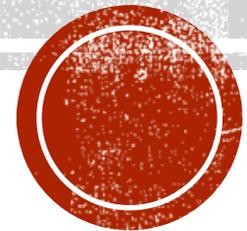


DEMYSTIFYING PSYCHOLOGY

DISCUSSION GROUP

2 SEPTEMBER 2020 PART B



PSYCHOLOGY OF DONALD TRUMP



- **Group discussion ideas**
- **Naomi Klein's research and commentary**
- **Psychology of Family Trump**
- **Who voted for trump .. And why?**
- **Some balance**

AGENDA



**VIDEO —
NAOMI KLEIN —
RESEARCHER &
COMMENTATOR**

- **Naomi Klein on How to Resist Trump's Shock Politics**
- **<https://youtu.be/RxhmVlxA-Yk>**
 - No mention of pandemic. Why not?
 - Describes a 4 Step resistance response to “shock politics”.
 - Predictions of political influence and legislative responses.
 - Parallels with Australia... ?
 - Use of and impact of “either/ or” options. Why not “both”?



FAMILY TRUMP

Mary Anne MacLeod 1912 - 2000



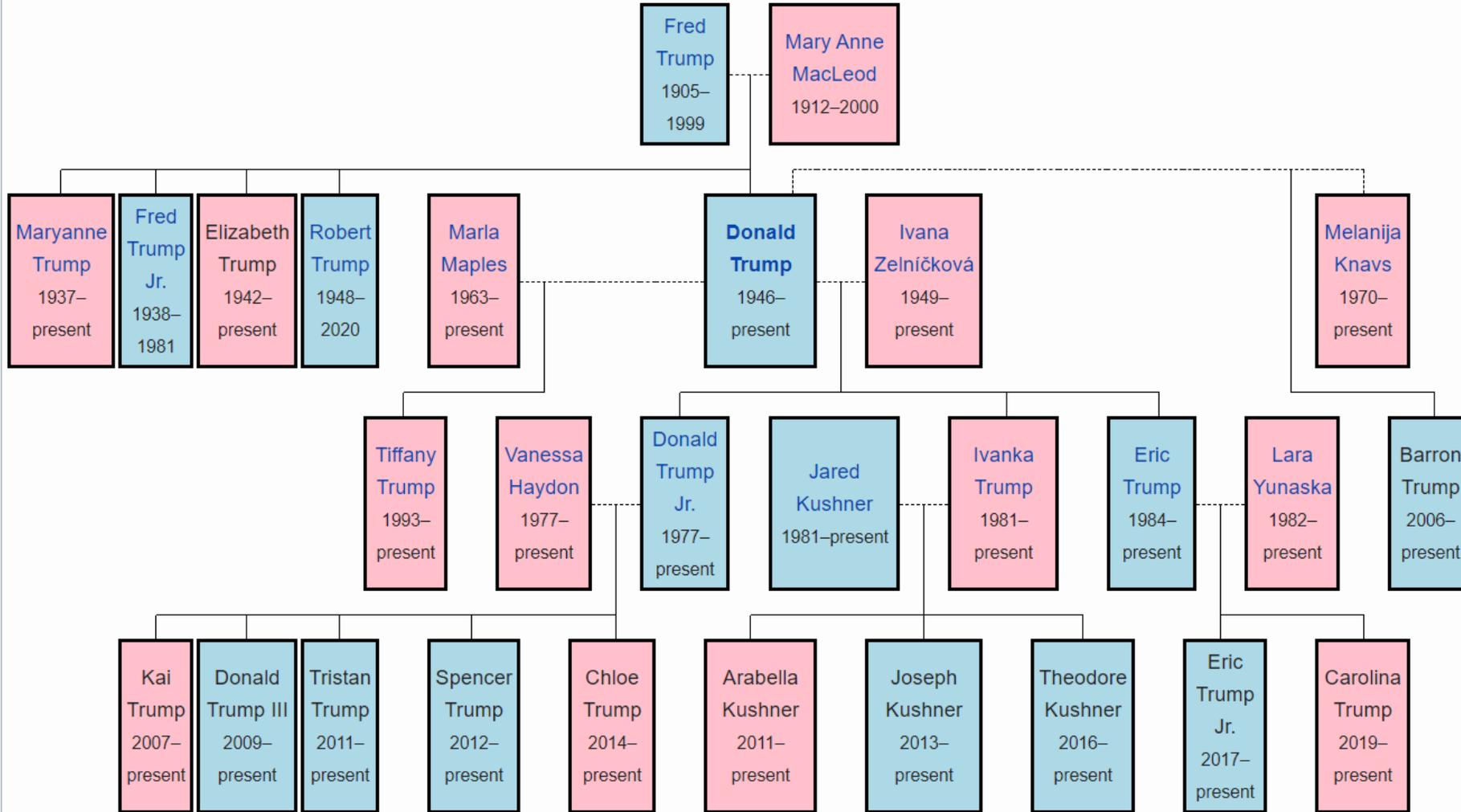
Fred Trump 1905 - 1999



V · T · E

Select family tree of the Trump family

[hide]



MARY ANNE MACLEOD 1912 - 2000



- Born in Tong, a small village near Stornoway, in the Western Isles of Scotland.
- Father fisherman Malcolm MacLeod and Mary MacLeod (née Smith).
- Age 17, she immigrated to the United States with \$50 (equivalent to \$772 in 2020), and moved in with a sister before starting work for 6 years as a maid and nanny in New York.
- Mary and Fred Trump met in New York and married in 1936, settling together in Queens.
- Mary became a U.S. citizen in 1942.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_of_Donald_Trump#:~:text=Donald%20Trump's%20paternal%20ancestry%20is,Trump%2C%20was%20born%20in%201869

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/sep/29/trump-on-the-couch-justin-frank>.



FRED TRUMP 1905 - 1999



- Born in New York.
- Described as successful real estate developer in New York City.
- Using their inheritance, Fred Trump and his mother Elizabeth founded E. Trump & Son by 1927.
- The company built and managed single-family houses in Queens, barracks and garden apartments for U.S. Navy personnel near major shipyards along the East Coast, and more than 27,000 apartments in New York City.
