

## Donald Trump

# Seven Donald Trump policies that could change the US

New president takes office with agenda that marks radical break with the past



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As [Donald Trump](#) moves into the White House, a series of radical domestic and foreign policy reversals is about to get under way.

The new commander-in-chief has vowed to undo some of Barack Obama's signature achievements, including Obamacare and action on climate change. He wants to launch big initiatives on tax and infrastructure — issues that in recent years have fallen foul to congressional deadlock. Mr Trump will also shape the [Supreme Court](#) by appointing at least one justice.

Overseas, he has vowed to scupper the nuclear deal with Iran and could profoundly change US relations with [China](#), [Russia](#) and the [EU](#).

There is much Mr Trump can do with his executive powers, but he will not call all the shots. In addition to needing votes from Democrats to get key legislation through Congress, he will need to strike deals with Republicans whose preferences and ready-made bills are not all aligned with his own ideas.

Here are seven ways in which life could change under the new president.

## 1. Trade

Mr Trump has opposed the Trans-Pacific Partnership that Mr Obama concluded with Japan and 10 other economies and has called for fundamental changes to the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada. Incoming officials have cited a renegotiation of Nafta, which is more than two decades old, as their first priority.

He could also set off a trade war with China, which he has accused of manipulating its currency and threatened to hit with punitive tariffs. This is an area where he has significant latitude: as president, Mr Trump could make big changes to trade policy without congressional approval.

## 2. Foreign policy

Mr Trump has raised the spectre of a major change in policy on China by saying he might reconsider US support for the “One China” policy that has been in existence for almost four decades and is designed to reduce tensions over Taiwan, which China claims as a renegade province.

While Mr Obama began his term by setting out a vision of a world without nuclear weapons, the incoming president has said he would be open to both Japan and South Korea developing [nuclear arsenals](#), which has sparked alarm.

Mr Trump has also said that Mr Obama’s deal with Iran, which seeks to prevent the Islamic Republic from attaining nuclear weapons, would be [dismantled](#) or at least restructured, although some of his incoming team have taken a less aggressive stance.

He has also questioned US treaty commitments to Nato allies that do not pay their own way, while suggesting a much closer relationship with Vladimir Putin, Russia’s president. Just this week, he [startled Europeans](#) by labelling Nato “obsolete”, dismissing the EU as a “vehicle for Germany” and ranking chancellor Angela Merkel alongside Mr Putin as a potentially problematic ally.

## 3. Healthcare

A priority for the new president is to scrap Mr Obama’s signature healthcare reforms, which Mr Trump calls a “complete and total disaster”. He promises that the legislation will be replaced by new measures at the same time as it is repealed — and that the changes will come soon.

Some skittish Congressional Republicans are not convinced by his assurances that “it will be fine”, worrying about large numbers of people losing their existing health insurance. For both procedural and substantial reasons, it is much easier to pass legislation to repeal Obamacare than agree measures to replace it.

## 4. Tax policy

The new president has promised the biggest [tax revolution](#) since Ronald Reagan, pledging to unleash economic growth by cutting taxes across the board. He says no American business will pay more than 15 per cent of its profits in tax, compared with a current maximum of 35 per cent.

To bring home \$1.2tn in offshore earnings held by US non-financial companies, Mr Trump has also proposed a [one-off tax](#) of 10 per cent on all offshore earnings — an idea known as a “deemed repatriation”, or “transition tax”.

Overall, however, it is not clear how he will pay for his tax cuts. Some Republicans in Congress say it is more realistic to bring the corporate rate down to 20 per cent. They are also pushing other radical ideas — including a “border tax” on imports — of which Mr Trump appears [wary](#).

## 5. Supreme Court

For many political activists in the US this could be the biggest long-term consequence of the Mr Trump’s victory. The [highest court](#) in the land has had a vacancy since the death of Antonin Scalia last year, because Republicans refused to consider Mr Obama’s nominated replacement.

That left the court split four-four between conservative and more liberal judges. Mr Trump now has a chance to appoint a justice to restore an unofficial conservative majority. But his nominee will need some Democratic support in the Senate to be confirmed. As some of the liberal judges are relatively elderly, the new president may also have the opportunity to replace others and tilt the court’s balance further to the right before he leaves office.

## 6. Immigration

This is the issue that excited most passions in the campaign and Mr Trump has stuck to his vow to build a wall on the Mexican border. But he has watered down other pledges, such as his call for a ban on Muslim [immigration](#) and the deportation of 11m unauthorised immigrants.

Some activists highlight the uncertainty facing 740,000 unauthorised immigrants who came to the US illegally as children and identified themselves under an Obama-era programme intended to remove the threat of deportation. Mr Obama used an executive order to introduce the programme and Mr Trump could undo it with the stroke of a pen.

## 7. Climate change

A climate change sceptic is taking over the White House, replacing a president who sought to make action to address the issue part of his legacy.

Mr Trump once called [global warming](#) a hoax invented by China. More recently he said it was “a big scam for a lot of people to make a lot of money”. On the scientific evidence, he declared: “I’m still open-minded. Nobody really knows.”

The new president has vowed to “cancel” the Paris climate agreement, which built on a deal Mr Obama struck with China — even though the deal is a multinational accord, which no single country can bring to an end. He says he would stop all US payments for UN climate programmes and wants to kill Mr Obama’s initiative to curb carbon emissions from power plants.

*This story, initially published on November 9, has been updated to reflect news events during the presidential transition. Reporting by Barney Jopson, Daniel Dombey, Shawn Donnan and Demetri Sevastopulo*

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