



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Jul 31, 2024 · 21 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1818589380098871590](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an American politician and author, JD Vance (@JDVance). He's best-known for his strong stance against US aid to Ukraine, and for being the Republican party's nominee for vice president in the 2024 election.

1/20



Vance hails from the small town of Middletown, Ohio. His parents divorced when he was a toddler, JD's mother struggled with drug addiction, and he was raised primarily by his grandparents. Later he enlisted in the US Marine Corps, and spent 6 months as a PR guy in Iraq.

2/20

CULTURAL COMMENT

## THE LIVES OF POOR WHITE PEOPLE

By Joshua Rothman  
September 12, 2016

“I grew up poor, in the Rust Belt, in an Ohio steel town that has been hemorrhaging jobs and hope for as long as I can remember.” That’s how J. D. Vance begins one of this campaign season’s saddest and most fascinating books, “Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis” (Harper). Vance was born in Kentucky and raised by his grandparents, as a self-described “hillbilly,” in Middletown, Ohio, home of the once-mighty Armco Steel. His family struggled with poverty and domestic violence, of which he was a victim. His mother was addicted to drugs—first to painkillers, then to heroin. Many of his neighbors were jobless and on welfare. Vance escaped their fate by joining the Marines and serving in Iraq. Afterward, he attended Ohio State and Yale Law School, where he was mentored by Amy Chua, the law professor and [tiger mom](#). He now lives in San Francisco, where he works at Mithril Capital Management, the investment firm helmed by [Peter Thiel](#). It seems safe to say that Vance, who is now in his early thirties, has seen a wider swath of America than most people.



J. D. Vance's home town of Middletown, Ohio, is one of the once flourishing Rust Belt towns that feature in his memoir, "Hillbilly Elegy." PHOTOGRAPH BY AL BEHRMAN / AP

In 2016, Harper published JD’s book, *Hillbilly Elegy*, in which he described his life and hardships, and the socioeconomic problems of his hometown. The book was very successful, and it was even adapted into a shitty Netflix movie. It also made JD famous.