- Trump was investigated by a U.S. Senate committee for profiteering in 1954, and again by the State of New York in 1966.
- (Def.. “taking advantage of a situation in order to make a profit, usually by charging high prices for things people need.”. Source <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/profiteering>)



- Donald Trump idolizes his father, talks of him fondly and cites him as a constructive influence in his life.
- Fred accredited with teaching trump all the things he knows concerning the real-estate enterprise and helped him kickstart his personal profession.
- Fred described as a “fiercely bold man, who continually pushed his son to emerge in each environment as a ‘killer’ and a ‘king’.*
- “High-functioning sociopath”
- “Having a sociopath as a parent, especially if there is no one else around to mitigate the effects, all but guarantees severe disruption in how children understand themselves, regulate their emotions, and engage with the world.”#
- Suffocating and destructive influence: emotionally unavailable, cruel and controlling. ^



*<https://www.newsbreak.com/news/2052678222527/unfit-the-psychology-of-donald-trump-did-fred-trump-influence-his-son-to-become-who-he-is-today>

<http://unfetteredexpression.com/culture/the-dark-legacy-of-fred-trump/>

^<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/07/09/real-villain-mary-trumps-family-tell-all-isnt-donald-its-fred/>



- Often absent because of health problems
- Neglected children's needs.
- Rarely mentioned by Donald.
- Influenced Trumps famous hairdo.
- Donald Trump .. “did not feel contained or held by his mother or other caretakers. He didn't have a strong maternal force in his life.”
- Frequent absences may have contributed to Donald's lack of empathy.
- “... *some of his relationships with women are not just based on sex. It had to do with a real contempt for women's boundaries and autonomy*”
- *Trump manifests what Sigmund Freud identified as “repetition compulsion”, People unconsciously repeat inner conflicts that they've had that didn't get resolved when they were younger,*”



WHO VOTED FOR TRUMP .. AND WHY?



