, a professor of rhetoric and public advocacy at Hofstra University, told Al Jazeera.

Still, Robinson added, Trump did himself no favours by failing to stick to the issues.

"Trump needed to talk about his policy ideas more rather than relying on leaning into the same dangerous rhetoric about immigrants and reproductive justice," she said.

"He was correct in pushing VP Harris on the issue about the tariffs and that President Biden did not discontinue these. If he would have stuck to his success in certain policy decisions, the debate could have gone differently."

Tammy R Vigil, a media professor at Boston University focused on political communication also stressed that while Harris exploited Trump's weaknesses to her advantage, she failed to offer specifics about her policy plans.

"Harris won the debate because she knew exactly what buttons to push to help Trump express himself in the manner that is most revealing of his character," Vigil told Al Jazeera. "His content is very rarely fact-based and often relies heavily on urging emotional rather than rational responses from viewers. He did the same last night."

Giving explicit answers about her policies did not appear to be Harris's priority.

"Harris has adopted the persona of the prosecutor during this campaign," David A Frank, a rhetoric professor at the University of Oregon told Al Jazeera. "Her strategy in the debate was to put Trump on trial," he added.

Increasingly angry and incoherent

Some experts contrasted Trump's demeanour on Tuesday night to his previous presidential debate this year — which eventually led to President Biden's withdrawal from the race after a disastrous performance.

“In the first debate, while Biden was mainly the agent of his own destruction, Trump did help by sitting back, staying calm, and staying largely on-message,” Nick Beauchamp, a political science professor at Northeastern University whose work includes modelling political debates, told Al Jazeera.

“In the Harris-Trump debate, by contrast, Harris's constant needling, jibes, and minor insults appear to have played a large role in causing Trump to perform poorly, with increasingly angry and incoherent diatribes,” he added. “So in that sense, Harris did actively cause Trump to lose, though more by actively causing Trump to act badly than by actively presenting herself in the best light.”

Harris, by contrast, did little to define herself and her values clearly, foregoing that opportunity in favour of what appeared to be a deliberate effort to unsettle Trump. “She didn't do much to define herself or her policies in the positive sense,” said Beauchamp. **(This problem will come back to haunt her...)**

Nothing hurts him

While fact-checkers found plenty to fault Trump on, some commentators warned against ruling Harris the winner, noting that the former president has long proven to be resilient to blunders and preposterous claims that would be career-ending for most other political candidates.

Fairly evaluating a debate is not easy when one candidate seems to be immune to all expectations of truth-telling while the other is expected to meet conventional criteria, such as delivering clarity on policy, said Steven Fein, a professor of psychology at Williams College who studies political debates.

Fein pointed to a long list of obvious falsehoods proclaimed by Trump on Tuesday — including about the execution of babies, migrants stealing and eating family pets, and Harris meeting with Vladimir Putin just before the invasion of Ukraine.

“That is not only not disqualifying, but it doesn't hurt him,” said Fein. “Undecided people say they see no differences between the candidates because Harris didn't offer specifics about her policies. It is like comparing apples with washing machines, let alone oranges.”

Not a real debate

Had the debate been scored like college competitions are, a judge would have looked at claims made and supported by credible evidence by each participant, James M Farrell, who teaches argumentation and rhetorical theory at the University of New Hampshire, told Al Jazeera.

On Tuesday, Farrell added, there were many dubious claims and little credible evidence, as well as too many “ad hominem attacks, grounding fallacies, non sequiturs, question-begging fallacies, and strawman fallacies on the part of both seeking a civil discussion of our nation’s problems and potential policy solutions.”

That may ultimately be the problem with presidential debates that have become entertainment events more than informative sessions intended to guide voters’ decisions.

“These performances aren’t really debates at all,” said Farrell. “As a template of rational and civil exchange of divergent political views, this whole spectacle was miserable.”

The BBC reports it this way:

What the world thought of US debate

BBC

The first showdown between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump was closely watched not only in the US but around the world.

The debate in Philadelphia featured some tense exchanges on foreign policy between the two presidential candidates.

From Beijing to Budapest, here's how the debate went down, according to BBC foreign correspondents

By Steve Rosenberg, Russia editor, Moscow

Kamala Harris told Donald Trump that President Putin is “a dictator who would eat you for lunch.”

The expression "to eat someone for lunch" (or breakfast, or any other meal) doesn't exist in Russian. But one thing you will find in Moscow is the appetite for a US election result that benefits Russia.