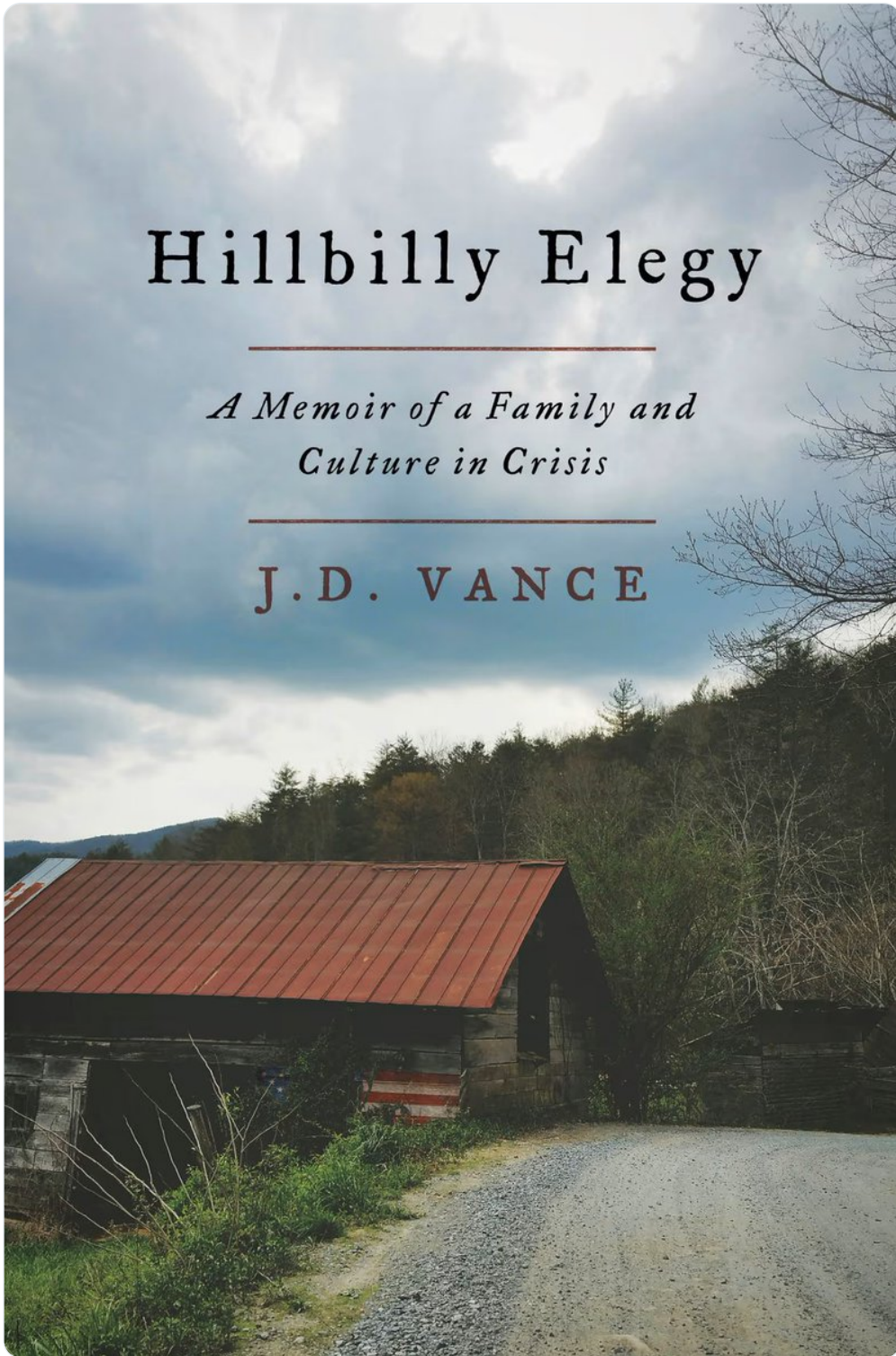
# Hillbilly Elegy

---

*A Memoir of a Family and  
Culture in Crisis*

---

J. D. VANCE



CULTURE

## Everything about Netflix's *Hillbilly Elegy* movie is awful

It lacks even the conviction of the bestselling 2016 book on which it's based.

by **Alissa Wilkinson**

Nov 10, 2020, 4:10 PM GMT+2



Amy Adams in *Hillbilly Elegy*. Lacey Terrell/Netflix



*Alissa Wilkinson covers film and culture for Vox. Alissa is a member of the New York Film Critics Circle and the National Society of Film Critics.*

During this time, JD had also moved to San Francisco to work as a venture capitalist in the tech industry, even (allegedly) working for Elon Musk's and David Sacks' old buddy, Peter Thiel in his firm Mithril Capital between 2016 and 2017.




**Bloomberg**

• Live TV Markets Economics Industries Tech Politics Businessweek Opinion More

Technology

## Peter Thiel's Mithril Capital Raises \$850 Million VC Fund

- Firm spreads fees over 12 years instead of the usual 10
- 'Hillbilly Elegy' author Vance says he's departing Mithril



Peter Thiel. Photographer: Andrew Harrer/Bloomberg

By Sarah McBride  
January 20, 2017 at 5:50 AM GMT+2

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Email RSS


SEARCH FORTUNE SIGN IN [Subscribe Now](#)

Home News Tech Finance Leadership Well Recommends Fortune 500

POLITICS- U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

## Peter Thiel gave J.D. Vance his start in venture capital. But a former colleague doesn't remember ever seeing him in the office

BY SEAMUS WEBSTER  
July 27, 2024 at 12:10 AM GMT+3



Before entering politics, Vance worked at six venture capital firms between 2016 and 2022.  
ANNA MONEYMAKER—GETTY IMAGES

But Vance had higher ambitions, and for those he had to move back to Ohio. First, he launched a non-profit organization that was supposed to focus on education, addiction, and other socioeconomic issues he had described in his book. The organization closed down just two...

THE BRIEFS Health Brief Early Brief Tech Brief

POWERPOST

## The Daily 202: Why the author of ‘Hillbilly Elegy’ is moving home to Ohio

🔗 📌 🗑



MOST READ POLITICS >



1 Biden set to announce for major Supreme changes

2 Analysis | 4 takeaways: Night 2 of the Republican National Convention

3 Usha Vance, wife of Trump VP pick J.D. Vance, is a lawyer and Yale graduate

4 Analysis | Fact-checking Night 2 of the 2024 Republican National Convention

5 Analysis | 'They' didn't save Donald Trump

In a [2016 interview with NPR](#), Vance said he was leaving the Bay Area to return to Ohio and do nonprofit work to target opioid addiction that was prevalent in his community growing up. “It’s obviously very personally important to me and it’s something my family has struggled with and dealt with,” he said on NPR’s *All Things Considered*. “And I felt, you know, frankly a little bit of responsibility now that I’ve been given this platform by the success of the book to go and try to do at least a little something to help out.”

Vance used his platform to start Our Ohio Renewal, a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization that focused on education, addiction and other “social ills” he mentioned in his memoir. The organization shuttered in less than two years with few accomplishments.

... years after its launch with very few accomplishments. In 2022, JD’s rival Tim Ryan claimed that the NGO was a front for his political ambitions, and later Business Insider reported that it had spent more

on Vance's political advisor than on programs to fight opioid abuse.