- Are trump votersdeplorable, unredeemable, racist, misogynistic, homophobic, Islamophobic and/or jingoistic and at best, ill-informed ?
- Many of them thought Trump had little or no chance of being elected, but voted for him anyway rather than vote for Clinton
- Offers 16 reasons
 - They were opposed to four to eight more years of what they saw as the progressive politics of Barack Obama as reflected by Hillary Clinton's swing further to the left in response to Bernie Sander's primary challenge.
 - Perception of weak border enforcement.
 - The unwillingness of the Obama administration to call radical Islamic terrorism by its name.
 - Objection to President Obama and Justice Department officials putting their fingers on the scales of justice when racial incidents were involved.

**JOSEPH B.
FILKO**

FEB 02, 2018

<https://www.dailypress.com/virginiagazette/opinion/va-vg-edit-filko-0203-story.html>



- Concern about the IRS discriminating against TEA Party and other conservative groups.
- Great concern about liberal judges and justices appointed to the federal judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court.
- Anxiety about the declining percentage of GNP dedicated to the military, and concern about reports of declining military readiness.
- Distress about the left-leaning political indoctrination, and suppression of free speech, running rampant on college campuses and in public schools.
- Resentment toward the condescension exhibited by Barack Obama when describing people in the heartland as clinging to their guns and Bibles and distrust of people unlike themselves.
- Hillary Clinton's use of the term "deplorables" was a deal breaker.



- Complete distrust of Hillary Clinton. Perceived her as a phony, with no acceptance of her explanations with respect to either Benghazi or the much-disputed emails.
- Concern about the national debt, believing that Clinton would only make the situation worse.
- Expecting Clinton to win, they wanted to minimize her margin of victory and thus be unable to claim a large political mandate.
- Perception of universal health care as a budget buster.
- General opposition to what they perceived as an ever-increasing size, scope and power of the federal government.
- Trump was seen as a successful businessman, and it was thought that he could run the administration in a business-like manner.



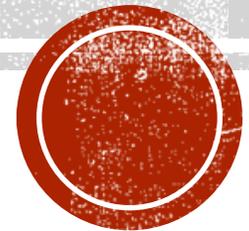
JOSEPH B. FILKO

Concludes

these people do not represent a basket of deplorables. For most of them, expecting him to lose, this was a protest vote. Many came from the professions, from the military or from government service. These are well-informed and patriotic Americans who were desperate for a change, even if it meant rolling the dice, in some cases against their better judgment.

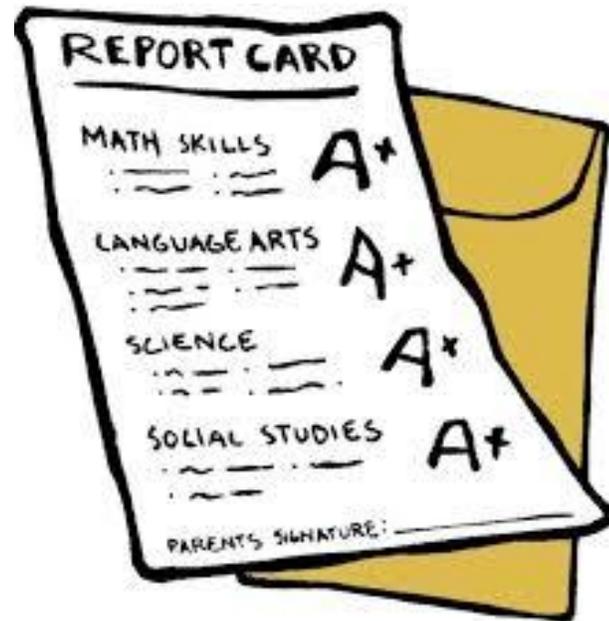


SOME BALANCE



US ECONOMY UNDER TRUMP: IS IT THE GREATEST IN HISTORY?

