



Written by [Paul Dragu](#) on August 6, 2024

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Who Is J.D. Vance?

James David Vance believes the matrix is real. And he believes he's been "red-pilled."

"Once you see the way that knowledge is transmitted, once you see the way that public policy works in this country, it's very hard to unsee it," Senator J.D. Vance (R-Ohio) said during his keynote address in November 2021 at the second National Conservatism Conference. He reminded the audience that Neo, the hero played by actor Keanu Reeves in the popular movie *The Matrix*, was "red-pilled" by learning about the "fundamental corruption that laid at the heart of the society that he lived in." Vance's own red-pilling, however, has taught him that "much of what drives truth and knowledge is fundamentally determined by the universities," which, he added, pursue not truth and knowledge but lies and deceit. In essence, public policy and public sentiment are shaped by lies and propaganda that originate from universities.



Vance was running for one of Ohio's U.S. Senate seats when he said this. He won that race. And now, he might end up the vice president of the United States of America. Donald Trump announced Vance, the author of *Hillbilly Elegy*, as his running mate at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 15, 2024, just two days after he survived an assassination attempt in Butler, Pennsylvania. According to reports, Trump picked Vance over finalists Senator Marco Rubio (Fla.) and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, after being swayed, in part, by his son, Don Jr.; X owner and Tesla chief Elon Musk; and Tucker Carlson, one of the most influential commentators in conservative politics. Carlson has publicly said a major reason he advocated for Vance is because some of the vilest people opposed him. Reports say Carlson's former boss at Fox, Rupert Murdoch, was one of many voices urging Trump not to select Vance.

Interestingly, Vance was once a vocal never-Trumper. He called his potential boss "America's Hitler," "reprehensible," and "cultural heroin." But now he says he's seen the light. "I was wrong about Donald Trump," he told Fox's Bret Baier. What changed? "I didn't think he was going to be a good president. He was a great president." Vance has said that had he been vice president on January 6, 2021, he would not have certified the election results.

Vance is certainly not a typical VP candidate. His selection goes beyond who's next in line after Trump. It goes beyond positioning him as a future presidential candidate. Vance, many have observed, may very



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well be the man to carry the MAGA mantle after Trump. Since that is likely the case, *The New American* thought it especially vital to examine him.

For starters, Vance has no ties to the globalist policy factory, the Council on Foreign Relations. He has no ties to the World Economic Forum. But he does have connections to certain Silicon Valley tech titans who've played a significant role in building the current surveillance state. We'll look at that shortly.

The New American magazine publishes its own Freedom Index, which gauges how well or badly a legislator adheres to the U.S. Constitution. Every legislator has a freedom score, and for the most part, a dismal one. Ohioans elected Vance to the Senate in 2022, so his record is brief. Nevertheless, his cumulative score of 86 percent is nothing to sneeze at. Only six other senators — Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), Rand Paul (R-Ky.), Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.), and Mike Lee (R-Utah) — have Freedom Index scores for the entire 118th Congress that are equal to or greater than Vance's. That's good company.

As a senator, Vance voted to count only American citizens in the U.S. Census. He voted to stop the U.S. government from obtaining information on Americans collected under Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. He voted to reverse a Federal Highway Administration rule that requires state transportation agencies to set greenhouse-gas-emissions reduction targets. He voted to prohibit the federal government from labeling a U.S. citizen's speech as "disinformation or misinformation." He voted to audit the Federal Reserve. He voted against mask and vaccine mandates, against the ATF's pistol-brace rule, against the EPA's truck-emissions rule, against abortion allowances for VA workers, and against ESG considerations in retirement plans.

Vance's voting record, however, includes a vote against an amendment to reduce funding of the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act (H.R. 6363) by 15 percent; a vote for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, or the "Minibus"; and a vote to increase funding for the U.S. Fire Administration by 24 percent. The Constitution does not authorize any federal spending for firefighting. A vote against spending cuts usually results in a demerit in *TNA's* Freedom Index.

Let's look at what Vance believes.

MAGA man: J.D. Vance was once a very vocal critic of Donald Trump, but he says he changed his mind after seeing Trump's presidency. He now claims to be a staunch supporter of Trump and the MAGA movement. (AP Images)



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Immigration

While it has been a concern for decades, immigration took center stage after the Biden Regime assumed power and flung open the southern border, creating the most disastrous deluge of migrants in the history of America.

During an interview with *The European Conservative*, published February 22, 2024, Vance pointed out the effect of mass migration while taking a shot at one of the most revered figures in conservatism. He said, “I think Reagan was a good president. But I don’t have nearly the hagiographic response to Reagan as most of my older conservative colleagues. For example, I think his immigration policies were a disaster. You can blame the fact that California is now a blue state on Ronald Reagan’s immigration policies, like, let’s not pretend that he was perfect at politics.” Vance is likely referring to Reagan’s disastrous mass-amnesty law.