6/20

☰ 🔍 **BUSINESS INSIDER**

POLITICS

## We found tax records showing 'Hillbilly Elegy' author JD Vance's anti-opioid nonprofit faltered

Adam Wren and Meghan Morris Aug 31, 2021, 7:08 PM GMT+3 [Share](#) [Save](#)



Two figures loom large over J.D. Vance's political future: tech titan Peter Thiel (left), who donated \$10 million to Vance's Senate campaign, and former President Donald Trump, who has yet to endorse a Republican in the crowded Ohio primary. John Lamparski/Getty Images; Astrid Riecken For The Washington Post via Getty Images; Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images; Samantha Lee/Insider John Lamparski/Getty Images; Astrid Riecken For The Washington Post via Getty Images; Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images; Samantha Lee/Insider

- **JD Vance is running for Senate in Ohio as a savior of the Midwest.**
- **A nonprofit he started to fight the opioid epidemic seems to have faltered.**

A [review by Insider](#) of the nonprofit's tax filings showed that in its first year, Our Ohio Renewal spent more on "management services" provided by its executive director Jai Chabria — who also serves as Vance's top political advisor — than it did on programs to fight opioid abuse.

And Vance's old friend Peter Thiel also chipped in - he put a staggering 15 million USD into JD's campaign to run for senator in 2022. Thiel had previously financed Vance's venture firm Narya Capital that later helped fund the "alt-right" video platform Rumble.

SUBSCRIBE Help keep Salon independent

NEWSLETTER X Instagram YouTube Facebook


NEWS & POLITICS CULTURE FOOD **salon** SCIENCE & HEALTH LIFE STORIES VIDEO

Q Search

## JD Vance owes almost everything to Peter Thiel, a pro-Trump billionaire and "New Right" ideologue

Peter Thiel has been supporting Trump's newly selected running mate since before he entered politics

By **MARIN SCOTTEN** PUBLISHED JULY 22, 2024 1:57PM (EDT)



Peter Thiel and JD Vance (Photo illustration by Salon/Getty Images)

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

English Edition | Print Edition | Video | Audio | Latest Headlines | More

World **Business** U.S. Politics Economy Tech Markets & Finance Opinion Arts Lifestyle Real Estate Personal Finance

EXCLUSIVE MEDIA & MARKETING

## Peter Thiel, J.D. Vance Invest in Rumble Video Platform Popular on Political Right

Backing from conservative venture capitalists comes amid push for alternative social-media channels with looser rules on speech

By **Keach Hagey** [Follow](#)

Updated May 19, 2021 2:14 pm ET

As most of you have noticed, Vance has been a pretty bad choice for Trump as a VP candidate - he's awkward, uncharismatic, not funny, and also extremely hostile. For example, after the Trump assassination attempt, he quickly blamed Biden for the incident.





**INDEPENDENT** US Politics

NEWS SPORT VOICES CULTURE LIFESTYLE TRAVEL PREMIUM MORE INDEPE

News > World > Americas > US politics

# JD Vance has the worst polling for a VP pick post-convention in history — yet MAGA doesn't care


A YouGov poll shows that Trump-loving Republicans have rallied behind Trump's VP choice, while others aren't so sure — including those all-important Independents

Alicja Hagopian Data correspondent • 1 day ago • Comments

📱 📘 🐦 ✉️

## VANCE'S NET FAVORABLE RATING

### ABC NEWS/IPSOS POLL

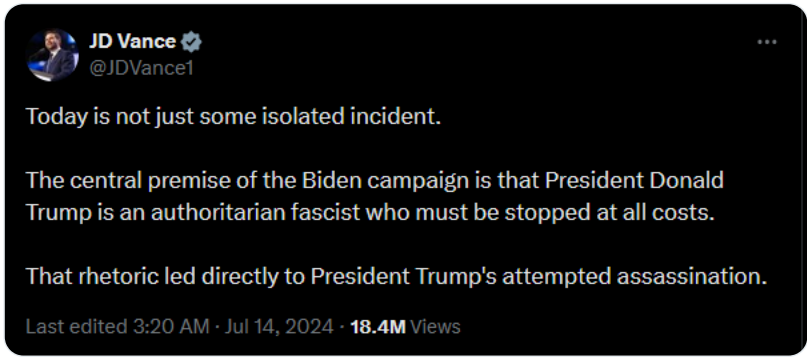
	<b>JULY 20:</b> <b>-6PTS</b>	<b>JULY 27:</b> <b>-15PTS</b>
---	---------------------------------	----------------------------------