[HTTPS://WWW.BBC.COM/NEWS/WORLD-45827430](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-45827430)



Pre-Covid.
The devil is in the detail.

“It's true the economy has been doing well - but there have been periods when it was even stronger.”

Economic Growth

has generally been strong.

Stock Market

Dow reached record highs under his administration

Jobs and Wages

Rate was 3.6%. It was more than fifty years ago, in December 1969, when the unemployment rate was lower at 3.5%.

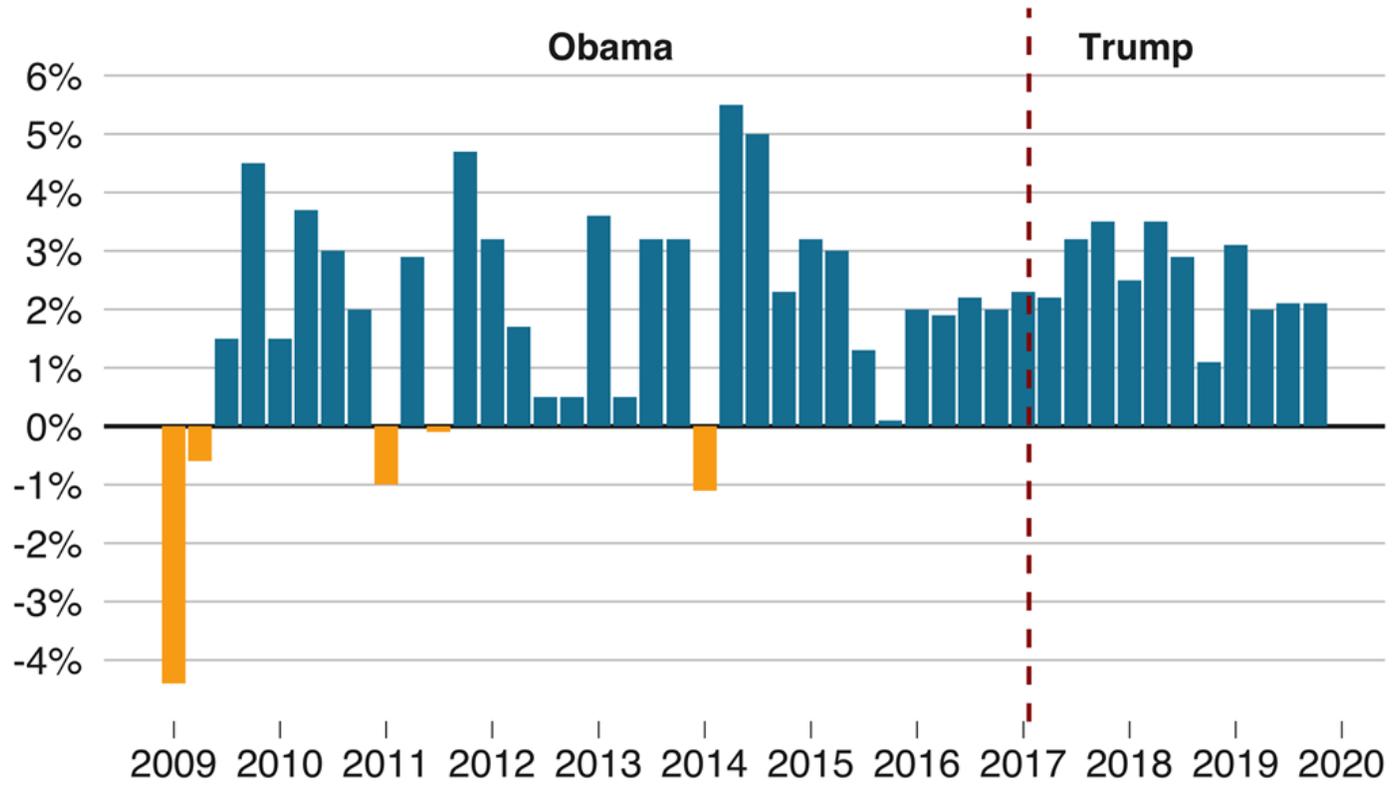
Wages (adjusted for Inflation)

Lower than the real wage increases of more than 2% that President Obama oversaw in 2015.



