

JD

Jay Doherty

*The **Jay Doherty** Podcast*

EPISODE 135

SHOW NOTES FOR ON-AIR BROADCAST

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Show Notes

Today's Show: 5:00 PM to 6:20 PM

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Today on The Jay Doherty Podcast:

The second -- and final -- 2020 Presidential Debate... President Trump tries to pull it together at the advice of his advisors and lets Joe Biden speak a little bit more. Joe Biden continues his tug-of-war game with the policy of his own party *on the stage* and tries to publicly pull the agenda back to center left. That's over-simplifying it but topic by topic, I will break down the responses of each candidate if you missed the debate... and if you didn't, you'll be subject to the subjective monologue during today's breakdown of the final 2020 Presidential debate here on episode 135 of The Jay Doherty Podcast.

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The Polls, Speaking Time & Ratings

- This is a crucial time for each of the candidates
 - Many things change a week or two ahead of the election
 - <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/we-have-a-lot-of-new-polls-but-theres-little-sign-of-the-presidential-race-tightening/>
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Ratings

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/23/media/final-presidential-debate-tv-ratings/index.html>

Speaking Time

<https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/2020/10/23/last-night-trump-biden-debate-recap-interruptions-speaking-time/3733474001/>

CORONAVIRUS

- Trump
 - Trump tended to defer the blame off of himself and onto other nations that are experiencing the same problem in response to Kristin Welker's prompt. The problem with Trump's answer was that it did not address a strategy for the here and now; it addressed it with a strategy for the future; that's great for the future but people are getting COVID-19 right now, they are dying from COVID-19 right now, and people are losing their jobs because of COVID-19. His response last night should have been more straightforward and addressed the good things his administration has done. One of the best things that Trump (or his administration) did in his handling of Coronavirus is that he facilitated pretty good bipartisan relationships with very liberal governors like New York's Andrew Cuomo and California's Gavin Newsom... and their collaboration probably saved lots of lives...
 - One of the most effective strategies I see debaters use is when they prove that even the opposite side has agreed with them or has been willing to work with their ideas in the past. Trump could have reminded the public of when Andrew Cuomo publicly praised his administration's efforts to help their state as much as possible. I actually dedicated a good portion of an episode I did back in April called "Helpful Compliance" where I talked about how the Federal Government worked well with states in their distribution of PPE. Trump could have deferred to his track record and pointed to his record of dealing with states and governors who are in charge of states with dense populations and pointed to this clip of Andrew Cuomo on Howard Stern back in April praising Trump... strategically, as a Republican running for President against a Democrat, showing that a Democrat has acknowledged you once did good for them is a very powerful thing! Here was Cuomo on Howard Stern in late April... CUOMO 1
 - Trump should have reiterated the successful collaboration he has had with Cuomo (and governors like Cuomo) in this crunch time but instead he made it about himself and how America is not the only one dealing with this problem.
 - In this response, the best thing Trump did was point out his military operation "Warp speed" to develop and distribute vaccines. The reason? Because that is something happening in the *here and now* where public government and private corporations are working together under the umbrella of his administration to get this vaccine done... despite Trump first saying he doesn't believe, in his infinite medical knowledge, that a vaccine will not be necessary back in early May... TRUMP 1... It's funny how he talks about Coronavirus like he's a doctor!

