Reversal, correction & re-engagement

US **Energy & environmental policy under Biden Administration**

5th AIEE Conference
Milan, Italy
15 Dec 2020

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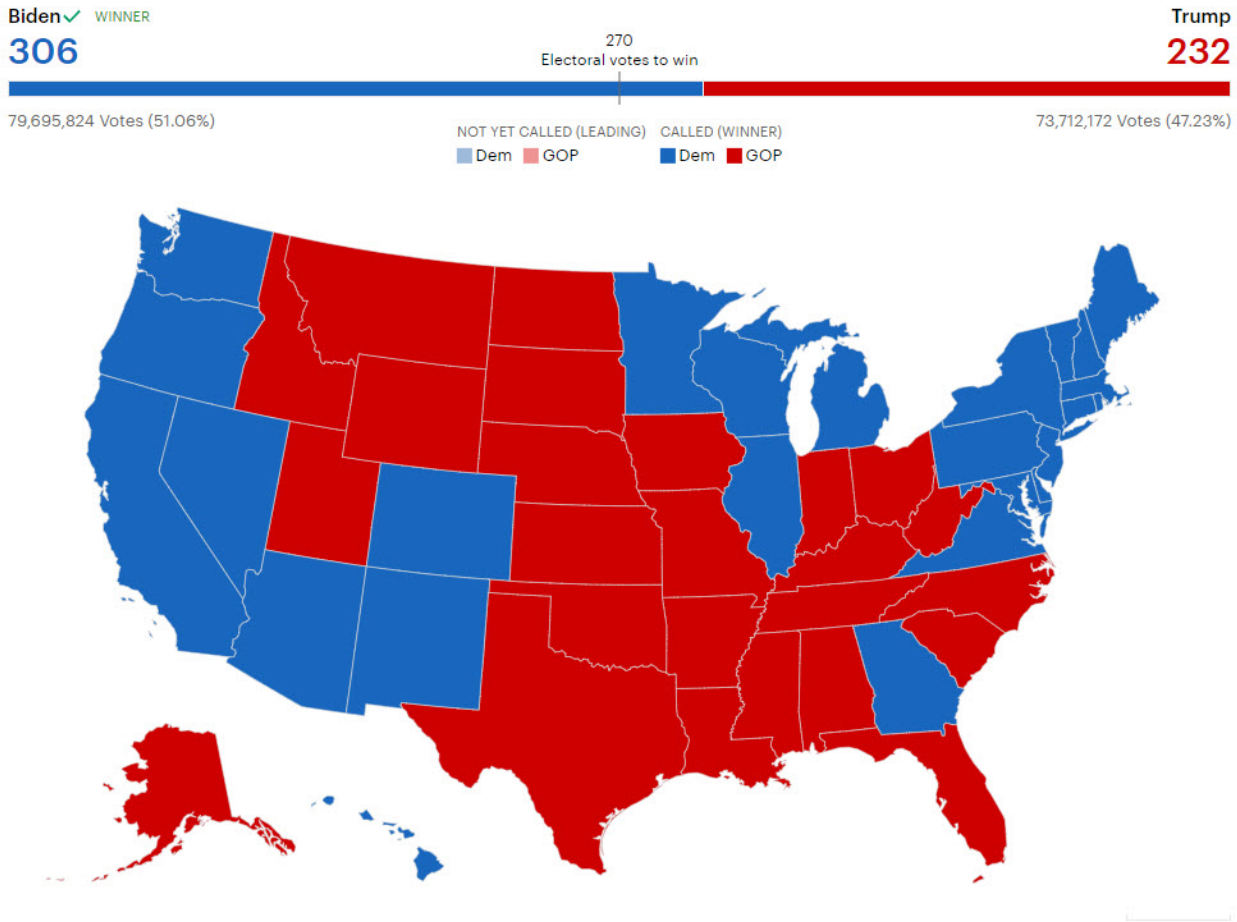
Thank you

- I wish could be in Milan in person
- Election 3 Nov
- Trump defeated but not repudiated
  - 75 m voted for Trump, 77% say election was “stolen”
- Republican Senate (?), small majority in the House
- Biden inherits a polarized & devastated country
  - The pandemic, economy, income inequality, climate change
  - America’s standing in the world including the Paris Accord
  - Much damage to repair
- NOTE: My personal & biased views

