

Values Driven Democracy

How US Foreign Policy can Shape the 2024 Global Election Results

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Technological advancements have had profound effects on how individuals and states relate. Today, the world is considered a global village, in that events taking place in one region of the world can be felt in other areas. One aspect that has been influenced by this interconnectedness is the political scene. The dynamics of global politics are increasingly swayed by interactions between different nations, organizations, and certain principles of multilateralism. With this, the need to understand how the 2024 US elections will shape global politics cannot be ignored. This paper discusses how the Foreign Policy of the US will shape the 2024 global election results.

### **Diplomatic Relations**

Diplomatic relations considerably contribute to determining results of global elections, as they shape the foreigners' opinions about leaders and political parties among other things. The elections will attract huge donations, contributions, and support, both from within and outside the US. The support of the external government is inevitable motivation, either in an explicit or implicit case, particularly to the United States (Haas, 2023). A move by the US big-wigs to publicly endorse their preferred presidential candidates will improve a political figure's public standing or party's approvals. This way, the foreign policy of the US will shape various results.

The US elections will contribute to international credibility. Provided positive diplomatic links are established with Washington, a foreign leader's or a party's international credibility will be boosted. Regions that are pro America, such as European countries, will reap from this as candidates with strong ties with US will have head start. This is especially vital in countries where the foreign policy, and relations with other sovereign states are essential issues during elections.

The elections will provide a good chance for establishing and strengthening trade and economic relations. Economic interests are common across diplomatic relations (Resnick,

2023). A positive relationship with the US may result in faster economic growth because of trade agreements, foreign aid or even increase number of people who would be interested to invest. Political parties who are regarded as being efficient in perceptions to govern the relationship status between US and overseas countries will have a buttressed supporter base among those targeted with promoting economic growth indicated upon their support of peaceful leadership hence democratization.

Security and Defense Cooperation is another sector that will be shaped by the forthcoming elections. Diplomatic relations with the US is a significant factor in electoral politics for countries that depend on US' guarantees or cooperation over defense. Parties and candidates associated with maintaining strong linkages to the US on issues of security will, no doubt, have backing from voters who are sensitive about national defense and stability (Lader, 2023). On the other hand, critics of issues in foreign relations may not necessarily be seen as a weakness to leadership but doubt about protection for national security.

Diplomacy, national image and soft power can also be shaped by diplomatic relations. Close relations with the US would causally increase popularity of leaders or parties among voters who place high value on positive image abroad. On the other hand, unsettled diplomatic disputes or contention between parties and US could damage their image hence reduction of electoral support.

The US often acts independently to bring peace in unstable areas. Leaders and/or parties that are successful in their diplomatic endeavors that were aided by the US improve their popularity among voters that are inspired with ideas of peace. .

Cultural and educational exchanges with the US tend to be shaped by the US foreign policy as they tend to be facilitated by diplomatic relations; these exchanges mold the public attitudes (Akande, 2023). The positive contact with the US cultural or educational institutions has the potential to bring about liking towards leaders and parties that are seen to be advancing international cooperation, thus openness.

In all, diplomatic relations may have a profound effect on world election outcomes. Political leaders and political parties tend to use diplomatic triumphs, as well as mitigate the perceived threats emanating from a large number of bilateral ties.

### **Economic Sanctions and Trade Policies**

Economic sanctions and trade policies are strong instruments in foreign policy which have the ability to alter voting patterns around the world through their impact on economic conditions, popular perception as well as modification of political situation. Here's how these mechanisms can affect electoral outcomes.

Economic sanctions imposed by the US have ripple effect of destabilizing economies and weakening incumbent governments, causing voter discontent. Declining economies resulting from sanctions can lead to dissatisfaction among citizens in terms of ruling parties or leaders, putting them in precarious positions and subjecting them to more scrutiny (Illiyun et al., 2024). Moreover, if there exist friendly trade policies or economic relief packages from a regional block like Africa to work in symphony with national blocks, development has a positive impact on incumbent governments, giving them an upper hand.

Trade policies affect employment generation, industries and standards of living. Protectionist policies or trade barriers by the US can dysfunction with stumbling of international trades and allied industries may suffer in exporting nations (Akande, 2023). It follows that unenthusiastic voters who may have lost jobs or experienced economic recesses will protest at the polling stations, and this may as well lead to election swings.