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- Also, Trump misled the public later in the debate by saying there is a vaccine that is currently ready... TRUMP 2
 - The FDA has not approved a vaccine for public use and there is no indication from any public health officials that a vaccine has been authorized or is ready for the public.
 - There are currently four US clinical vaccine trials in Phase 3. Moderna, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson are each trying to develop one.
 - AstraZeneca actually paused their trials on September 8 because one of their test subjects developed an unexplained illness and Johnson and Johnson did the same thing for the same reason on October 12... both of them said nothing of if/when they plan to resume.
 - On the other hand, Pfizer and Moderna are continuing their Phase three clinical trials with tens of thousands of participants at the moment but there has been little public indication of their progress and the companies said they will be able to apply to the FDA's emergency use program in late November or early December... in other words, according to the public data, we are weeks and perhaps months away from completing the development of a vaccine; let alone rolling it out to the public...
 - Then, when Kristin Welker asked for further clarification and the language here gets a little iffy... WELKER 1.
 - Remember, this was just two minutes after he said... TRUMP 2. In my mind, that displays a lack of confidence or a lack of knowledge.
 - After the debate, Dr. Anthony Fauci who is the U.S.'s Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [went on the BBC](#) and clarified that the completion of a vaccine is ideally going to be in November or December but that is not the end of the process; the logistical challenge is distributing it to people who need it and finding an equitable way to do that. FAUCI 1
 - The reason it won't come until later in 2021 as you heard in that clip is because Trump's administration or the military's "Operation Warp Speed" needs to come up with a method or a plan to distribute the vaccine to people who really need it. In that same interview, Fauci actually explains why the vaccine will likely not be available to the general public until the second or third quarter of 2021... FAUCI 2
- So that's how Trump handled the issue of Coronavirus... Biden did better

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- Biden
 - The chief reason Biden did better than Trump in his answer to this question is because of the circumstances. Hundreds of thousands of people did not die under the Presidential (or active public servant) watch of Biden, so circumstantially Biden was at a competitive advantage at this question which is why he was able to use this pre-planned speech at last night's debate to zoom out from the question of vaccines and look at this issue more broadly. Here's the first thing Biden said in the final debate... BIDEN 1
 - That is effective... and Trump would have said the exact same thing if Biden was in office and those were the numbers. It was an easy thing to do and it was a strategically good move for Biden to come out of the gate and encourage people to look at Trump's handling of this virus from 30,000 feet.
 - The other thing Biden did well is point out some of the many lies Trump has told the American public during his handling of this virus... BIDEN 2
 - Perhaps another pre-written or at least previously-thought-out line from Biden was when after Trump said "TRUMP 3," Biden said "BIDEN 3."
 - Biden did well in refuting the notion that he wanted to shut down everything and everyone in order to solve the problem, an idea that Trump and his Fox News community often like to push. BIDEN 4

NATIONAL SECURITY

- The first question brought up about national security was about a story that had come up the previous day that basically confirmed that both Russia and Iran are working to try and influence the outcome of the U.S. election. That story was prompted by Trump-appointee and Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe who said this the Wednesday before the debate: RATCLIFFE 1
- Biden
 - The first opportunity to respond went to Joe Biden and he was very clear from the outset about it; he seemed to have an obsession with the word "sovereignty" as I think he wanted to *challenge the intellect* of the American spirit or try and tug on some emotional and defensive strings... anyway here was his very straightforward response to that question. BIDEN 5
 - Smart debate strategy; make a point very clear and support it and then point out that your opponent has failed to make that point... but that failure on Trump's part is not as simple as one may think.... I'll talk about that in one second.
 - Then, a couple of seconds later, Biden swung back with a pre-planned hesitant but very well thought out speech about Rudy Giuliani's mysterious offshore dealings. BIDEN 6