He has also publicly pointed out that mass migration strains local resources, including hospital and school services. He’s said that open borders lower wages for American citizens, especially the ones living in the type of poor Midwest towns he grew up in. And he pointed out that open borders flood those same working towns with lethal drugs such as fentanyl, which has snuffed out the lives of thousands of Americans.

For Vance, open borders also worsen an already-existing housing crisis. “We cannot as a country absorb 10 million people and still provide high quality housing to the rest of our citizens. The math doesn’t work, the numbers don’t make sense. The increase in housing prices and rents is clear for all to see,” he said on May 2, 2023, during a Senate subcommittee hearing on rural housing legislation. He added, “We live in a world of limited resources and do these resources go, especially in world of sky-high deficits, to American citizens or elsewhere?... I really think that we need to provide high-quality housing to our rural people, our urban people, to everyone in between. It really destroys the political will for [federal housing programs] when they’re extended to people who, in some cases, are only here for having broken our laws.” He then urged compassion not just for illegals, but also for American citizens. Notice, though, how this stance also seems to assume that federal housing welfare, if directed at American citizens, is legitimate and beneficial.

On a related note, in May of this year, Vance led a probe into Joe Biden’s Department of Justice for what



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he alleges is favoritism to foreign workers over American citizens in employment discrimination cases. According to Breitbart, “Vance, Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), and Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) suggest that the department has become increasingly laser-focused on employment discrimination cases where foreign workers are the alleged victims.”

Advocates of immigration reduction are thrilled with Vance. James Massa, CEO of NumbersUSA, which has given Vance an A rating, said, “Vance has emerged as a leading voice in the Senate in favor of genuine immigration reform.” Massa also noted,

[Vance] dependably backs effective border security and interior enforcement policies, from parole and asylum reform to national E-Verify. Vance is an original cosponsor of S. 2824, the Senate companion bill to H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, which passed the House in May 2023 and would have ended the border crisis. He voted against the Senate immigration deal endorsed by President Biden, which would have mandated illegal immigration and raised legal immigration.... Senator Vance understands that immigration policy must no longer be determined by special interests in Washington, D.C. or big business seeking cheap labor at the expense of American workers, but instead designed in the interest of the American people at large.

Foreign Policy

Vance has called neoconservative foreign policy “strategically and morally stupid.” He has mocked empty neocon jargon about spreading “democracy” around the world as “preposterous.” He said American foreign policy has been a “failure” over the last 40 years and called U.S. military campaigns in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and Lebanon “disasters.” He’s even taken a shot at a long-standing neocon and globalist figure. “Sen. Mitch McConnell was elected literally the year that I was born. And Mitch McConnell is extremely confident about nearly every single foreign policy view that he holds despite the fact that ... nearly every foreign policy view he’s held has actually been wrong.”

Vance’s voting record echoes his foreign-policy rhetoric. *TNA’s* Freedom Index reminds us that Vance voted against the \$95 billion package for Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. He also voted to remove U.S. armed forces from Syria, as well as from Niger.

Vance has been especially vocal about U.S. involvement in Ukraine. He has criticized the Biden Regime for perpetuating the war without concern over the financial toll on Americans or cost to the Ukrainian population. “I certainly admire the Ukrainians who are fighting against Russia, but I do not think it is in America’s interest to continue to fund effectively a never-ending war in Ukraine,” he said while speaking at a conference hosted by the Quincy Institute and *The American Conservative* on May 23, 2024. He has criticized Republican leaders for diverting funding to Ukraine at the expense of securing the southern border: “We supported a negotiation to bring common sense border security to this country. We did not agree to a border fig leaf to send another \$61 billion to Ukraine.” He has also accurately observed that American intervention in Eastern Europe has brought Russia and China closer, analysis echoed by the globalist think tank Council on Foreign Relations in the May/June 2024 edition of its magazine, *Foreign Affairs*: “China, for its part, has become Russia’s most important lifeline. Beijing has ramped up its purchase of Russian oil and gas, putting millions of dollars into Moscow’s coffers.”



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End the proxy war: While certainly no fan of Putin or Russia's actions in Ukraine, Vance is opposed to further U.S. involvement in the conflict. He believes the money should be spent securing our own border. Shown here are Ukrainian soldiers loading an American M777 howitzer. (AP Images)

Regarding Europe, Vance believes countries there should shoulder more responsibility for military defense, especially weapons production. He believes it's time the Europeans lessen their dependence on the United States for their security.

