

BORIS JOHNSON

“The new Donald Trump of Great Britain”?

Compiled by Mike Burnard

On 23 July, Boris Johnson became the new leader of the Conservative Party, and in effect the new Prime Minister of Great Britain. There have been countless comparisons between Boris Johnson and Donald Trump, the president of the USA, but most of the similarities are superficial and related to hairstyles, marriages, campaign slogans, both being born in New York and their entertainment backgrounds. It has even been stated by mainstream media that Mr Johnson is: “Donald Trump with a dictionary”. Ironically, it seems like the physical resemblance between the two politicians have made people assume that they are more alike than they really are. The reality is that one is a classics scholar from Oxford, and the other is a real estate developer from the Bronx.

But even though the similarities between Mr Trump and Mr Johnson are superficial, the differences are profound. Little has been said about their political ideologies, their different family and academic backgrounds (Boris Johnson is the great-grandson of a Turkish Muslim and Donald Trump’s grandparents are from Germany), their different approaches to the media and especially (from a Christian perspective) their respective understanding of the role of faith in politics.

So, is Boris Johnson “the new Donald Trump of Great Britain”? Here are some similarities and differences:

Alexander **Boris** de Pfeffel **Johnson**



Born: 19 June 1964

Nickname: **BoJo**

Born: New York, to wealthy, upper-middle class English parents

FAMILY

Mr Johnson was born to British parents in Manhattan's Upper East Side in New York City. His birth was registered with both the US authorities and the city's British Consulate, granting him both American and British citizenship. His father, Stanley Johnson, was then studying economics at Columbia University.

In February 2015 Mr Johnson announced his intention to give up US citizenship to

Donald John Trump



Born: 14 June 1946

Nickname: **The Don**

Born and raised in the New York City borough of Queens

FAMILY

Mr Trump's ancestors originated from the German village of Kallstadt on his father's side, and from the Outer Hebrides in Scotland on his mother's side. All of his grandparents and his mother were born in Europe.

Mr Trump's paternal grandfather, Frederick Trump, first immigrated to the United States in 1885 at the age of 16 and became a citizen in 1892. Mr Trump's father, Fred,

NO SIMILARITY

Age difference of 18 years

SIMILARITY

Both were born in New York

NO SIMILARITY

Even though both were born in the USA and both had ancestors from a different nation to the one they currently reside in (Mr Trump’s grandparents were from Europe and Mr Johnson’s great

demonstrate his loyalty to the UK and in 2016 he renounced his US citizenship.

Mr Johnson is fluent in French and Italian, and has a good grasp of German, Spanish, and Latin, frequently using classical references in his newspaper columns and speeches.

Mr Johnson's paternal great grandfather was Circassian-Turkish journalist Ali Kemal Bey who was a secular Muslim. He was an Ottoman journalist, newspaper editor, poet and a politician. He was Minister of the Interior (for three months) in the government of Damat Ferid Pasha, the Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire. He was murdered during the Turkish War of Independence.

was born in 1905 in the Bronx. Fred started working with his mother in real estate when he was 15, shortly after his father's death. Their company, "E. Trump & Son", founded in 1923, was primarily active in New York.

Mr Trump's mother, Mary Anne MacLeod, was born in Tong, Lewis, Scotland to a Gaelic-speaking family. At age 18 (1930), she immigrated to New York, where she worked as a maid. Fred and Mary were married in 1936 and raised their family in Queens.

grandfather was a Turkish Muslim), Mr Trump's father was a US citizen and Mr Johnson's father was a British citizen.

EDUCATION

Mr Johnson studied at Eton College – the elite, independent boarding school.

Arriving in the autumn term of 1977, he began using the given name Boris rather than Alex, and developed "the



eccentric English persona" for which he would become known. He excelled in English and the Classics, winning prizes in both, and became secretary of the school debating society, and editor of the school newspaper, *The Eton College Chronicle*. In late 1981 he was admitted to the Eton Society.

Upon finishing his time at Eton, he went on a gap year to Australia, where he taught English and Latin at Timbertop, an elite independent boarding school.

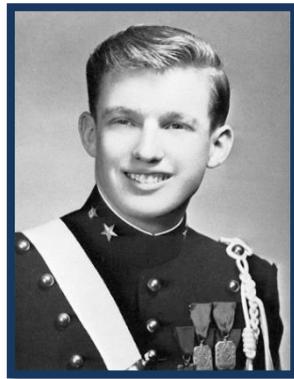
He won a scholarship to read Literae Humaniores, a four-year course based in the study of Classics, at Balliol College, Oxford. Arriving in late 1983, he was one of a generation of Oxford undergraduates who dominated British politics and media in the early 21st Century (incl. senior Conservative Party members David Cameron, William Hague, Michael Gove, Jeremy Hunt, and Nick Boles).