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- Trump
 - Trump doesn't know anything about the policy he pushes. He pushes conservative moderate philosophies that his advisors write BUT he [has been pretty tough on Russia IN POLICY](#) but NOT in rhetoric. Why? I don't know but it's suspicious
 - He has put tons of sanctions on Russia
 - He gave tons of deadly weapons to the people of Ukraine so they are armed against Russia at the likely advice of his advisors so as to not repeat a similar annexation of Crimea that occurred in the Obama Administration even though he said [this](#) ABOUT [UKRAINE](#) back in 2014 on Fox News: TRUMP 4
 - And 36 other times he was "soft on Russia" according to *CNN*
 - <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/17/politics/trump-soft-on-russia/index.html>
 - The second part of Trump's argument was of course, Hunter Biden and Trump claimed that not only was Hunter sketchy in his dealings with Russia, which of course is more than questionable, but he said that Biden himself made money with Russia! TRUMP 5
 - Trump is obviously hoping Biden's supposed Russia involvement is going to be the functional equivalent of Hillary's email deletion in 2016. The problem is that Hillary actually *did* delete the emails and what Trump said about Biden happened with his son, Hunter, but there is no connection as of now to Joe Biden.
 - [The New York Times](#) says:
 - *This claim is based on an investigative report released last week by Senate Republicans that accused members of Mr. Biden's family of cashing in on his vice presidency. The report claims that Hunter Biden "had a financial relationship" with Elena Baturina, a wealthy Russian businesswoman and the widow of a former mayor of Moscow. The report bases this claim on an unidentified "confidential document" showing that Ms. Baturina transferred \$3.5 million in 2014 for "a Consultancy Agreement" to a bank account associated with a company called Rosemont Seneca Thornton that was associated with Hunter Biden's business partners. Mr. Biden's lawyer has said that he was not a co-founder of Rosemont Seneca Thornton, had no interest in it and did not have a financial relationship with Ms. Baturina. He did not respond to a question about whether Mr. Biden was paid by Rosemont Seneca Thornton or did consulting work for Ms. Baturina.*

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- This is bad. Hunter and any child of a super famous politician should have absolutely no involvement in government.
- No surprise Biden also hit Trump on the tax returns he has refused to release for 5 years because, of course, of the famous line: TRUMP 6

BREAK

- The Economy
 - Healthcare
 - This was simple. Nothing really new. Trump knocked Obamacare as he has done in the past. The most concerning thing about Trump right now is that there is no clear plan.
 - Also, as I talked about last episode, Biden's healthcare plan is preferable to Trump's in almost every single way. Healthcare is a place where I am very sturdily center left because:
 - Biden has a moderate healthcare plan which was built off of The Affordable Care Act and it left room for a more moderate hybrid of options which in my opinion is much better than Trump's very loosely defined (at best) repealed but not replaced version of The Affordable Care Act. In short, in my opinion, Biden's plan is best because it gives options: you can stick with the government or you can pay for your own insurance... Freedom in politics comes in the form of options and Biden's plan presents options because it breaks from the socialized alternative that the progressives push and the mostly privatized version that conservatives push.
 - What was particularly interesting during this debate was Biden's response to Kristin Welker's question about American's legitimate fear of socialized medicine and a government-run healthcare system. Here's the tail end of her question and the substance of Biden's response: BIDEN 8
 - Good response. Conservatives often think that healthcare is more of a commodity or a service than a right which is an interesting philosophical conversation more than anything. Where does morality come into play in that scenario? It would be my initial/instinctive conclusion that healthcare is needed to survive in good quality therefore it should be deemed a right. However, it gets complicated with complexity because if someone is really sick but it is not an *emergency* (which hospitals would be required under law to provide care for) then who pays for it? The government? The debt? AAA! It's an interesting question and Biden's plan is just better; said that from day one!
 -
 - Healthcare is a great place for Trump to default to fear mongering as he always does. Perhaps these were the greatest lies of the entire debate... TRUMP 7