Two countries, not united



Let's focus on 3 points

- 1st: Trump's Toxic legacy
  - Misdirected energy & environmental policies
- 2nd: Bifurcation of federal vs. states
  - California leading the "Blue states"
- 3rd: Biden's green & clean vision
  - Remains to be seen

Trump's main objectives

- First: Obliterate Obama's energy & environmental legacy
  - Executive order to rescind regulations protecting environment
- Second: Place hostile appointees at EPA, DOE, DOI, etc.
  - "Fox protecting the chicken"
- Third: Pull US out of Paris Accord
  - Biden says he will reverse course on first day in office
- Fourth: Misguided polices, rhetoric & "alternative facts"
  - Resurrect "*clean beautiful coal*"
  - Hostility towards renewables
  - Rescind efficiency standards for cars & appliances
  - Offshore drilling, fracking & mining on federal lands

Trump Digs Coal

Delivering on campaign promises

Source: The Economist, 19 Nov 2016

“Fellas, you are going back to work”

28 Mar 2017 Executive Order at EPA

Trump surrounded by coal miners and executives, Pruitt, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Vice President Pence.

Trump's EPA Administrator

Sued EPA 14 times as Attorney General of Oklahoma

Trump's Energy Secretary

Famously vowed to eliminate DOE if elected president

Trump's Interior Department

Ease mining, ranching, logging, fracking on public land

DOI's Ryan Zinke

"Public lands are for grazing & mining, what else?"

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, from The Washington Post

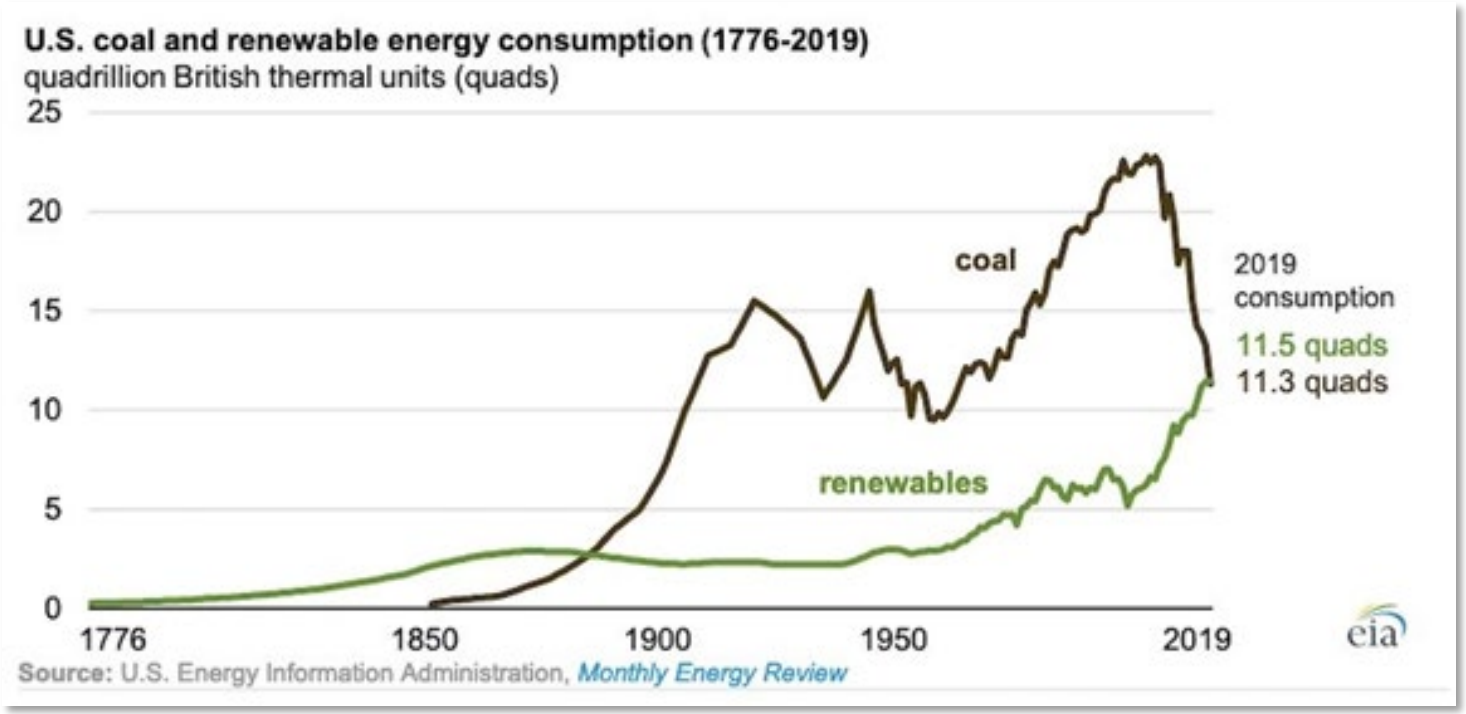
Unleashing American Energy
Unleashing American Energy
UPI