MOE: +/- 3 PTS

K-FILE REPORTING **LIVE**

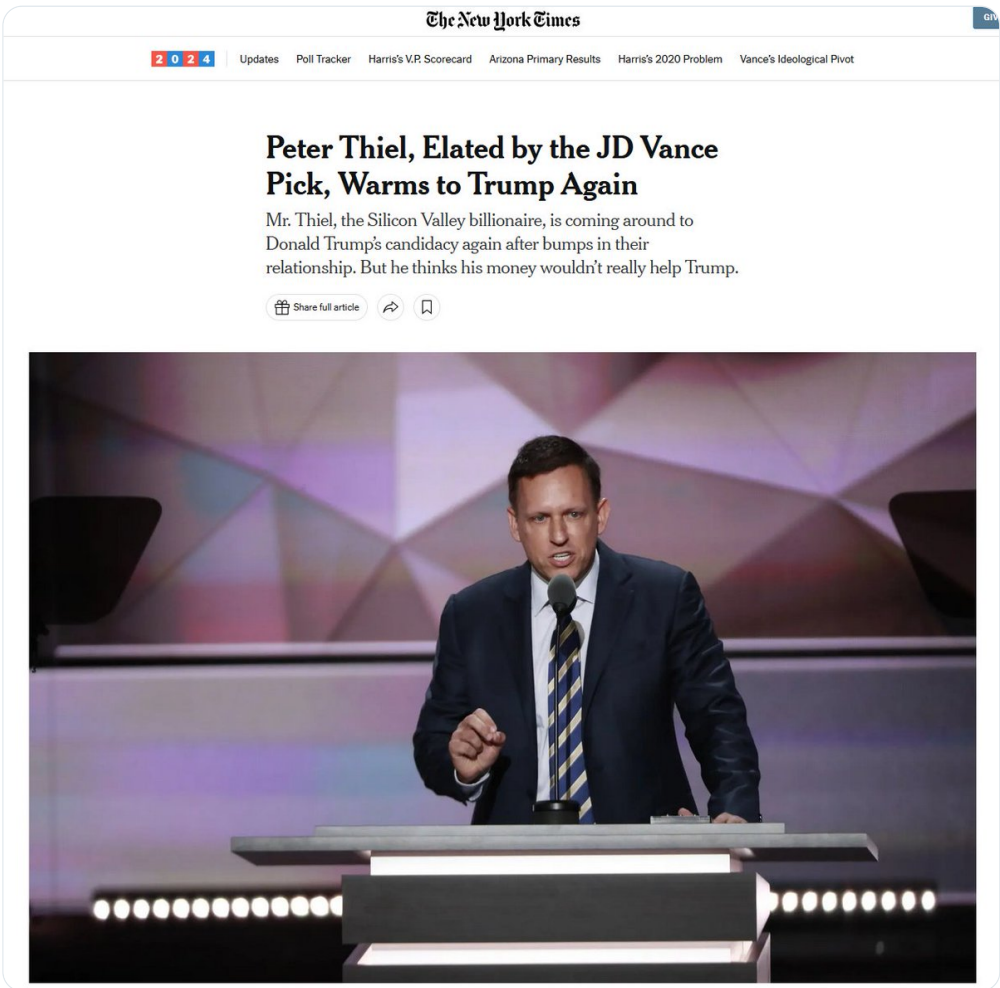
JD VANCE FUNDRAISED OFF "CHILDLESS" REMARKS: "SOCIOPATHS" **CNN**

DIFF MEXICAN COUNTERPARTS IN ADVANCE DUE TO FEARS THE OPERATION COULD HA ERIN BURNETT



So why was JD picked? My bet is on money. Vance’s connections to Silicon Valley investors like Peter Thiel, Elon Musk, Ben Horowitz, Marc Andreessen and David Sacks bring in huge campaign contributions to Trump who at times has been strapped for cash.

9/20



## Elon Musk Allies Help Start Pro-Trump Super PAC

The group, America PAC, is funded by several wealthy tech entrepreneurs in Mr. Musk's social circle and is said to be likely to draw financial support from the SpaceX and Tesla founder himself.

[Share full article](#) [↗](#) [🔖](#)



Elon Musk endorsed Donald J. Trump on Saturday, soon after the assassination attempt against the former president. David Swanson/Reuters



By [Theodore Schleifer](#)

July 15, 2024

Donald Trump

## Co-founders of Silicon Valley venture capital firm back Trump's presidential bid

Ben Horowitz and Marc Andreessen, founders of A16Z, plan to give large donations to former president's campaign

Alex Hern *UK technology editor*

Wed 17 Jul 2024 19:20 CEST

[Share](#)



Ben Horowitz, who founded Andreessen Horowitz, known as A16Z, with Marc Andreessen, has been a vocal advocate for cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin. Photograph: Bloomberg/Getty

The co-founders of Silicon Valley's most prominent venture capital firm have announced their support for Donald Trump's bid for re-election, and plan to make substantial donations to back him further.

Ben Horowitz and Marc Andreessen, the heads of Andreessen Horowitz, commonly known as A16Z, revealed their plans in a sprawling 90-minute podcast, in which they argued that the future of "American innovation" required a Trump victory.

In return, Vance has allegedly promised to deregulate crypto and remove safeguards around AI development. And as an investor, having your favorite candidate in the White House can't be bad for business, eh?

10/20

Thiel is betting - again - on the same phenomenon in America. Betting that he will be first among a new breed of tech bro oligarchs - a new super-class of brologarchs.


