

## Trump, Covid, and the 2020 Election

BY MACKENZIE GRUBBS

**R**EPORTS OF PRESIDENT Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump having contracted COVID-19 surfaced on the morning of October 2nd after the president himself sent out a tweet saying this: “Tonight, @FLOTUS and I tested positive for COVID-19. We will begin our quarantine and recovery process immediately.” The news may have shocked a lot of people, but, to others, it seemed like it was only a matter of time before an announcement like that was made.

The president’s refusal to wear a mask in public spaces, despite the CDC’s recommendation, is only one of the hypocrisies many have been quick to point out. Others have criticized his actions leading up to the announcement since he has been actively campaigning in various states over the past weeks, encouraging large gatherings and rallies. According to APnews.com, multiple members of his team had tested positive for the virus days prior to his own positive test. This leaves room for Americans to question Trump’s campaigning tactics in comparison to his opponent, former Vice President, Joe Biden’s, socially-distant campaign gatherings.

Even though Trump falls under the high risk category due to his age, the President’s seemingly swift recovery from the virus, mixed with his continued indifference about the severity, could potentially sway many voters to not take proper precautions come November. Trump has since tweeted, “A total and complete sign off from White House Doctors yesterday. That means I can’t get it (immune), and can’t give it. Very nice to know!!!” The tweet was flagged by Twitter for violating their policy on spreading misinformation about COVID-19. This is not the first time the President has spread misinformation about the virus. Earlier this month, a FaceBook post made by Trump claiming that COVID-19 was deadlier than the flu was removed for violating their policy on misinformation about COVID-19. With the leader of your country endorsing and spreading claims that downplay how serious COVID-19 is, Americans are left to wonder what is true and what is “fake news.”

Whether Trump contracting COVID-19 reaffirms your beliefs or sways them in the opposite direction, there is no doubt that his illness will affect the election results. COVID-19 has only deepened a divided nation between Democrats and Republicans, making the 2020 election all the more polarized.

## A Genocide Hidden from the World: China's Plan to Exterminate the Uyghur

BY RAJEERA GELETA

**N**EVER AGAIN! According to Essentials of Holocaust Education, this old slogan, was used for the first time as a response to the Holocaust genocide. This slogan has been used as a genocide repellent since then. However, it has proven to be ineffective, as several genocides have still taken place. These words may once again be used by nations after the soon-to-be infamous Uyghur genocide in China is resolved.

The Uyghurs are an ethnic minority who reside in the northwestern Xinjiang province in China. They have a very different culture compared to the Han, who make up the majority of China’s population. They speak Uyghur, a Turkic language, and predominantly follow Islam.

According to the Unrepresented Nations and People Organization (UNPO), a cultural ethnic cleansing has been taking place in order to destroy the Uyghur identity. In northwestern Xinjiang, schools are instructed to speak Mandarin, and previous schools that used the Uyghur language were either banned or merged with Chinese schools. Ughuys that wore veils or grew beards (these are common Muslim practices) are subjected to harassment from authorities and even arrests, and common Muslim names are continuing to get banned from the government.

To further dilute Uyghur identity and make northwestern Xinjian more “Chinese,” Han residents from eastern China have been encouraged to settle in northwestern Xinjain. China has encouraged Han Chinese to have multiple children even during the “One Child Policy,” while Uyghurs women have been subjected to “coercive birth control” to continue further control the Uyghur population according to the UNPO. According to Nicole Morgret, a project manager at the Uyghur Human Rights Project, these birth control methods may consist of forced sterilization, physical castration, and more. Even interethnic marriages between Han and Muslim minorities in northwestern Xinjiang are encouraged by the government, as these couples get access to better health care, jobs, and housing.

Starting in 2014, according to Amnesty International, mass detention camps have been spreading through the northwestern Xinjiang of China and are being used to replace ethnic identity and religious affiliation of the Uyghur people with Chinese patriotism and secularism. In a report conducted by the Uyghur Human Rights Project, a leaked document from Eastern Turkestan reveals reasons for the detention of

the Uyghur population. Such reasons include birth policy violations, applying for a passport, practicing religion, related to someone out of the country, or a prisoner. According to Morgret, not only are Uyghur detainees tortured and used for labor, but there is a strong reason to believe some detainees have had their organs harvested. Dolkun Isa, president of the World Uyghur Congress, said it best during a United Kingdom parliament roundtable when he referred to the organ harvesting of the Uyghur in northwestern Xinjiang, saying, “even after death they are not permitted to rest in peace.”

As the world watches, another ethnic and cultural cleansing takes place, and the outcome is easy to predict. Once the genocide is settled, nations will take a stand once again when it is too late and say, “never again”. This will be said for the “last time,” just like it was said for the “last time” after the Holocaust, the Rwandan Genocide, the Issaq Genocide, and more.

## Why Your Vote Matters

BY ALEXANDRIA GOSEN

**I**T’S NO SECRET THAT America is not in a great place at the moment. From the pandemic to the economy to the protests, there is something wrong everywhere you turn, and nothing seems to be getting better. All that is evident is that everyone is angry, sad, and conflicted all the time. What can we do about any of this? The answer, silly as it may seem: vote.

Our right to vote as citizens is a miracle we all take for granted. Before 1776, we were at the mercy of the British monarchy, who did not care much about us. This led to riots: The Boston Tea Party. This led to protests: No taxation without representation! This led to change: the first Article of the American Constitution. The idea behind a democracy and the electoral college was the bees-knees back in the day, but the people who wrote it forgot to actively include every citizen. This led to the fifteenth amendment in 1869, which allowed for Black men to vote! However, because people in power feared the loss of that power, they did everything to prevent them from voting: poll taxes, literacy tests, so on and so forth. Women did not win the right to vote until 1920, and that was not until after many protests and riots conducted by Suffragettes. Not only this, but only white women were given to vote at this time, and women were still frowned upon for voting.

Poll taxing, as previously mentioned, did not end until 1964 with the introduction of the 24th Amendment, which prohibits poll taxes. In the following year the Voting Rights Act ended Jim