The Kremlin will have noted (with pleasure) that in the debate Trump sidestepped the question about whether he wants Ukraine to win the war.

“I want the war to stop,” replied Trump.

By contrast, Harris spoke of Ukraine’s “righteous defence” and accused Vladimir Putin of having “his eyes on the rest of Europe”.

Later the Kremlin claimed to have been irked by all mentions of Putin in the debate. “Putin’s name is used as one of the instruments for the internal battle in the US,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told me.

“We don’t like this and hope they will keep our president’s name out of this.” Last week Putin claimed he was backing Harris in the election and praised her “infectious laugh.”

Later a Russian state TV anchor clarified that Putin had been “slightly ironic” in his comments.

The presenter was dismissive of Harris’ political skills and suggested she would be better off hosting a TV cooking show.

I wonder: would it feature “dictators” eating US presidential candidates “for lunch”...?

Concern in Kyiv over Trump comments

By Nick Beake, Europe correspondent, Kyiv

Donald Trump’s failure, when asked on the debate stage to say if he wanted Ukraine to win the war, may not have surprised people here but it adds to their worry about what a second Trump term would bring.

Trump has long boasted he could end the conflict in 24 hours, a prospect many Ukrainians assume would mean an incredibly bad deal with Kyiv forced to give up huge swathes of the land Russia has seized over the past two and a half years.

In contrast, Ukrainians will have been reassured by Kamala Harris’s responses, with no sign she would deviate from the current position of staunch American support.

She took credit for the role she’s already played, arguing she shared important intelligence with President Zelensky in the days before the full-scale invasion.

She then claimed Trump’s position would have been fatal for Ukraine had he still been in the White House. “If Donald Trump were president, Putin would be sitting in Kyiv right now.”

Publicly, there has been a deafening silence from Ukraine's current ministers and senior military in reaction to the debate. The figurative US electoral battle is one they need not weigh in to while they're consumed by real fighting at home.

It's President Zelensky himself who so far has gone furthest in articulating, albeit somewhat euphemistically, what a Trump victory would mean for Ukrainians.

Speaking to the BBC in July, he said it would mean "hard work, but we are hard workers".

Abdul memes follow Trump Taliban remarks

By Lyse Doucet, chief international correspondent

America's longest war ended in August 2021 when it scrambled to pull out the last of its troops, and evacuate thousands of civilians, as the Taliban swept into Kabul with surprising speed.

That debacle made it into the debate and, not surprisingly, the issues were dodged, dismissed, distorted.

Harris veered away from the question "do you bear any responsibility in the way that withdrawal played out?".

As a correspondent who followed the chaotic pullout closely, I never heard that the vice-president was in the room when decisions were taken in those final fateful weeks. But she made it clear she agreed with President Biden's decision to leave.

Trump boasted that he talked tough with "Abdul", the "head of the Taliban" who is "still the head of the Taliban."

He seemed to be referring to Abdul Ghani Baradar, who signed the withdrawal deal with the US. But he never headed the Taliban, and has been sidelined since the Taliban takeover.

The mention immediately prompted a wave of internet memes featuring "Abdul" with people named Abdul weighing in, and others asking "who is Abdul?"

Both contenders focused on the flawed deal with the Taliban. The truth is that the Trump team negotiated this exit plan; the Biden team hastily enacted it.

Trump said the deal was good because "we were getting out".

There were no good ways to go. But the departure turned into a disaster and all sides are to blame.

Harris represents uncertainty for Beijing

By Laura Bicker, China correspondent, Beijing

Kamala Harris was an unknown quantity to leaders here and she still is, even after the debate.

She has no track record on China and on the debate stage she simply repeated her line that the US, not China, would win the competition for the 21st Century.

The vice-president represents something China does not like - uncertainty.

That is why President Xi recently used a visit by US officials to call for “stability” between the two superpowers, perhaps a message to the current vice-president.

The prevailing view among Chinese academics is that she will not stray too far from President Biden’s slow and steady diplomatic approach.

But on the debate stage she went on the attack and accused Donald Trump of “selling American chips to China to help them improve and modernise their military”.

Donald Trump has made it clear he plans to impose 60% tariffs on Chinese goods. This will add to the tariffs he imposed as president which started a trade war in 2018. China retaliated, and numerous studies suggest this caused economic pain for both sides.

This is the last thing China wants right now as it is trying to manufacture and export goods to rescue its economy.

For Chinese leaders, this debate will have done little to assuage beliefs that Trump represents something else they don’t like - unpredictability.

But in truth, there is little hope here that US policy on China will change significantly, no matter who sits in the White House.