He was popular and well known at Oxford. Having specialised in the study of ancient literature and classical philosophy, he graduated from Balliol College with an upper second-class degree.

EDUCATION

Mr Trump attended the Kew-Forest School in

Forest Hills, Queens until he was 13 years old. Then his parents transferred him to the New York Military



Academy. He excelled in academics and sports. After high school, he attended Fordham University for two years. He then transferred to the Wharton Business School, where he graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a concentration in finance.

"After I graduated from the New York Military Academy in 1964, I flirted briefly with the idea of attending film school," Mr Trump wrote in his book *Trump: The Art of the Deal*. "But in the end, I decided real estate was a much better business. I began by attending Fordham University ... I was also very glad to get finished. I immediately moved back home and went to work full time with my father."

Mr Trump has enjoyed many financial successes during his career. He recently created an online university – to share his "keys to success" – which is called Trump University.

NO SIMILARITY

Even though both are graduates, Mr Johnson is more academically inclined while Mr Trump is more business minded.

MEDIA

Mr Johnson has an extensive knowledge and a long history with the British media and began his career in journalism at *The Times*. He later became *The Daily Telegraph's* Brussels correspondent, with his articles exerting a strong influence on growing Eurosceptic sentiment among the British right wing. He was assistant editor of the *Telegraph* from 1994 to 1999 and edited *The Spectator* from 1999 to 2005.



Mr Johnson has learnt well how to use the media as a vessel for political gain and not to fight it.

MEDIA



Mr Trump's main exposure to the media is related to his profile as a celebrity in the entertainment industry. He produced and hosted *The Apprentice*, a reality television show, from 2003 to 2015.

Mr Trump has clashed with several media sources during his presidency and was the 'inventor' of the 2017 "word of the year", 'FAKE NEWS'.

NO SIMILARITY

While Mr Johnson's better understanding of journalistic media, through his various personal experiences at different newspapers, helped him to use the media for political gain, Mr Trump built a reputation of fighting the media.

Mr Trump has, however, succeeded in using social media in his political campaigning while Mr Johnson depends mainly on traditional media.

BUSINESS

According to *Celebrity Net Worth*, Boris Johnson's net worth is thought to be about **\$2 million**.

Mr Johnson draws his wealth from multiple sources – born into a well-off family, he started off his career as a journalist, and later switched his career aspirations from journalism to politics.

He has also authored several books, including *The Dream of Rome* (2006), *Johnson's Life of London* (2011) and *The Churchill Factor* (2014).

BUSINESS

Forbes estimates Donald Trump's net worth at **\$3.1 billion**.

Donald Trump's father's company, Elizabeth Trump and Son, was renamed to The Trump Organization in 1971 by Mr Trump when he was given control of the company (this was only 3 years after he joined full time). The company began with a focus on middle class real estate, but grew into a huge conglomerate, owning some of the best buildings in the world including 'The Trump World Tower', raking in hundreds of millions in profit.

The Trump organisation owns skyscrapers, hotels, golf courses, vineyards and many other real estate properties. They currently employ about 22,500 people.

NO SIMILARITY

Mr Trump is the more business-savvy of the two and is clearly superior in this regard.

POLITICS

Mr Johnson is a member of the Conservative Party, and was elected Member of Parliament (MP) for Henley in 2001 (till 2008), and served in the 'Shadow Cabinet' under Conservative leaders, Michael Howard and David Cameron. He largely adhered to the Conservatives' party line but adopted a more socially liberal stance on issues like LGBTQ rights in parliamentary discussions. He was Mayor of London from 2008 to 2016, and from 2016 to 2018 he served as Foreign Secretary.

POLITICS

Mr Trump is the 45th and current president of the United States.

He entered the 2016 presidential race as a Republican and defeated sixteen candidates in the primaries. He was elected president in a surprise victory over Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, although he lost the popular vote.

He became the oldest and wealthiest person ever to assume the

NO SIMILARITY

Mr Johnson clearly fits the mould of a 'perfect' politician, more suited than Mr Trump being an academic, former journalist and an experienced politician.

During his first term as Mayor of London, he banned alcohol consumption on much of the capital's public transport, championed London's financial sector, and introduced the new 'Routemaster' buses, cycle hire scheme, and the Thames cable car. He was re-elected in 2012. During his second term he oversaw the 2012 Summer Olympics. In 2015 he was elected MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip, stepping down as Mayor the following year.

presidency, and the first without prior military or government service.

Mr Trump, on the other hand, entered the political arena with only a business and entertainment background, but with a firm understanding of "the art of the deal".

POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

Mr Johnson is quite contradistinctive in some of his ideologies. He sees himself as a Tory (Conservative) in the David Cameron mould, mildly Eurosceptic, and at the same time rather unexpectedly supported Turkey's entry to the EU (which could be as a result of his Turkish heritage). He is also socially quite liberal (being a great supporter of LGBTQ rights in the UK), but he is fiscally conservative.