In Trump's America, there will be hard choices for everyone, including the billionaires. Though it may be less hard for them. Vance has said he wants to deregulate crypto and unshackle AI. He's said he'd dismantle Biden's attempts to place safeguards around AI development.

And while he has it in for the legacy monopolies of Google and Facebook - the platforms that his ideological bedfellows in the "new right" see as part of the "censorship industrial complex" suffocating rightwing speech - Silicon Valley is betting on a gloves-off, regulation-free, pro-business goldrush.

Like his investor buddies, JD is also extremely opportunistic. In 2016, he was strongly against Trump's presidency, calling him "divisive and arrogant" and "America's Hitler", referring to himself as a "never Trump guy" and calling Trump's voters "idiots".








 [World](#) [Business](#) [Markets](#) [Sustainability](#) [Legal](#) [Breakingviews](#) [Technology](#) [Investigati](#)


United States

## J.D. Vance once compared Trump to Hitler. Now they are running mates

By [Gram Slattery](#) and [Helen Coster](#)

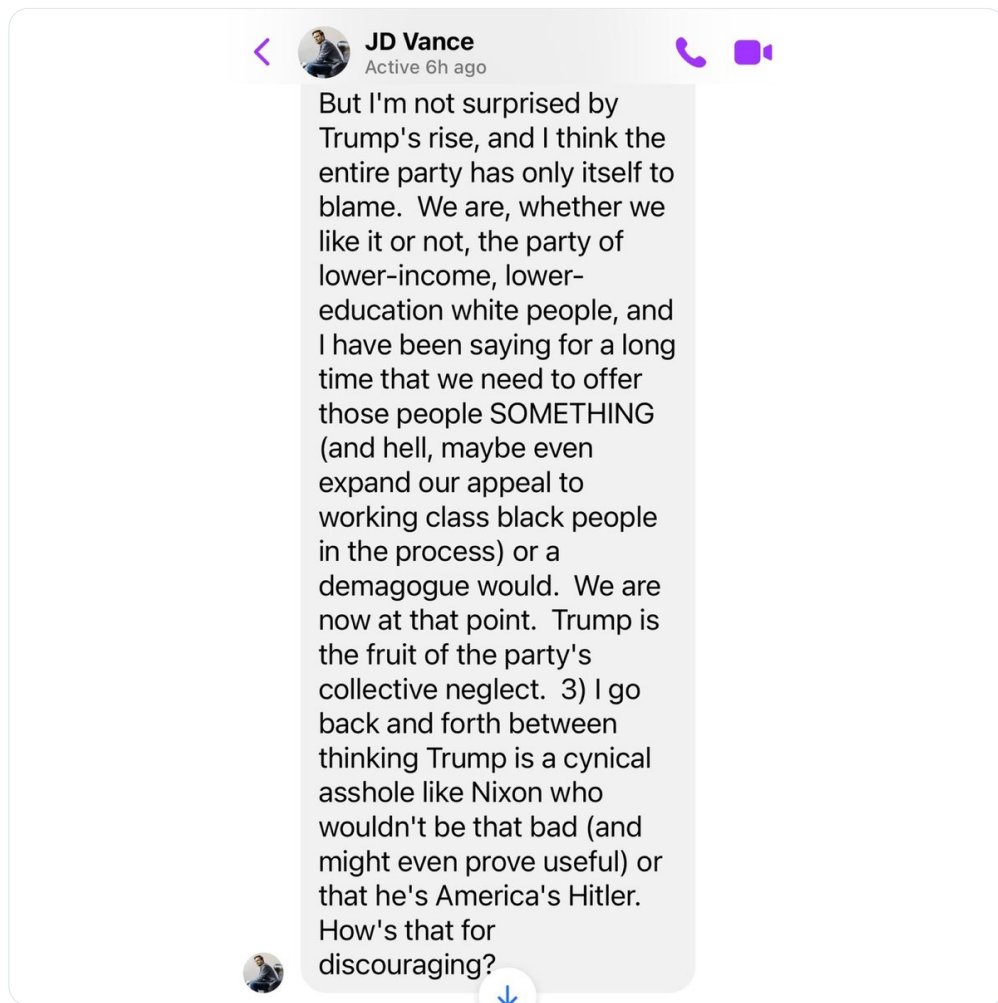
July 16, 2024 2:34 AM GMT+3 · Updated 15 days ago



**On the campaign trail, the former venture capitalist has also served as a bridge between Trump associates and wealthy Silicon Valley donors, many of whom have opened their wallets to Trump this election.**

MILWAUKEE, July 15 (Reuters) - Eight years ago, in the lead-up to the 2016 presidential election, J.D. Vance was a bitter critic of Donald Trump. Publicly, he called the Republican presidential candidate an "idiot" and said he was "reprehensible." Privately, he compared him to Adolf Hitler.



But apparently his wealthy overlords changed their minds about Trump: in 2021, after announcing his senate candidacy, JD had been politically cuckolded by Trump. This led to JD deleting some of his old social media posts and publicly apologizing for his past behavior.