White House race keenly watched in Middle East

By Paul Adams, international correspondent, Jerusalem

The two candidates did not stray much from their previously stated positions last night, even if Trump did add, with characteristic hyperbole, that Israel wouldn't exist in two years if his opponent becomes president.

Here in the Middle East, the race for the White House is being keenly watched.

With the war in Gaza raging and a ceasefire deal still elusive, some of Benjamin Netanyahu's critics suspect that Israel's prime minister is deliberately stalling until after the election, in the hope that Trump will be more sympathetic to Israel than Harris.

There's a whiff of history perhaps being about to repeat itself.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan's campaign team was suspected of urging Iran not to release American hostages held in Tehran until after he had beaten President Jimmy Carter, saying Reagan would give Iran a better deal.

Could something similar be afoot now? Certainly Netanyahu's opponents believe he is now the chief obstacle to a ceasefire deal.

Harris has indicated that she might be tougher on Israel than Joe Biden, something Trump has seized on, saying last night that the vice-president "hates Israel".

Palestinians, deeply sceptical about Donald Trump but dismayed by the Biden administration's inability to stop the war in Gaza, are possibly inclined to see Harris as the lesser of two evils.

They've long since abandoned any notion of the US as an honest broker in the Middle East, but will have noticed that Harris, unlike Trump, says she's committed to Palestinian statehood.

Here is a Politico article written before the debate:

How the Trump-Harris debate tonight could shake up the 2024 race, according to political pros

Here's what the strategists say Trump and Harris need to do tonight.

The media center in the Pennsylvania Convention Center is quiet in the early morning leading up to the ABC News Presidential Debate in Philadelphia, on Sept. 10, 2024. | Jamie Kelter Davis for POLITICO

By **Lisa Kashinsky** and **Myah Ward**

09/10/2024 02:00 PM EDT

Donald Trump has to speak coherently and stay on message. And Kamala Harris, well, she has to do a lot of things.

Harris not only has to parry Trump — and avoid getting dragged into a name-calling contest if he goes there in tonight's debate. She has to present her most solidified picture of her candidacy yet to voters who are still getting to know Democrats' new standard-bearer with less than two months until Election Day.

Both candidates are coming into what may be their last major opportunity to shake up this still-close race well outside of their comfort zones. The former president has struggled to recalibrate against his new rival. The vice president has rarely had an unscripted moment since picking up her party's mantle from President Joe Biden. POLITICO reached out to some of the smartest strategists and power players in politics to ask them what the expectations are for Harris' and Trump's ABC-moderated matchup in Philadelphia — and what constitutes a win for each candidate.

Here are their responses, edited for length and clarity:

Tricia McLaughlin, Republican consultant who worked on Vivek Ramaswamy's presidential bid:

I'm watching to see if Trump can stay on message and if he can just talk about policy — namely the economy — and avoid any personal attacks. Let's not get into any of the gender and race stuff. Harris does best when she's talking about personal anecdotes, but she kinda flounders when it comes to policy. I think she's banking on Trump tripping himself up and she's going to want to avoid a lot of the Biden-Harris record, mainly the economy and immigration — that's the tug of war I'm going to be looking for.

That being said, I think the issue of abortion is going to be tougher when it's against Kamala Harris. Even just the image of a man versus a woman talking about this issue — it's obviously an area of vulnerability for Republicans; I have concerns.

Celinda Lake, president of Lake Research Partners and a Democratic pollster who worked with the Biden campaign:

The No. 1 thing I'll be looking for is how much Trump can control himself. Now, he did a very effective job of that in the Biden debate, and he was aided by the mics being off in between questions. But he just doesn't seem to be able to control himself when it comes to Harris.

Question No. 2: I think it will be interesting whether or not there is a massive gender gap, and I'm reminded of the [Geraldine] Ferraro-[George H.W.] Bush debate where women thought Ferraro had overwhelmingly won and men thought Bush had

overwhelmingly won. The perceptions of Trump and Harris have such a gender gap already.

Kristin Davison, Republican consultant, Axiom Strategies:

Harris prides herself on being an experienced, sharp prosecutor. It's part of her stump speech. So despite a low bar, she will need to live up to the picture she has painted — a fierce, albeit joyful, prosecutor. Americans are expecting a performance worthy of a Supreme Court argument — or at the very least, one that they would see on an episode of “The Practice” or “Law and Order.”