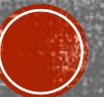
US economic growth

GDP, % change on previous quarter

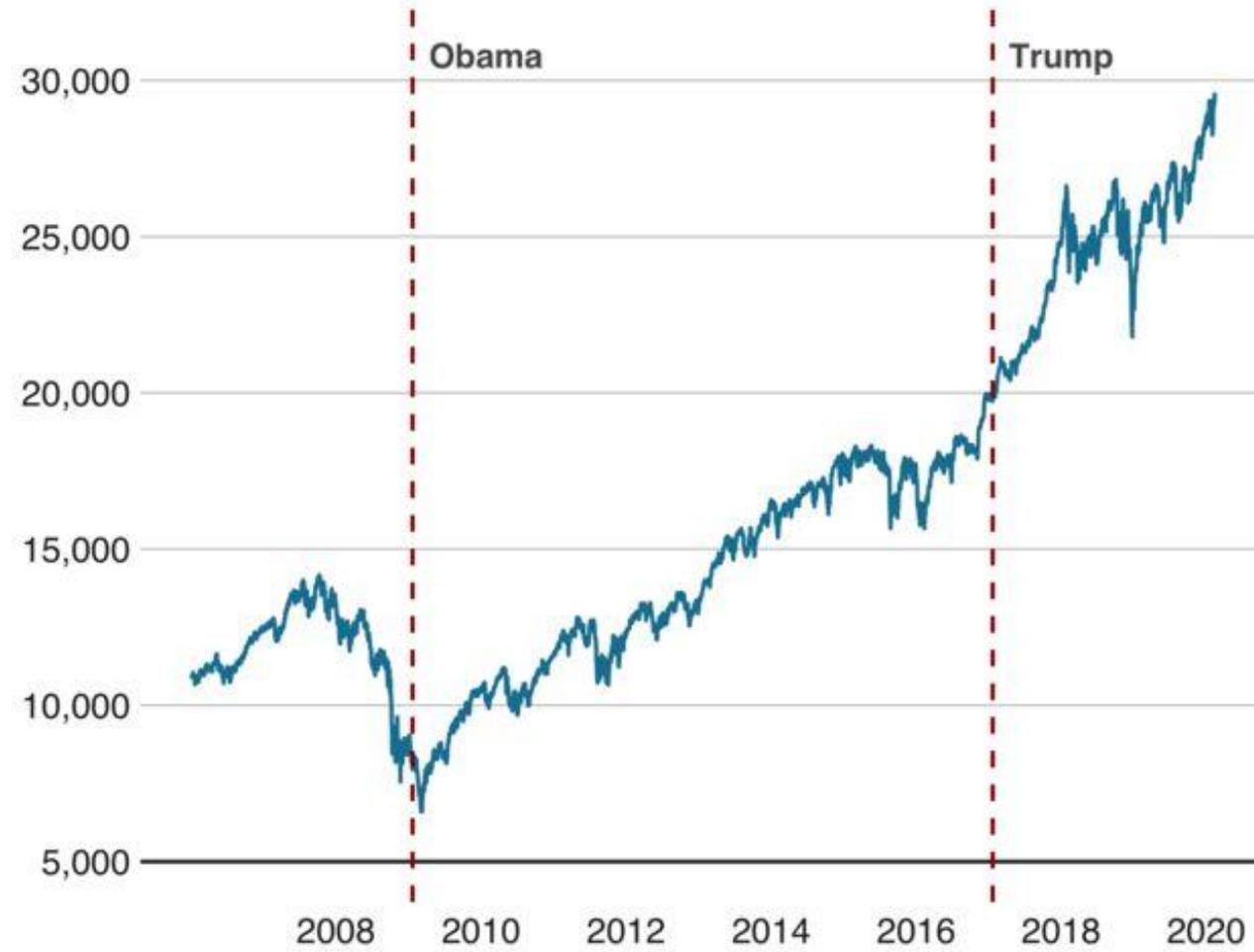


Note: Seasonally adjusted annual rate