International alliances and diplomatic relations will also shape the outcomes of elections. Not only are diplomatic ties affected by economic sanctions and trade policies, but also the consequential alliances. Global leaders that have a positive rapport and are in good books with the US stand a better chance to triumph over their adversaries.

Economic sanctions and trade policies have repercussion over their targeted nations and impact the global economic interdependence. Changes in the supply chain and trade through sanctions all over the world impact economies of other countries and influence public opinion as well as electoral outcomes (Haas, 2023). Politicians and alliances that position themselves as pro-American will no doubt have an upper hand over their counterparts. The tough economic conditions world over have increased the cost of living. Moreover, most electorates tend to put emphasis on the issues that directly affect them before making decisions. This being the case, such electorates will weigh the relationships between the candidates and fiscal policies of the US.

Economic sanctions and trade policies have a large impact on the national elections of most countries by virtue of influencing the economy and public opinion about leadership in international relations (Lamb, 2023). It is partly due to these elements of economic complexity that competent leaders and political parties must respond actively in order for them to win elections.

## **Military Intervention and Security Alliances**

Among the crucial parts of the US's international policy are military intervention and security alliances, which may have a tremendous impact on global election results. As a superpower, the US has sophisticated security apparatus compared to other countries globally. Such advancement puts the US in position of vantage as they oversee global security. Moreover, this ensures that the US has great influence globally on matters security (Tama, 2023). The policies that are implemented by the US, thus, play a big role in determining the electoral waves in the 2024 global elections.

Military intervention and security alliances are usually presented in terms of the national level issue entailing national defense. The behaviors of the US includes military interventions and security alliances that determine the dynamics on how threat perceptions are viewed as well government response efficacy. Leaders credited with implementing the nation's national security interests will have a head start, while those who failed or faltered in military operations promises face tough tasks to convince the electorates.

Public opinion on foreign policy plays a significant role in shaping the outcomes of the 2024 global elections. Military occupations and security alliances become a topic of public debate, causing tension among people. In regards to the preceding actions, voters can evaluate the value of such foreign policies based on the perceived success achievement or compliance with international law and compliance to national interests (Keithly, 2023). Decisions taken on foreign policy, with justification or consequences of military interventions can coincide the elections result— some voters base their preferences on certain aspects, hence decisions to reward candidates affiliated to success.

The US has historically forged security alliances such as NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) or bilateral defense agreements, which help define international relations as well as third-party issues globally (Lader, 2023). Engagement in such cooperation tends to indicate the willingness to apply collective security and solidarity with allies. Leaders seeking to preserve or enhance security alliances have a good chance of receiving support on the part of voters who esteem collaboration with partners and multilateral addressing threats.

In addition to the above, militarism is sometimes necessary because it promotes humanitarian actions to prevent atrocities and promote democracy and human rights. Leaders that support humanitarian interventions are well positioned to appeal for the moral values and global sense for voters. However, arguments about the legitimacy and effectiveness of such interventions can create fault lines within electorates, producing vicissitudes in election results.

Military interventions and security alliances are very costly to implement, rendering a change in budgetary priorities as well as government spending. By considering what voters may prioritize spending their money on, voters will often look at the investment in defense spending against funding for healthcare or education systems as well wasteful infrastructure projects (Resnick, 2023). Defence Budget badinage and the alignment of military investments to serve national interests as imposed by leaders, may receive popular mandates.

Military intervention and security alliances are critically significant elements of the US foreign policy that to some extent overlap with considerations pertaining to national interest, international relations problems as well as domestic governance. Leadership dealing with such

issues often have international ramifications over election results that guide public opinion, alliances and geopolitical incentives.

### **Climate Change and Global Issues**

Various global topics such as temperature change and global warming, tend to feature as increasingly topical in international politics and have the potential to drastically impact election results throughout the world.

Global issues especially climate change and other global phenomena such as environmental degradation, and disease outbreaks like pandemics have attracted widespread attention. It is observed that the voting trends that arise nearer to elections tend to support candidates and parties with strong policies for dealing with such challenges. The environmentally responsible voters will most likely rally behind leaders whose actions counter climate change and significant national issues.

Climate change and international problems define the political agendas, articulated in policy platforms. Candidates and parties fight to provide directions in ways of carrying out global plans for environmental sustainability, public health, economic inequality as well as other broad geographical concerns (Lamb, 2023). Although the way in which these processes are conducted depends on a number of factors both economic, legal and moral among other issues like unique culture, they may have a ripple effect among the electorate.