President Donald Trump, on the other hand, can benefit from media-induced low expectations. Since Harris became the nominee, her campaign has enjoyed a honeymoon period with the media, their base and donors. We've seen the gratuitous “Trump campaign in disarray” and “undisciplined Donald Trump” headlines. As a result, political pundits have lowered expectations, speculating Trump will go off script, go off message, or say something out of line. Simply refusing to take the bait can deliver a win.

2024 Elections

No hot mic moments: What else to know about the Harris v. Trump debate

By Emmy Martin | September 05, 2024 02:59 PM

Anthony Coley, former senior official in the Biden Justice Department:

Trump knows the debate stage well. He's comfortable there. And Vice President Harris goes into this debate the same way as she started the campaign, and that's as an underdog. I think her primary goal is to introduce herself to people who are just beginning to pay attention to the race. Who is she? What are her values? I also think she needs to be her authentic self while showing strength, being agile, while going on offense when the opportunity arises. Reminding people of the stakes of the election, of the chaos that Trump brings, of the uncertainty created by a second Trump presidency with even fewer checks to curb his worst instincts.

MOST READ

Charlie Gerow, Pennsylvania-based Republican strategist:

I'm going to be watching to see whether Kamala Harris can answer the myriad questions about her flopping on various positions, because it's going to be incumbent on President Trump to call her out on the fact there are so many.

There's a pretty high bar for President Trump, which is interesting, because the Democrats have tried to lower the bar for Kamala Harris and raise the bar for Trump simultaneously — they say he's a great debater and that he should do well, and I

expect he will. So this is a situation where Kamala Harris has to perform dramatically better than expectations.

Maria Cardona, Democratic strategist:

What the vice president has to watch out for is not getting baited into a back-and-forth on his ridiculous, slimy, xenophobic racist, misogynistic insults. I think she will be able to dodge those and bring it back to what she wants to communicate, how she wants to control the debate discussion. We already saw her do that in the interview with Dana Bash where she did not take the bait about one of Trump's insults about her turning Black. She needs to use that tactic here as well, and it will be tougher because it will be so much more tempting to look at him straight in the eye and answer his insults head on. And there may be some clear opportunities to do that once or twice, but she cannot spend the whole time of the debate doing that.

The other challenge for her will be how much and how deep she goes in fact checking. She has to devise a mechanism where she fact checks quickly and then she pivots to what she wants to say.

2024 Presidential Debates

It's a historic debate tonight. No one really wants to talk about it.

By Brakkton Booker | September 10, 2024 12:32 PM

Ryan Williams, Republican strategist and former aide to Mitt Romney:

[Harris has] really not faced much pressure so far in this campaign. She's never been in a room before with Trump — if she can deliver a strong performance and stand up to him she'll get another bump.

A win for Trump is to appear as presidential as Trump can be and clearly define her. He's going to have to tie her up on her blatant policy flip-flops and the failures of the Biden administration. She owns those — she may try to put a little daylight between her and Biden to show that she's her own person, but he needs to tie her to Biden.

Faiz Shakir, adviser to Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.):

The contrast with Trump on the economy is critical for late deciders. I think they need to see not only a policy fight with corporate power, but the strength and determination in the way you answer the questions.

A win would mean that, after the debate, higher percentages of people are more likely to trust Harris over Trump on the economy and are more optimistic about the future of the country under her leadership.

Mike Dennehy, New Hampshire-based GOP strategist who worked on John McCain's presidential bids:

Everyone is looking for Trump to contain himself. I'm looking for a repeat performance of his debate with Biden and to not be thrown off by the fact that she's a different candidate. He's got to stick to the exact same playbook.

We've all seen her debate with [then-Vice President Mike] Pence and she did a pretty good job trying to keep him off balance. And if she does that with Trump, I hope his reaction would be a little softer than he's used to.

Antjuan Seawright, South Carolina-based Democratic strategist:

She must answer the questions that are asked of her, but also respond to him when appropriate, particularly when the lies come, but not allow that to be the only part of the conversation that people remember. Because it's so easy to spend the time responding to Trump, but not driving the narrative or projecting what you want the people to know and remember about your agenda.

A win is no unforced errors. She has to really adopt a serious case of political nearsightedness and focus on the moment. I also think an important win for her would be to speak directly to the people on our street because that's where elections are won, and ignore whatever narratives are coming in or could be during or after the debate that come from K Street.

Amy Tarkanian, Republican strategist and former Nevada GOP chair who is not supporting Trump:

Trump needs to have good manners. He's his biggest downfall. This is his territory — he loves being on the stage. So I think he's going to do really well. But he's going to have to really mind his P's and Q's, especially since he's going up against a female. He didn't do very well with that against Hillary.