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis



Dow Jones index

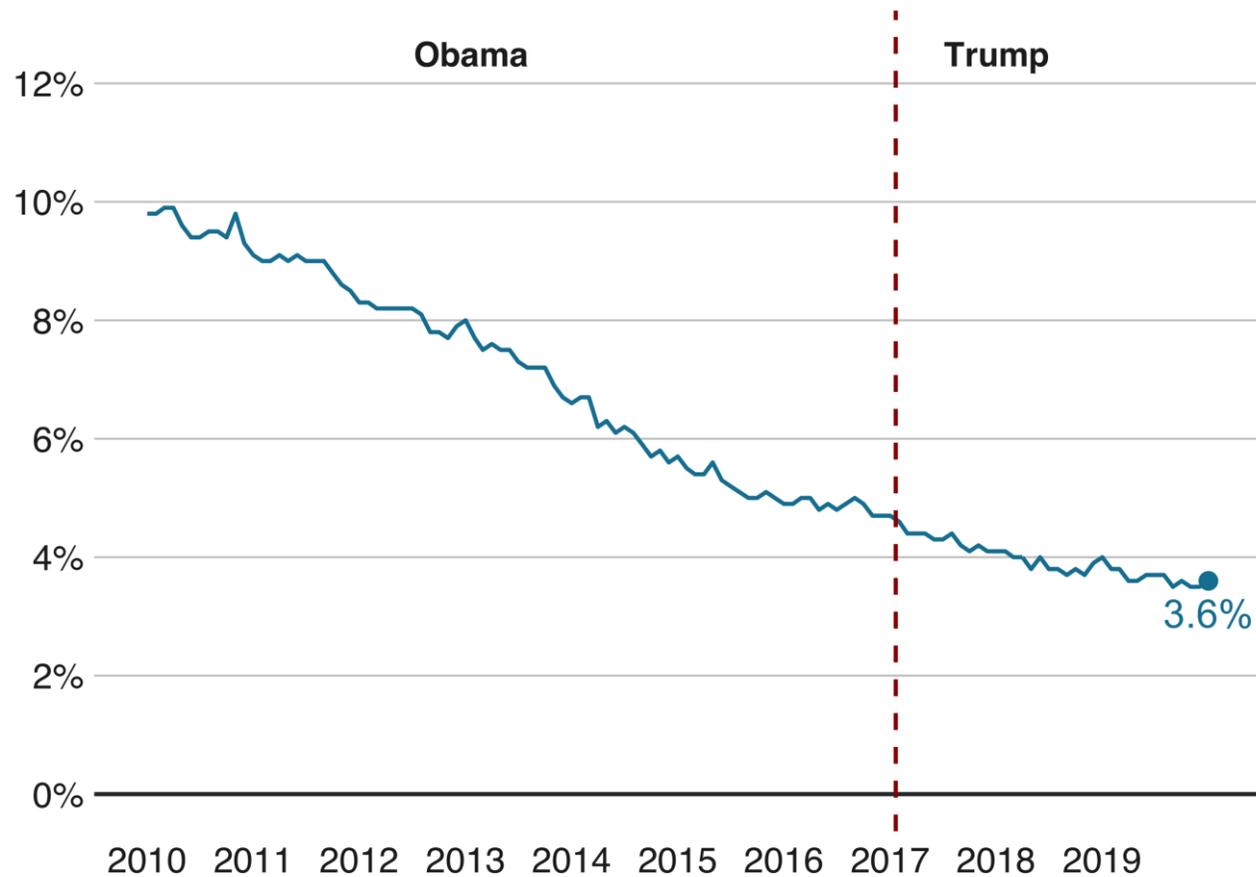


Source: Bloomberg

BBC

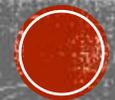