As far as Israel goes, he seems to take a softer tone. During an interview with CNN in May, he said, "I think that our attitude vis-à-vis the Israelis should be, look, we're not good at micromanaging Middle Eastern wars, the Israelis are our allies, let them prosecute this war the way they see fit." He's said there should be a combining of the Abraham Accord approach with the defeat of Hamas that achieves a condition where Israel and the Sunni nation can play a regional counterweight to Iran. He believes the best scenario is one in which Israel and Sunni Muslims police their own region, allowing the United States to focus less on the Middle East and more on East Asia.

Regarding China, Vance believes America created a monster. "China, based on and because of the stupidity of Washington leaders over the past generation, is now arguably the most powerful industrial economy in the world," he has said. "We allowed China to build its middle class off the backs of the American middle class. We actually promoted the creation of a Chinese super industrial economy. And the crazy thing is — the free traders never acknowledge this point in 2024 — when we were making the arguments in the '70s and the '80s that we should build China's industrial economy, we were doing it explicitly with the knowledge that it would harm America's middle class."

For Vance, talk of China usually comes with a reminder that America needs to ramp up manufacturing at home. "If we are not able to be self-reliant, if we can't manufacture our own pharmaceuticals, our own munitions, the components that Americans rely on for their everyday lives, then we are never going to be able to build the kind of middle class that we want in this country." He adds, "I don't want to go to war with China, I want to make more of our own stuff.... As the father of three young children, I really don't want to go to war with a country that makes all of our antibiotics."

For Vance, the most important component of foreign-policy power starts at home. "If the U.S. has in-house industry might, it's going to make her enemies less likely to start conflicts."



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Peter Thiel and Big Tech

A major concern among patriots regarding Vance centers on his connection to tech tycoon Peter Thiel, whom Vance met when he was a student at Yale Law School. Vance worked for Thiel's investment firm, Mithril Capital, for two years after leaving Yale. Thiel, who pitched Vance as VP to Trump, poured \$15 million into Vance's successful 2022 Senate campaign.

Investigative reporter Whitney Webb believes Vance's Thiel and Big Tech connections are deeply unsettling. After his time at Mithril Capital, Vance joined the tech venture-capital investment firm Revolution Ventures, which attracted investors such as Amazon's Jeff Bezos and the Walton family of WalMart, "who boast long-standing deep ties to the Clinton family." Webb adds, "Vance later launched his own venture-capital firm Narya Capital in 2020, which was heavily funded by Thiel as well as former Google CEO Eric Schmidt. Schmidt, a major Democrat donor, has been the guiding hand behind the Biden administration's science and technology policy and has dominated the development of the AI policies of the US military and intelligence communities." After leaving PayPal, which he co-founded in 1998, Thiel created Palantir, "the engine on which the surveillance state runs."

But those who believe Vance's Thiel connection is unequivocally worrisome should consider that Thiel also supported Donald Trump, liberty icon Ron Paul, and Harriet Hageman, the Wyoming congresswoman who unseated Liz Cheney (Hageman's Freedom Index score, by the way, is an impressive 93 percent). Thiel also invested in the video-sharing platform Rumble, which has provided an outlet for thousands of people with dissident views not allowed on YouTube.

Con-Con

Vance is also said to be supportive of an Article V convention (Con-Con) to amend the Constitution. At least that's what Convention of States (COS), the primary organization working to bring about a convention, says: "In the past, Vance expressed his support for an Article V convention in a Convention of States candidate survey. He stated that he would support and vote for the Convention of States Project's application for an Article V convention and that he believes it is appropriate for state legislators to use their authority in Article V of the U.S. Constitution to propose constitutional amendments through a state-led convention."

But COS' celebration may not be wholly genuine, as there appears to be no record of Vance supporting a Con-Con.

If the 2024 presidential election will be conducted with any semblance of legitimacy, the Trump-Vance ticket will almost certainly triumph. But is Vance truly an America First vice-presidential candidate? Is he truly a threat to the oligarch class? Is he truly red-pilled?

There is only so much that can be gleaned from rhetoric and a short voting record. In the end, the proof will be in the pudding.



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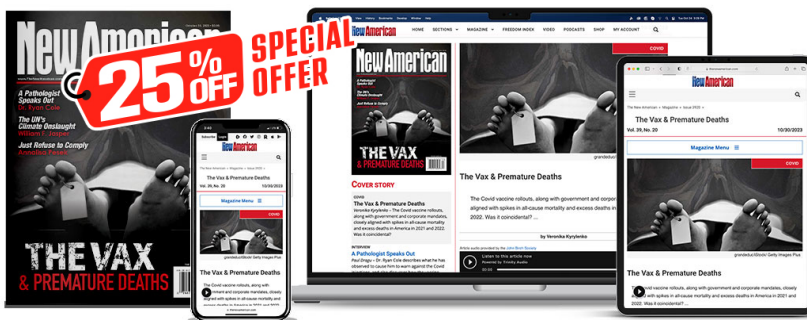
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