The young generations to whom the burden of these long-term effects of global challenges will be apportioned have increasingly become active in politics, changing the landscape. Movements driven by youth through climate change action, social justice and human rights issues altogether have created pressure on political leaders to give much ado with regard



(Keithly, 2023). The candidates and the parties eyeing elective posts ought to attach themselves either directly or indirectly with majority of youth interests as they could draw impressive electoral numbers. Failure by political actors to align their manifestos with the futuristic demands of the youth may spell doom as they may bring about political apathy.

International agreements and cooperation will also determine 2024 election results. Internationally, global problems demand common action and multilateral treaties to have a substantial impact. Political leaders and candidates that campaign for active participation in international platforms such as the United Nations Climate Change Conferences stand to gain favor with voters who value global cooperation and diplomacy. On the other hand, skepticism or retrenchment on international commitments may spark electoral insurgency, with a general negative impact on the electorate.

Economic implications and green growth has emerged to be one of the most critical topics in the modern-day topics. The fight against global warming and other world issues implies shifting to sustainable economies. Parties and individuals who adopt renewable energy and green infrastructure policies have an upper hand in wooing voters, based on public's anxiety for creation of employment (Sico & Galdieri, 2023). Alternatively, green policy resistance or fossil fuel dependency, which are viewed as having long-term negative effects, will most likely receive huge backlash.

Climate change and global emergencies like the emergency of a pandemic raise issues concerning risk perception along with crisis management in governance. Leaders are assessed by how best they predict and react efficiently to new risks which includes some that even have global implications (Lamb, 2023). Crisis-aligned leaders who show competency and preparedness can win electoral trust due to which their credibility increases among voters.

Most global issues display a form of conflicting ethical standards and moral norms. Candidates and parties focused on the concerns of human rights, social justice as well as environmental protection may be attractive to voters who appreciate ethical leadership. On the flipside, leaders that are viewed as having preferential attributes to selfish interests above global common good face rough times expressing their views to the electorate (Wang, 2024).

In a nutshell, climate change as well as gender and human questions are becoming more important considerations in the electoral process all over the world. Considering that the present era is determined by interdependent global crisis, leaders and political parties who manage to cope with these challenges successfully appear visionary in their leadership style.

### **Soft Power and Cultural Influence**

Soft power and cultural influence are deemed fundamental components of US foreign policy that will shape international election outcomes considerably. In contrary to hard power, that is a coercion or force executed by political authority and state institutions, soft power refers to country's capability of influencing outside forces through attraction-based persuasion. Cultural impact such as entertainment, technology and values have significant influence in projection of soft power.

Soft power is closely related to cultural diplomacy that prospers through the propagation of a nation's culture, values and ideals in order to boost image at international level. The US, therefore, is culturally a superpower as it exports its popular culture all over the world (Sisco & Galdieri, 2023). Positive opinions about American culture nurturing affection and esteem toward the US might send influences electoral behavior in other nations.

Public diplomacy and exchange programs will inevitably affect the perceptions created all over the world. Public diplomacy, in areas such as educational and cultural exchange programs, is also an exercise of soft power. Programs such as Fulbright Scholarship and Peace Corps create the environment for people to contact among the United States and other nations. Positive impressions from exchange programs with benevolent rhetoric and symbolic actions, if sustained, will change the opinions of the electorate.

Media and information influence has been touted to have a huge impact on the electorate. The US media sphere, including Hollywood movies and televisions series, social media websites, as well as news organizations have a huge sway in the mindset of the electorate (Travis, 2023). Many times, American film productions and content by media affects global narrative perceptions and patterns of culture. The promotion of a set value system, ideas and stories through media may sway perceptions.

Technological innovation and digital influence, no doubt, have changed the interactions world over. Technological innovation and digital platforms enabled by soft power characteristics provide vital outlets for projection. American companies such as Google and Facebook, among others, have acquired a worldwide market and provide the mainstreams of digital culture among other guidelines operating online. Technological innovation and digital influence tend to intensify soft power throughout America

Soft power tends to be associated with the diffusion of democratic ideals, human rights and freedoms as well as individual liberties. To this end, as the leading promoter of these values, the US attempts to influence others states' world –views both using diplomacy, development aid and active advocating (Wilson & Daniels, 2024). In places where these values are appreciated, support for democratic principles and human rights will significantly electoral results.

