

## Ladies and gentlemen... the next president of the United States!



In January I warned readers not to underestimate Donald Trump, because [he may just make it to the White House](#). This was at a time when most commentators thought the party would close ranks, and prevent the unusually coiffed loudmouth from securing the party's nomination. Well, now he has secured it, and his path to the White House remains open.

However, I do not believe he will replace Obama. That's because Bernie Sanders is going to be the next president of the United States.

The California primary is a couple of days away, and the latest polls have Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton neck and neck. However, I believe Sanders will begin to pull ahead, as young progressive types - of which there are plenty in California - begin to rally behind the 74 year-old senator.

California is a big prize, because there are more delegates available - 546 - than from any other state. If Sanders can win big here - which I believe he can - then the balance of power will have shifted permanently in his direction. The momentum is with him, as he has racked up an impressive string of victories, and proved himself to be immensely popular with young people, who have helped to turn his rallies into spectacular public gatherings - which lend credence to the idea of a "political revolution", as espoused by the silver-haired Brooklynite.

Admittedly it is a tall order. Clinton has over two hundred more "pledged" delegates than Sanders (delegates that are in the bag), and she has vastly more "super" delegates (delegates that have said they will support her, but are not yet in the bag). The "pledged" delegates have been acquired democratically, through winning state

primaries. The "super" delegates were not acquired democratically; they are figures of the political establishment who have promised her their unblinking support.

And here we get to the crux of why this is such an uphill battle for Sanders, and why it is so remarkable that he has done as well as he has. Hillary Clinton *is* the establishment. So much so, that this was expected to be her coronation. No-one expected her to have to fight this hard to get the Democratic nomination, especially against a 74 year-old with supposed "socialist" credentials.

Of course, it is precisely her "Washington insider" cachet that is also her Achilles heel; Americans are largely sick of Washington politics, and of the political establishment. Hence the phenomenal rise of Trump. And hence: the phenomenal rise of Bernie Sanders.

Clinton is disliked and mistrusted by voters for various reasons, many of which branch out from her Establishment pedigree.

For a start, she is very cozy with the Wall Street bankers who did so much to crash the world economy in 2008. During her previous tilt at the presidency, the likes of Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase and Citigroup helped to bankroll her campaign.

There's the email controversy, which erupted when it came to light that she had been transmitting sensitive government information using her own email account, which was unencrypted. As Secretary of State she should probably have known better, and there are prominent figures calling for her to be held criminally responsible.

There are the half-truths and the outright lies - like the one about landing under sniper fire in Bosnia in 1996, which she repeated several times in the run-up to the 2008 presidential campaign, when in fact, she was nowhere near the frontline.

There is the feeling that she will say and do anything to get some kind of an advantage - and in that she is not unlike many-a politician, her husband Bill being a prime example. But why should Americans settle for that, if there is an alternative?

Sanders is the alternative. He has never accepted money from Wall Street or big business. For his presidential campaign, he has raised money from the grass roots: his own supporters. And they have been happy to cough up a few dollars, because he is *their man*. He is the political animal they have been waiting for. Principled and astute, sane, and not corrupt. He not only believes climate change is *really happening*, but that we have to *do something about it*. He believes in free health care for all Americans. He believes in promoting freedom, and equality. And how do we know he's serious? Because he was active during the Civil Rights movement in the early sixties.

Bernie Sanders represents an enormous opportunity for America, and for the world. A man like this in the top job, at this point in history, could do much good, and work to reverse some of the more regressive, and less egalitarian measures put in motion by his predecessors. And even if his presidency is hamstrung by a bloody-minded and intransigent political class - as Obama's has been - and progress is agonizingly slow, well, it will be better than the alternative - which is business-as-usual Washington game playing à la Clinton, or God-knows-what-horrors à la Trump.

If he can continue to prove the pundits wrong, and mobilise a huge groundswell of support in California, then he stands a good chance of contesting the Democratic convention in late July. And then, if he can persuade the super delegates to come over to his side, he will secure the Democratic nomination, and he can set his sights on Trump.

Why would the super delegates ditch Clinton, and adopt Sanders, at this late hour?

Because they will have seen the enormous popular support he can generate, and it will have finally dawned on them that Sanders is *better placed* to defeat Trump.

He is not open to the same charges of deceit and hypocrisy. And he *is not* part of the Establishment!

Can that last immutable fact be overstated? I don't believe so.

A Trump vs Clinton scenario would be a sustained verbal barrage that Clinton would not win.

Why?

Because her position is untenable! She is a politician pretending to be on the side of ordinary people whilst having a track record of being in the pockets of bankers and capitalists... like Trump! Yes! She has received money from Trump, and to say thanks, she attended his wedding! Of course, Trump has already boasted about it, and we can expect to hear *a lot* more about it should Clinton and Trump face/off.

Trump would verbally batter her down and diminish her in the eyes of the American people.

But he would not be able to do that to Sanders.

That's why Sanders *must* secure the Democratic nomination.

Because only *he* can beat Trump.

Take this opportunity, America.