

# REFLECTIONS ON THE HARRIS v TRUMP DEBATE FOR POTUS 2024

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### INTRODUCTION

Harris came across as Presidential whereas Trump assumed Biden's mantle of the angry old man. If these perceptions hold until election day, Trump has little chance of winning in **HE's** opinion.

### POLICIES

Harris presented herself well in her appeal to middle-America although short on specific policies. Trump pushed immigration control to the point of exhaustion and risks becoming a one-issue candidate. He should have praised the US military capability (under proper leadership) unreservedly. Specifically he should have contrasted the Bush (Republican) success in taking down Saddam Hussein in Iraq with the Biden (Democratic) failure in Afghanistan. He could also threaten Iran with the Iraq outcome if the former becomes too belligerent. Trump has already demonstrated unqualified support for Israel. He could also outline policies to restore US manufacturing supremacy based on inexpensive and abundant energy – in particular nuclear power where the US has leading technology. Specific initiatives in many areas need to be outlined and discussed even if unpopular with some voters. For her part, Harris needs to be careful in labelling Trump's tariffs as sales taxes since the Biden administration has also advocated this option. Her emphasis on families is laudable, vote-enhancing and Trump-repellent.

### UKRAINE

Neither Harris nor Trump want a wider war in Ukraine in the lead-up to the election but this could be thrust upon them. No doubt both candidates have thought this through and have policies in place to handle such an outcome. There does seem room for more involvement by other countries, but in particular the so-called Weimar triangle of Germany, France and Poland. Trump seems the better choice to engineer this outcome, so Harris should state her position unequivocally.

### CHINA

China's economic problems need addressing and fast. Growth needs to return to previous levels before she can factor into the election, although always in the background.

### CONCLUSIONS

If the US economy continues on its present path with the Fed making the right decisions and Harris making no major missteps, she seems destined to be the first women President of the USA. Trump could still win with imaginative policies apart from immigration. Currently, **HE** has the race at probabilities of 47/53 for Harris as President.