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- As if that wasn't enough, Trump had to sneak this one-liner in: TRUMP 8
- Also, somewhere in the middle of this Trump snuck in a little compliment to Kristin Welker: TRUMP 9 despite him once congratulating her on her appointment to her weekend anchor role at the TODAY Show on January 25 (TRUMP 10) and more recently calling her a Democrat Hack (TRUMP 11)
- Immigration
 - Trump: Obama and you built cages
 - Biden: You separated children from their parents at the border
- Race in America
 - Biden
 - This is a very hard question to answer for lots of reasons but particularly considering that Biden and Trump have only been witness to historical and present acts of racism and never actually experienced discrimination themselves.
 - Joe Biden had, in my opinion, a perfect response to this question about something that I think can be applied to many things in American history; that, collectively, Americans have never fully lived up to the values established in the Constitution and in The Declaration of Independence. I wrote an entire paper in history and the thesis of that paper was: "To me, America is a land of potential that, despite its core mission of peace, prosperity, and equality, has struggled to live up to its values, as evidenced by its morbid history and present challenges."
 - On the issue of race specifically, Joe Biden said something very similar: BIDEN 9
 - Trump
 - First thing Trump said was that, in 1994, Biden called Black people "super-predators."
 - According to Snopes, the internet's "definitive fact-checking resource," [Trump's claim is mostly false](#).
 - Perhaps this tomfoolery sums Trump's response up:
 - TRUMP 12
 - [LBJ?](#) Voting rights act? Ending slavery?
 - [Ridiculous](#)
 - Here's yet again another ridiculous exchange: BIDEN 10
 - At the end of this segment, there was this long exchange about policy between Trump and Trump was upset that Biden didn't do what he is now promising in the eight years of his Vice Presidency and Biden said we started it, but because Democrats didn't win The White House in 2016, they weren't able to finish it... and then, it finally came down to the most awkward moment of silence in the entire debate when Biden finally conceded that it was because of a Republican Congress that they weren't able to pass the aforementioned legislation... BIDEN 11

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- Climate Change
 - Speed round!
 - TRUMP 13
 - The US ranks 16th in air quality in the world (page 50), according to the [Environmental Performance Index](#), a joint project from Yale and Columbia universities that ranks countries by a variety of environmental indicators.
 - The US ranks 26th in the Sanitation and Drinking category of that same report.
 - <https://jay-doherty.com/epi20>
 -
 - BIDEN 12
 - What does Biden's plan say?
 - <https://joebiden.com/climate-plan/#>
 - Fracking is also an interesting issue that was initially brought up in the Vice Presidential Debate for whatever reason, and has now brought back up. Sometimes Biden says he likes fracking, sometimes he doesn't.
 - CNN's Holmes Lybrand, and I'm using CNN as a source because they had the interview with Biden says that,
 - In two Democratic primary debates, Biden made confusing remarks over fracking that his campaign had to clarify. In 2019, Biden said "we would make sure it's eliminated" when asked about the future of coal and fracking; in 2020 he said he opposed "new fracking." Biden's written plan, conversely, never included a full ban on fracking or even on new fracking. Rather, it proposes "banning new oil and gas permitting on public lands and waters" -- not ending all new fracking anywhere or ending all existing fracking on public lands and waters.
 - Biden created confusion about his stance with some of his comments during the Democratic primary. For example, he had this exchange with CNN's Dana Bash during a July 2019 debate:
 - Bash: "Thank you, Mr. Vice President. Just to clarify, would there be any place for fossil fuels, including coal and fracking, in a Biden administration?"
 - Biden: "No, we would -- we would work it out. We would make sure it's eliminated and no more subsidies for either one of those, either -- any fossil fuel."
 - Afterwards, Biden's campaign clarified that he "supports eliminating subsidies for coal and gas and deploying carbon capture."
 - Biden also said he was against "new fracking" in a Democratic primary debate in March when challenged by his opponent, Sen. Bernie Sanders,

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on the issue of climate change. His campaign clarified to reporters that same evening that Biden was reiterating his plan to ban oil and gas permits on public land, not a complete ban on new fracking, which a president cannot do.

- Without an act of Congress, the President could not issue an outright ban on fracking across the US. There are, however, a number of regulatory and executive actions an administration could take to prevent or shrink the use of fracking technology, particularly on federal land. The problem is that most fracking takes place on private land, and any attempts to limit it would likely face legal challenges.
- Final Question: Leadership... what will you say to Americans who did not vote for you?
 - Trump says "success is going to bring us together" And then proceeds to attack Biden in his remaining and final moments on the debate stage TRUMP 14.
 - Fearmonger much?
 - Biden was asked the same question, "what will you say to Americans who did not vote for you?" and gave a longer speech but I cut out some of his talking points to address the variety in his speech. BIDEN 13.
- That was it!

Make sure to vote if you are eligible!!!!!!

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