US unemployment rate

Percentage of US labour force not in work



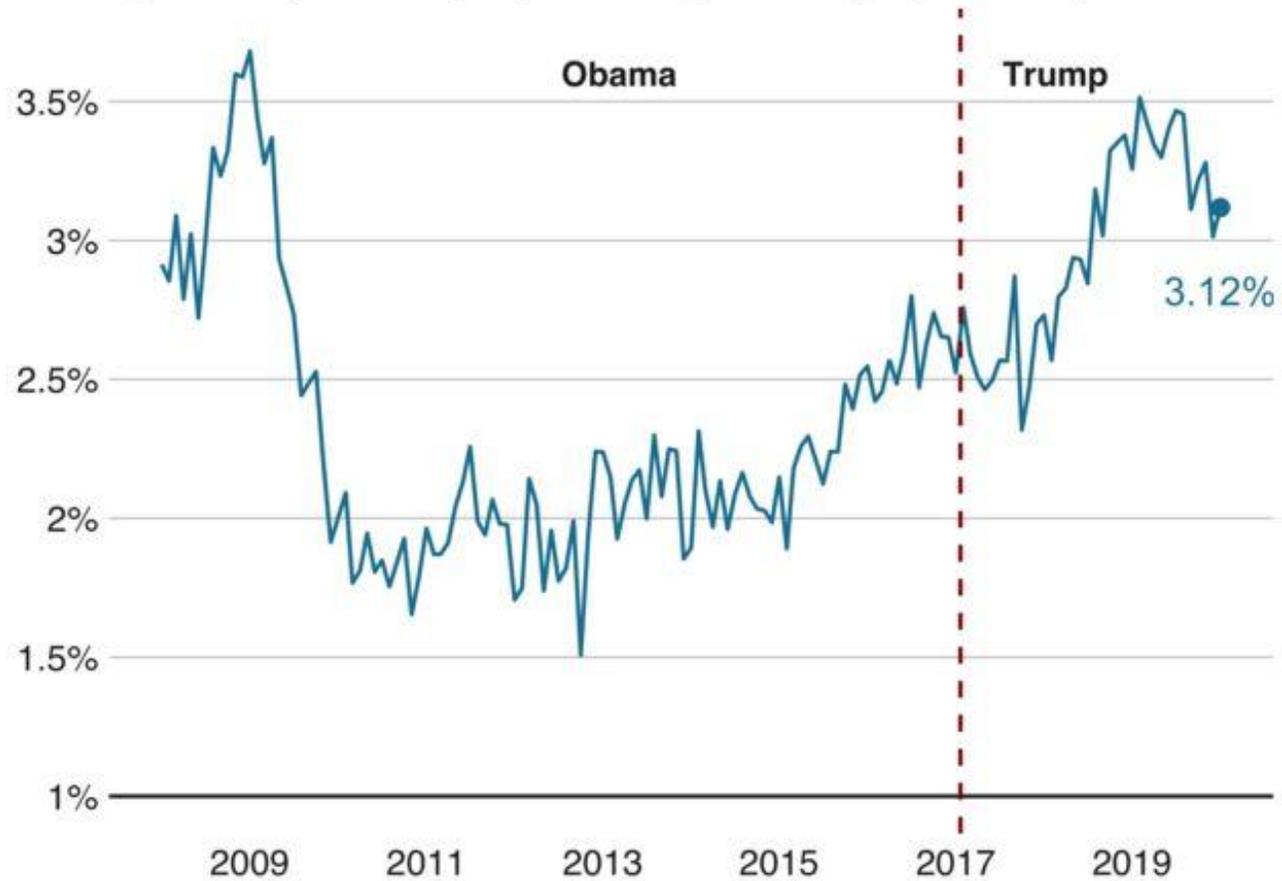
Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