CAMPAIGN

# JD Vance says he regrets past criticism of Trump

BY OLAFIMIHAN OSHIN - 07/05/21 10:38 PM ET

f SHARE X POST ↗ ✉

Ohio Republican Senate candidate J.D. Vance said on Monday that he regrets posting since-deleted tweets critical of former President Trump.

"Like a lot of people, I criticized Trump back in 2016," Vance told Fox News's Alicia Acuna during a Monday interview. "And I ask folks not to judge me based on what I said in 2016, because I've been very open that I did say those critical things and I regret them, and I regret being wrong about the guy. I think he was a good president, I think he made a lot of good decisions for people, and I think he took a lot of flak."

## Most Popular

- 1 **Harris pulls even with Trump among swing state voters: Poll**
- 2 **Biden's former communications director: Trump wasn't**

# POLITICO

POLITICS

## J.D. Vance says he regrets since-deleted tweets criticizing Trump

Critics have said the "Hillbilly Elegy" author and Senate candidate, who is seeking the former president's endorsement in Ohio, is flip-flopping.



JD Vance, the venture capitalist and author of "Hillbilly Elegy" addresses a rally in Ohio. | Jeff Dean/AP Photo

By MAEVE SHEEHY  
07/05/2021 02:47 PM EDT

f t link ⋮

ELECTIONS ↕

# J.D. Vance Deleted His Anti-Trump Tweets. He Forgot His 'Likes.'

UNFOLLOW

The Ohio Senate candidate was careful to delete his old tweets critical of Donald Trump before he announced his run. He wasn't as careful with his "likes."

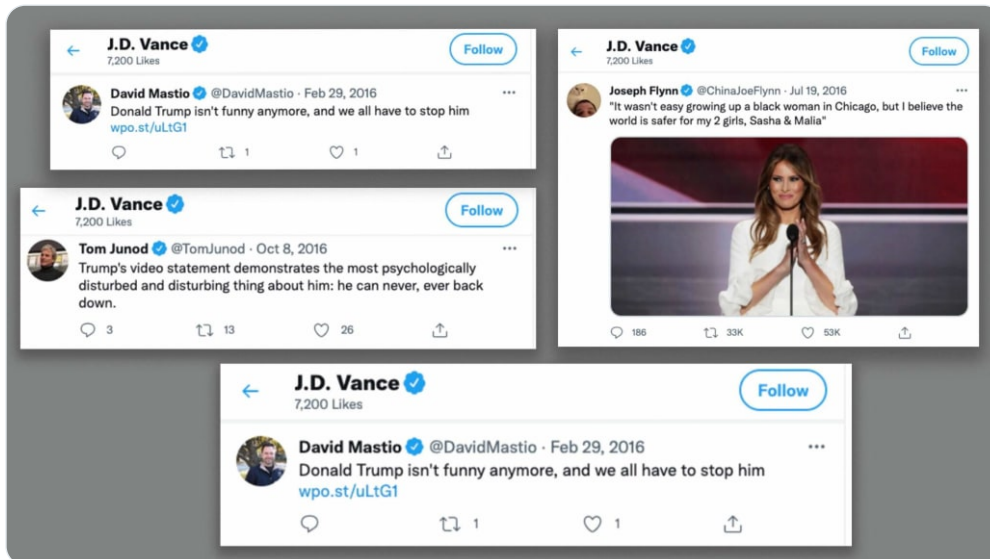


Roger Sollenberger  
Senior Political Reporter

Updated Jul. 27, 2021 5:45AM EDT / Published Jul. 27, 2021 3:28AM EDT

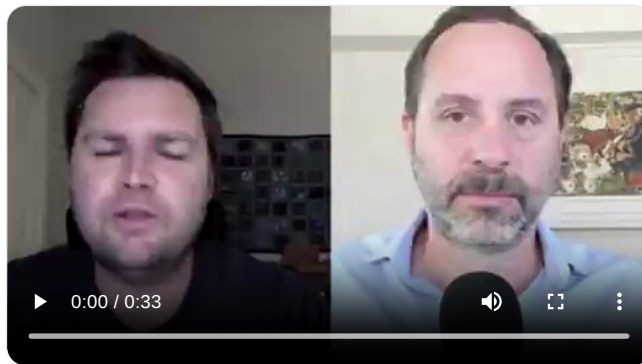


Photo illustration by The Daily Beast/Getty



And like Trump, Vance also has a way of polarizing whole societies. He's alienated a bunch of voters by saying that people without children are often "most sociopathic," "psychotic," and "deranged". He's also suggested that people without children should pay more taxes.