Leah Daughtry, Democratic operative:

I'll be watching to detect the audience to which each candidate has chosen to appeal. Are they seeking to solidify their base? Appeal to undecideds and persuadables? Or are they looking to pick off voters from the other team? That will tell me their thoughts about the state of the race. As for expectations, Trump has proven to be very predictable — we pretty much know what he's going to do and how he's going to act. And I expect cool-as-a-cucumber Harris to be fully present, using her experience and preparation to share the kind of information that will help voters understand the contrast of their choices.

Will the debate between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump matter?

Normally presidential match-ups hardly move the needle—but this is no ordinary year

Sep 7th 2024

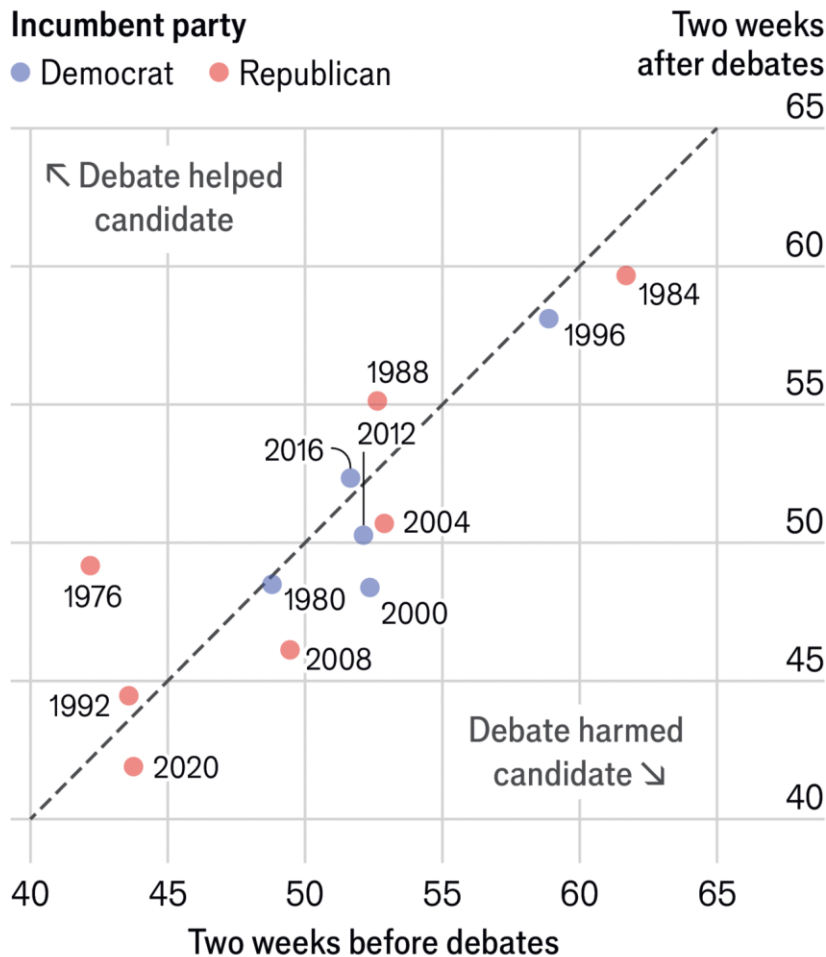
NO PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE has had as much impact on an election as that between Joe Biden and Donald Trump on June 27th. Mr Biden's performance was so

disastrous that his own party pressed him to drop out. Since Kamala Harris, the vice-president, replaced him as the Democrats' nominee the race has tightened. It is now a toss-up, according to [*The Economist's model*](#). On September 10th Ms Harris will face Mr Trump in a second presidential debate. How much difference will this one make?

It was not until 1960, when John Kennedy and Richard Nixon sparred on television, that two presidential candidates debated one another. Since then journalists have ascribed great importance to the events. Candidates are said to gain "momentum"; good performances are "game changers". Gaffes can dominate the political conversation: debating Jimmy Carter in 1976, President Gerald Ford claimed, ludicrously, that Poland was free of Soviet influence.