COP21

It took 21 years of hard negotiations before Paris in 2015

Source: UN

Renewables surpass coal



Source: EIA, May 2020

SECOND

Former CA governor Jerry Brown

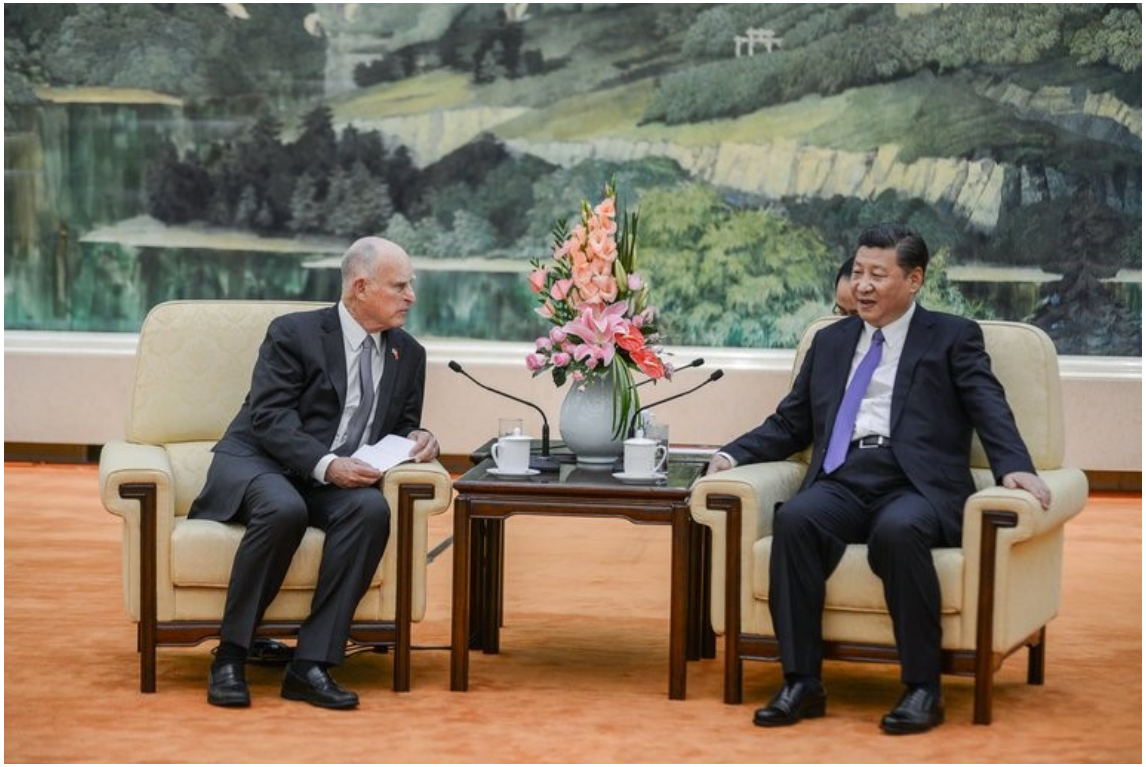
CA Gov. Brown delivering state of the state address