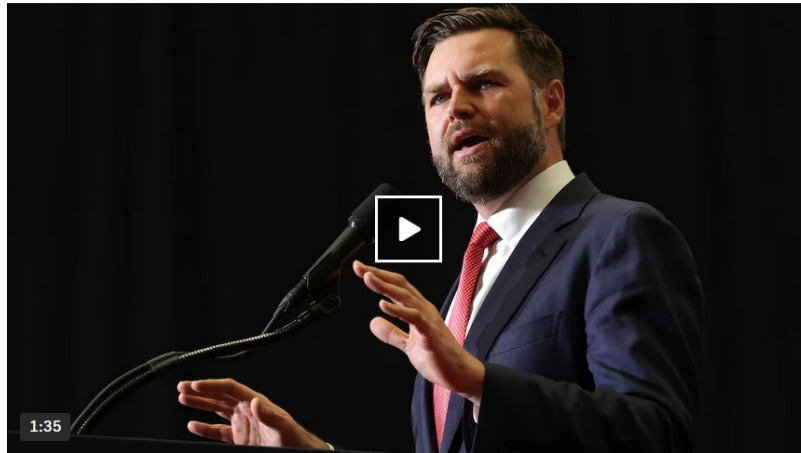
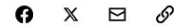


## Vance argued for higher tax rate on childless Americans in 2021 interview

Trump's running mate has faced criticism over other similar previous comments.

By [Will Steakin](#) and [Katherine Faulders](#)

July 26, 2024, 12:05 PM



Republican vice-presidential nominee, Sen. J.D. Vance speaks at a campaign rally at Radford Univ... [Show More](#)  
Alex Wong/Getty Images

Probably in order to suck up to Trump, Vance has parroted the claims that the 2020 election was stolen and that the Jan 6 rioters are unjustly prosecuted. He's also said that journalists should be investigated for "colluding against Trump" in 2020.

DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA

# In Vance, Trump finds a kindred spirit on election denial and Jan. 6

The senator from Ohio has said that unlike Mike Pence, he would have thrown the outcome of the 2020 election into doubt by allowing Trump electors.

7 min



Attendees hold up Trump-Vance campaign signs during the Republican National Convention on Tuesday. (Joshua Lott/The Washington Post)

MOST READ P



- 1 Trump su  
struggle v  
based on
- 2 Trump, with  
sexist attac  
female oppo
- 3 Harris holds  
Atlanta as s  
battle for Ge

# MOJO WIRE

Quick hits from the Mother Jones newsroom

POLITICS DECEMBER 10, 2023

## J.D. Vance Is the Latest Prominent Conservative Calling on Journalists to Be Investigated



**RUSS CHOMA**  
Reporter  
[Bio](#) | [Follow](#)



Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call/AP

*Fight disinformation: [Sign up](#) for the free Mother Jones Daily newsletter and follow the news that matters.*

**Sen. J.D. Vance** (R-Ohio) [told](#) CNN's Jake Tapper on Sunday that he'd like to see journalists investigated for possibly colluding against Donald Trump in 2020. Vance's appearance on Tapper's Sunday talk show followed a letter Vance sent last week to Attorney General Merrick Garland demanding to know if the Department of Justice would investigate a *Washington Post* columnist for talking about "open rebellion" by blue states if Trump is elected in 2024.

JD's stance on the Russo-Ukrainian War has been in line with the tech bros that support him. In Apr 2022, he stated that "I don't really care what happens to Ukraine one way or the other".

JD hasn't also been shy about sharing literal Russian disinformation, when he...





... claimed that the US is sending money to Ukraine “so that one of Zelenskyy’s ministers can buy a bigger yacht”. The fake story about Zelenskyy (not his ministers) buying a yacht was spread by super-vatnik and conman John Mark Dougan:

16/20

[https://x.com/P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1648640636680118272](https://x.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1648640636680118272)



He’s also published a Senate memo claiming that Ukraine isn’t accounting for the aid they’re given (Ukraine established a parliamentary commission for this sole purpose in 2022) & that Ukraine has too few soldiers - the latter may be true at this point, but they now have...

17/20

**Report highlights:**

1. **The Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF) and U.S. personnel failed to keep track of key defense articles, severely limiting the ability to determine whether these were misused or stolen.** The report found that the UAF “did not provide expenditure reports by serial number” to U.S. personnel—reports that enable the U.S. to track which weapons have been lost or destroyed in battle.<sup>6</sup> Worse, the UAF also failed to inventory durable U.S.-supplied defense articles designated for EEUM. This includes valuable equipment that can be reused to fire weapons and that, the report notes, “should still be currently active in Ukraine.” UAF personnel had not inventoried *any* of the 68 Stinger gripstocks

... 14 fresh and trained brigades waiting to rotate to the frontlines, but the troops are not properly armed due to delays in Western aid. And as most of you know, these life-costing delays were mostly due to political decisions made by JD’s MAGA gang & speaker Mike Johnson.