Competition in the international relations field as a result of soft power evolves around influence and legitimacy among countries. For instance, China has poured significant amounts of money into measures meant to generate soft power that include among other things Confucian institutes, international media outlets, and cultural diplomacy programmes (Wilson & Daniels, 2024). One of the ways soft power competition can influence elections dynamics is due to perception by countries and leaders.

Culture appeals and promotes practices from different parts of the world. However, some critics criticize the American culture. Some critics say that cultural hegemony of America leads to homogenization while at the same time creating value for a person or said group. Reactions to political culture that America exerts its influence on will materialize in electoral politics by the emergence of preservation movements, nationalism programs or anti-America attitudes (Wilson & Daniels, 2024).

Soft power and cultural influence are powerful instruments of US foreign policy which can alter the election outcome across different nations by creating goodwill; shaping public opinion in such countries while propagating American values worldwide. Yet, the projection of soft power is not without problems, and influence as a result operates culturally, conditioned by factors such as receptivity reciprocity cultural context.

### **Regional Stability and Conflict Resolution**

One of the most important factors affecting global election outcomes is regional stability and conflict resolution which are essential elements of US foreign policy.

Local stability and conflict resolution is a requisite for peace and security, not only within the regions, but also on an international scale. The US attempts to establish diplomatic stability by

belonging to peacekeeping operations. Conflict resolution proceedings can be compatible with the voter's agenda of national security and global solidarity. Leaders who are able to conduct competent regional war conflicts and as well bring about peaceful negotiations, stand to gain popularity through electoral processes that are based on merit.

Humanitarian crises associated with regional conflicts involve the displacement of people, violence and human rights violations. For instance, by sponsoring aid to victims of disasters such as Typhoons Haiyan and Yolanda in the Philippines; participating on refugee resettlement programs that were prevalent among African Nations during Zimbabwe Civil War (1972- 80); and supporting activism against human rights abuses around regions troubled by conflicts stand to gain electoral support from the voters who value humanitarian concerns.

The necessity to combat regional conflicts and foster the cooperation between neighboring states promotes diplomatic engagement. The US is dominantly an influential player in conflict mediation, providing platforms for peace negotiations as well as encourage discourses between warring factions. Diplomatic engagements that are successful tend to make a country be seen as peacemaker and mediator, thus leading the population in their decisions through vote especially during elections.

Regional security is sometimes dependent upon the strength of such alliances and partnerships. The US has security alliances with different countries and regions besides NATO. In Europe, security partnerships are seen as ones that pertains to the Asia Pacific region. Proper management of such alliances including mutual defense treaties and strategic organization will greatly boost confidence over US leadership as well influence the outcome in elections.

Regional instability creates a convenient breeding ground for terrorism and extremism, both regional based security as well as global. Terrorism challenges have to be addressed by US counterterrorist efforts like intelligence sharing, military operations and capacity building assistance. Since combating terrorism and extremisms are the primary electoral concerns, effective leaders may win more votes by focusing on national security.

Economic development and the ability to participate in trade relate closely to regional peace. In conflict-ridden areas, there is a problem of economic stagnation associated with poverty and underdevelopment. US foreign policy initiatives that support economic growth, infrastructural developments and trade integration can bring regional stability as well as prosperity. Leaders who encourage economic development as a pathway to peace may speak closer to the hearts of voters interested in establishing stability.

Cross-border challenges, including organized crime, illicit drug trafficking and incidents of infectious disease pose a threat to the stability in this region. The US involvement in dealing with these transnational threats through law enforcement partnerships, border security measures and public health interventions can improve regional stability as well resilience. If the elected leaders portray some concern for ‘cooperating’ on cross-border issues, he/she may get votes by showing sensitivity to shared security concerns.

Overall, regional stability and conflict resolution are core aspects of US foreign policy that impact electoral outcomes worldwide by framing leadership effectiveness perceptions related to security provision efficacy issues as well economic prosperity levels. Regional issues must be addressed by diplomacy, strategic positioning and above all attention to foster peace between nations. Leaders that show leadership in such fields stand to earn electoral credit by attending to voter apprehensions on security an interdependent world.

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