Paris Accord

- 1 June 2017
  - Trump announces he is pulling the US out of the Paris Accord
- 6 June 2017
  - Brown has audience with China's President Xi Jinping to discuss climate issues

Brown gets the red carpet

Rick Perry does not



Source: https://static01.nyt.com/images/2017/06/07/world/07China/07China-master768.jpg

5th largest economy

Source: http://under2mou.org/governor-brown-welcomes-armenia-to-under2-climate-coalition/

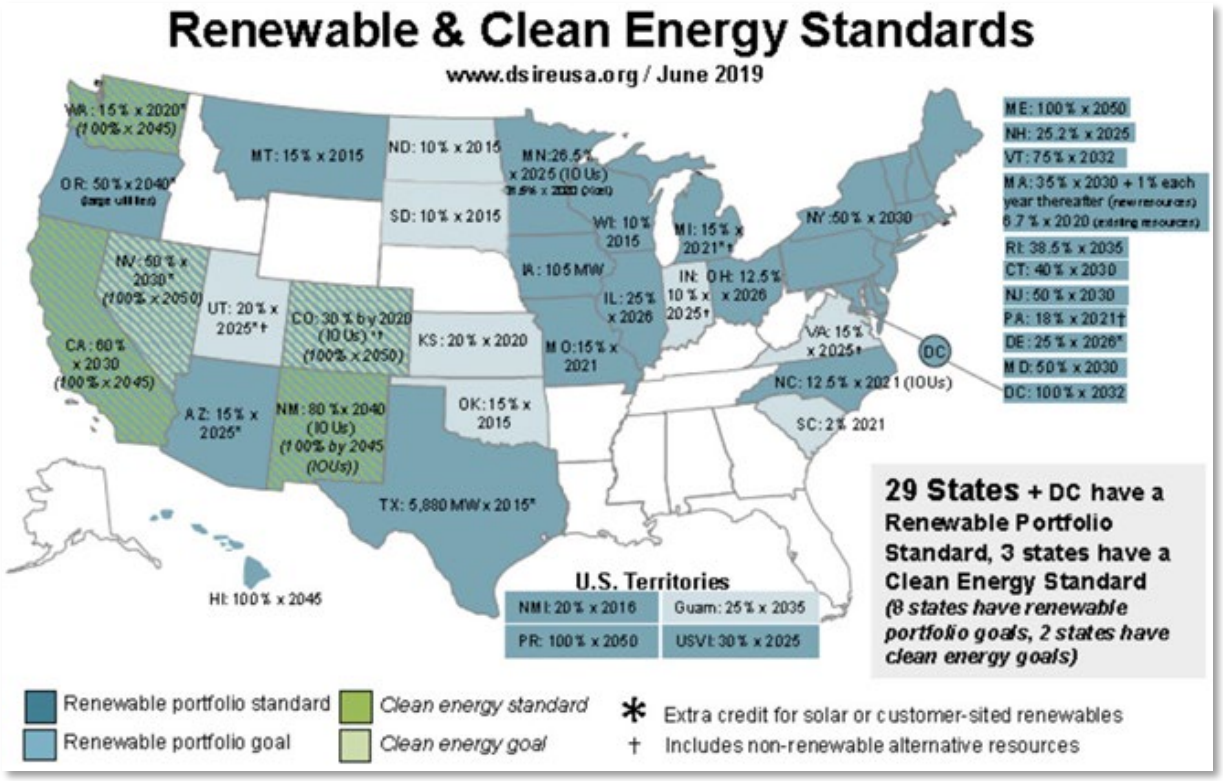
Brown extends Cap & Trade

California reaffirmed its climate goal, Treasure Island, July 2017

California's governor

A very green Gavin Newsom

States take the lead



Source: https://www.dsireusa.org

Biden agenda?

So much to do, so little time

- Highly political
  - Republican vs. Democrats
  - Left vs. right wing of his own party
- Priorities?
  - Pandemic
  - The economy
  - Jobs
  - Climate change
  - Foreign relations, trade
  - 2022 mid-term election & 2024 re-election?

New Green Deal

Questions?

- Thank you