Mr Johnson ultimately identifies himself as a "one-nation conservative" and has been associated with both economically and socially liberal policies.

In 2016, he became a prominent figure in the successful Brexit (Vote Leave) campaign to withdraw the United Kingdom from the European Union. He was appointed Foreign Secretary by Theresa May, but resigned in criticism of Ms May's approach to Brexit and the 'Chequers Agreement' two years later.

POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

During his 2016 campaign for the presidency, Mr Trump consistently described the state of the United States in bleak terms, referring to it as a nation in "dire peril" that is plagued by lawlessness, poverty, and violence, constantly under threat, and at risk of having "nothing, absolutely nothing, left".

In accepting the Republican nomination for president, he said: "I alone can fix" [the system], and pledged that if elected, "Americanism, not globalism, will be our credo". He described himself as a "law and order" candidate and "the voice" of "the forgotten men and women".

Mr Trump's inaugural address on 20 January 2017 focused on his campaign theme of America in "crisis and decline". He pledged to end what he referred to as "American carnage," depicting the United States in a dystopian light—as a "land of abandoned factories, economic angst, rising crime"—while pledging "a new era in American politics."

SIMILARITY

BOTH men have relied on the idea that sovereignty comes before policy. Mr Trump's ascension from reality TV star to president was built on the promise that he would "Make America great again".

In a similar way, Mr Johnson has become prominent in the political race for the next prime minister of Britain as one of the main campaigners of Brexit.

IMMIGRATION

In 2016, Mr Johnson, in his role as Foreign Secretary of the UK, visited a Syrian refugee camp near Gaziantep, Turkey which resulted in a "softer" approach to the refugee crisis in Europe.

In 2018, he became a vocal advocate for the Rohingya refugees and told Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi the UN refugee agency must be allowed to supervise the return of Rohingya refugees.

IMMIGRATION

Immigration, and specifically, illegal immigration to the United States, was a key issue of Mr Trump's presidential campaign, and his proposed reforms and remarks about this issue generated much publicity.

A hallmark promise of his campaign was to build a substantial wall on the United States/Mexico border, and force Mexico to pay for the wall.

He also imposed a travel ban that prohibited issuing visas to citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries. In response to legal challenges he revised the ban twice, with his third version being upheld by the Supreme Court in June 2018.

NO SIMILARITY

Even though Mr Johnson has not issued any official views or policies on refugees entering the UK, it seems like he has a softer approach than Mr Trump, perhaps due to completely different geographical circumstances, and experiences.

FAITH



Mr Johnson, by his own admission, said it would be "pretentious" to suggest that he is a "serious practising Christian" even though he "thinks about religion a lot".

Mr Johnson abandoned his mother's Catholicism as a young man and became an Anglican, joining the Church of England.

FAITH



Mr Trump is a Presbyterian and places a high value on his faith, be it sometimes controversial. He said in an interview that he was "not sure" whether he ever asked God for forgiveness, stating: "If I do something wrong, I just try and make it right. I don't bring God into that picture."

Mr Trump is associated with a number of Christian spiritual leaders, including Florida pastor Paula White, who has been called his "closest spiritual confidant." In 2015, he released a list of religious advisers, which included: James Dobson, Jerry Falwell Jr., Ralph Reed, Michele Bachmann, and Robert Jeffress.

NO SIMILARITY

Mr Trump has a higher regard for his Christian faith than Mr Johnson, and has based a number of his political decisions on this conviction.

Mr Johnson is also more liberal in his approach to social issues while Mr Trump appears to take the counsel of his spiritual advisers more to heart.

CONCLUSION

Great Britain has a rich history of missions, and still remains one of the top mission-sending nations in the world. The Church in Britain currently sends approximately 15,000 missionaries cross-culturally which is ranked 4th in Europe and 7th in the world. 12% of all missionaries from Europe are from Great Britain with more than 380 missionaries for every 1 million people. It is also ranked 8th in the world regarding national workers with nearly 500,000 nationals working in Britain itself.

When considering the future leadership of the UK, it becomes a Christian duty to pray for someone who would create a favourable platform for these mission activities to continue. A true Biblical model of leadership is based on principles and leadership that reflect Christ-like values: policies that would benefit souls, that will pursue peace, Godliness and holiness (1 Timothy 2:2) as well as justice and righteousness (Amos 5:24).

SOURCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_Trump

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boris_Johnson

<https://www.celebritynetworth.com/richest-politicians/boris-johnson-net-worth/>

<https://www.forbes.com/donald-trump/#4496dc192899>



INcontext
INTERNATIONAL

There is no copyright on this document but please acknowledge the source:

www.incontextinternational.org

mike@incontextministries.org