BBC



US wages

Average hourly earnings, percentage change year-on-year

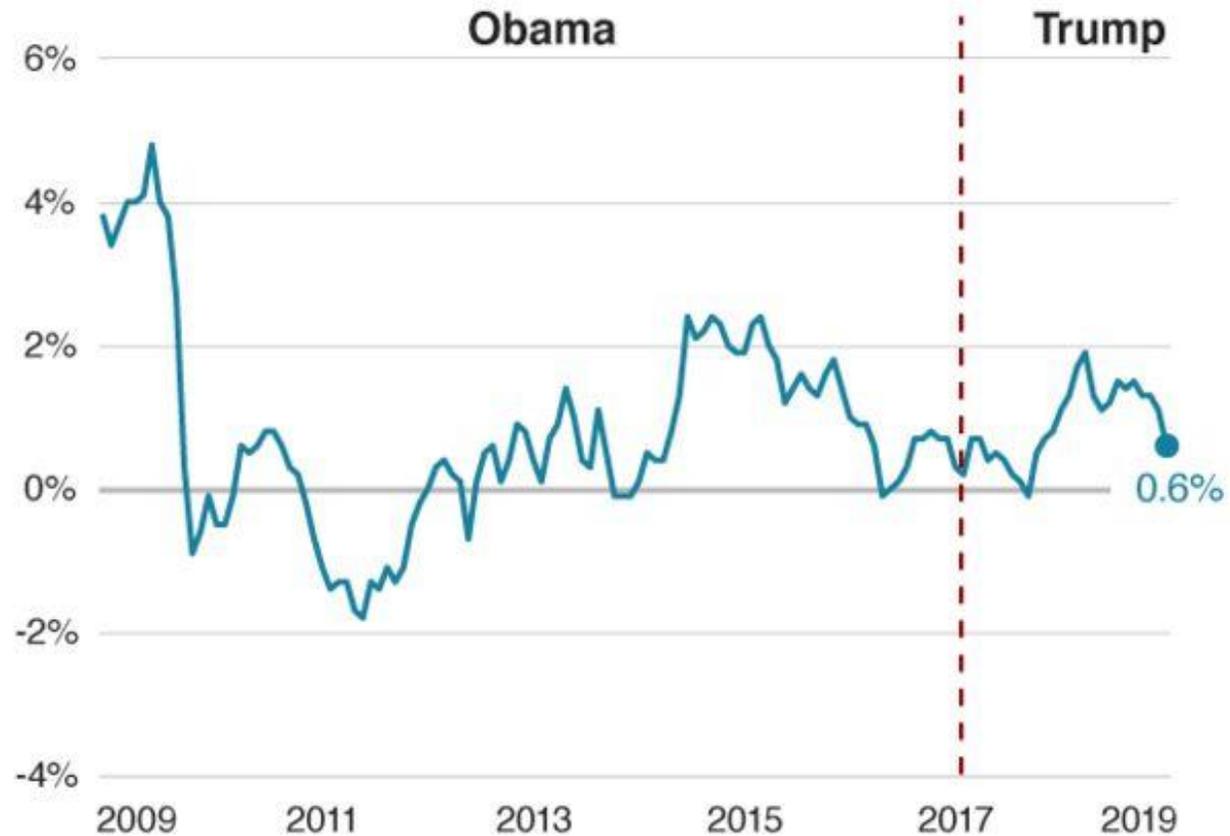


Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

BBC

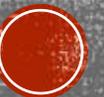
US wages adjusted for inflation

Average hourly earnings, percentage change year-on-year

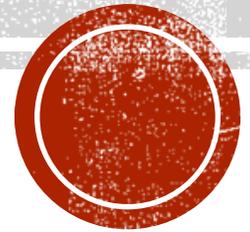


Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

BBC



MORE READING



2006

- **The Mind of Donald Trump**

- Narcissism, disagreeableness, grandiosity—a psychologist investigates how Trump’s extraordinary personality might shape his possible presidency.

- *Story by* [Dan P. McAdams](#)

- <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/06/the-mind-of-donald-trump/480771/>



2020

WHY IS THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY OF
EXTREME PSYCHOLOGICAL INTEREST

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/au/basics/president-donald-trump>