Debatable impact

United States, polling average* of incumbent party's candidate, 1976-2020, %



*Two-party vote share

Sources: "The timeline of elections: a comparative perspective" by W. Jennings and C. Wlezien, *American Journal of Political Science*, 2016; FiveThirtyEight; *The Economist*

Chart: [The Economist](#)

Political scientists have been sceptical about how much effect debates have. Robert Erikson of Columbia University and Christopher Wlezien of the University of Texas at Austin analysed presidential elections from 1960 to 2008. They found that polls taken before debates were very close to those taken a week after them. Further analysis by *The Economist* of data compiled by the same researchers suggests that debates also made little difference in 2012, or even 2016, when the first head-to-head between Hillary Clinton and Mr Trump attracted a record 84m viewers (see chart).

The debates in 2020 stood out—not because of their effect on the polls, but because they were little more than slanging matches. Mr Trump called Mr Biden stupid; Mr Biden dubbed his opponent a “clown” and asked, exasperated, “Will you shut up, man?” One study found it to be the most disrespectful presidential match-up ever.

In normal circumstances, it is unsurprising that debates rarely make a difference.

Those who tune in tend to be interested in politics already, and polling suggests that partisans are more likely to watch than independents. Many viewers will have already made up their minds. And in most cycles candidates have been campaigning for months by the time debates come around, either in primaries or from the White House. They are already well known to voters.

This election is different. Ms Harris became the Democratic Party’s champion very late in the race. She is already well-known to those who follow politics closely—not only from her four years as vice-president, but also from her time as a senator and her unsuccessful bid for the Democratic nomination in 2020. But many Americans are still getting to know her. Research suggests that voters gain the most from debates when they know less about the candidates.

So far, voters like what they see: immediately before the debate that caused Mr Biden to withdraw from the race, Ms Harris’s net favourability rating was -17 percentage points; it has since jumped to 1. Americans have already had a taste of her skill as a debater. She took on Mike Pence in the vice-presidential debate in 2020 and came out on top, according to polls at the time. And her career as a prosecutor has given her a steely resolve, which was on display in 2018 when, as a senator, she interrogated Brett Kavanaugh during his vetting for a seat on the Supreme Court. If Ms Harris can show the same skill against Mr Trump, she may win over more Americans during this debate. And in a tight race, that could be crucial. ■

If you ask me, there was no major breakthrough as Trump had achieved in late June in his debate against Biden. In that verbal contest, a presidency was destroyed in 10 minutes. This time, it was a waste of time. Nobody was any the wiser if Kamala is going to be as bad a president as she was the VP. She studiously avoided the tough questions; and if this was the standard by which she won, then the American voters are the real losers.

The other thing to be said that Trump is truly unpopular among the corporate media. He was fact checked by the ABC media team who hosted the event but Kamala got the easy and soft treatment. She could get away with not answering some of the tough questions especially the ones on the economy and the fact that she failed in her job controlling immigration as the border czar. So she lives to fight another day.

The fact of the matter is that we have two lousy candidates for the presidency. It would not matter if the world was in a better shape, but it is not. For one thing, the Biden White House created the inflationary economy. Interest rates are still very

high. If Kamala continues with the Biden policies, the world will be a much worse place than we have today.

Look at her CV. She is a Californian lawyer with only political experience. I would not want to test her on her understanding of economic policy. As one analyst put it, questions on those arcane matters are clearly beyond her. Which is why she is being kept from interviews and debates in which she has to express her views. But hiding does not make her any better qualified for the job. And while American immigration affects only Americans themselves, the obvious failure of the VP in a very well defined job means that we may have a useless person at the helm of the world's most powerful country. That cannot be good.

If anyone thinks that a president Harris can solve the crisis in Ukraine, or Gaza, or potential conflicts with Iran, or China over Taiwan, think again. Like on the economy, she has no experience. Everyone else on the other side, including Putin of Russia and Xi of China is far more experienced and smarter than she is, and if that is any comfort, it is what will keep the world safe. But American provocation on geopolitical issues cannot be a good backdrop for the world.

In this debate, Harris has chosen to look good rather than to be transparent and accountable. If you ask me, that is a tragic mistake. I think she will pay the price as the sixty days to the election roll on. The other thing that would not favour her is that it was so obvious the media was completely biased towards Trump. Most people would be turned off by this.

Of course, the unfortunate news is that the other candidate, Donald Trump, who has displayed remarkable qualities since he lost the 2020 election, is still remembered for his blunders. Think about it – who can have orchestrated a political comeback after he was bashed around with two impeachments, multiple lawsuits and one assassination attempt? Only men with courage and a sense of mission would persevere. If I were American, I will give the man another chance.

Yeong, Wai-Cheong, CFA

Fintech Entrepreneur, Money Manager and Blogger

Un-Influencer in a World full of Hubris

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