18/20

The screenshot shows a news article on the EUROMAIDAN PRESS website. The page has a dark theme. At the top left is the logo for EUROMAIDAN PRESS, which includes a stylized blue and yellow graphic. To the right of the logo are social media icons for Facebook, X, and YouTube. Below the logo is a navigation menu with the following items: Ukraine, International, Russian Aggression, and More. The main content area features a dark background with white text. A small black box with white text reads 'LATEST NEWS UKRAINE'. The article title is 'Ukraine's 14 brigades are under-equipped, lacking weapons promised earlier by allies' in a large, bold, white font. Below the title is a short summary: 'Ukraine's President Zelenskyy discloses that 14 Ukrainian brigades are under-equipped, lacking promised weapons from allies, which delays potential counteroffensive operations against Russian forces.' Below the summary is the author information: 'BY YURI ZORIA · 04/07/2024 · 3 MINUTE READ'. At the bottom of the article is a video player showing a close-up of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaking. Below the video player is a caption: 'President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy during his interview with Bloomberg. July 2024. Screenshot: Youtube/Zelenskyy President.'

## After stalling for months, Ukraine aid heads to vote in House of Representatives

17 April 2024

Share ↗

**Bernd Debusmann Jr**  
BBC News, Washington



Mike Johnson has said that the 'world is watching' to see whether the US will stand by its allies abroad.

**US President Joe Biden has said he "strongly supports" a new \$61bn (£49bn) aid bill for Ukraine, arguing it will "send a message to the world".**

He's also stated that Ukraine should just cede land and cut a deal with Putin - a man who has broken pretty much every treaty and ceasefire in the past. JD apparently also ignores the fact that Russia is now funneling 35% of total government spending on military.

WAR IN UKRAINE

# Republican senator says Ukraine should cede land and cut a deal with Putin to end the war

Sen. JD Vance of Ohio, on the eve of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's trip to Capitol Hill, dismissed fears Russia would keep making advances if it's victorious in Ukraine.



## OPINION > INTERNATIONAL

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

# History shows that no ceasefire or treaty with Russia can be trusted

BY MARK TEMNYCKY, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR - 02/05/24 7:00 AM ET

SHARE POST



Gavriil Grigorov, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin, foreground, visits an exhibition dedicated to the key events of the outgoing Year of Teachers and Mentors at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023. (Gavriil Grigorov, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)

Opinion  
How to submit an op-ed.

### Most Popular

- 1 Harris pulls even with Trump among swing state voters: Poll
- 2 Biden's former communications director: Trump wasn't...
- 3 Trump's nephew declares support for Harris



AA TÜRKİYE WORLD ECONOMY POLITICS ENERGY SPORTS INFOGRAPHICS ANALYSIS VIDEO PHOTO

WORLD

## Russia's military spending in 2024 estimated at \$140B, report shows

Figure to rise 29% year-on-year in 2024, accounting for 35% of total government spending, says Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Tuba Ongun | 13.12.2023 - Update : 13.12.2023




**World**

Russia slams Hamas political bureau chief Haniyeh's assassination, calling it 'unacceptable political murder'

Türkiye condemns assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Haniyeh

To conclude, JD is a VP candidate that was probably chosen because he brings in a lot of money from the tech bros. He doesn't seem to have any set of permanent values & his former roommate called him a "sellout", "angry", "vindictive", & "the perfect fit for Trump's revenge".

20/20

 **Josh McLaurin**  
@JoshMcLaurinGA

I'm the guy JD Vance sent the "America's Hitler" text to in 2016. He was my roommate in law school.

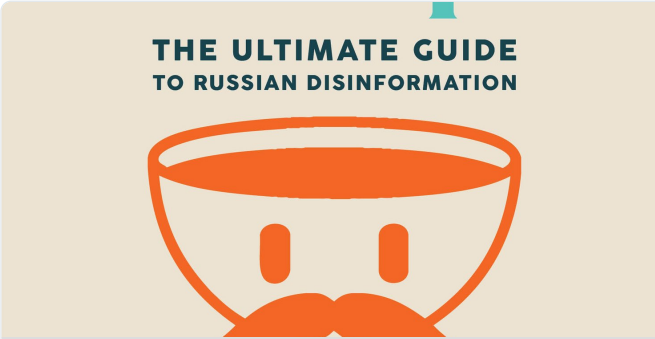
Obviously he's a sellout, but the bigger deal is he's angry and vindictive. The perfect fit for Trump's revenge.

JD's rise is a triumph for angry jerks everywhere.

12:10 AM · Jul 16, 2024 · 1.8M Views



You can now pre-order my upcoming (Fall of 2024) book titled “Vatnik Soup - The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation” from here:



**THE ULTIMATE GUIDE  
TO RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION**

**Pre-Order \*\*\* Vatnik Soup — KLE-art**  
FOR ENGLISH TEXT on the site - please select language at the top \*Pre-Order\*  
Do your friends believe Ukraine is full of Neo-Nazis and secret biolabs? Do you feel  
overwhelmed by propaganda and li...

<https://www.kleart.dk/webshop/p/vatnik-soup>

...