

Qutuz, Mamluk Sultans of Egypt (1259-60), is assassinated by Bai-bars, a fellow Mamluk leader, who seizes power for himself



"Black Thursday", start of stock market crash, Dow Jones down 12.8%

Cuban Missile Crisis: Soviet ships approach but stop short of the US blockade of Cuba

"Bloody Friday" saw many of the world's stock exchanges experienced the worst declines in their history, with drops of around 10% in most indices

Xi invokes Chinese military might with US in mind



Xi Jinping
AFP | Beijing

President Xi Jinping issued a sharp warning yesterday to potential "invaders" of Beijing's military resolve, speaking on the 70th anniversary of his nation's entry into the Korean War, the only time Chinese forces have fought US rivals.

In a long speech, heavy on patriotism and flecked by anecdotes of heroism by Chinese forces, Xi said victory in the 1950-53 conflict was a reminder that his nation stood ready to fight anyone "creating trouble... on China's doorstep".

Beijing frequently uses war anniversaries to fire thinly covered warnings to the US of the military strength of the "new China".

The Korean War is a key foundation story for the ruling Communist Party, which in recent years has been the target of US President Donald Trump, in a bitter row spanning trade, tech, human rights and the status of Taiwan, which China says is an inviolable part of the mainland.

"Chinese people don't create troubles, nor are we afraid of them," Xi said to applause.

"We will never sit back and watch any damage to our national sovereignty... and we will never allow any force to invade or divide the sacred territory of the motherland."

Trump-Biden differences laid bare in final debate

Donald Trump and Joe Biden fight over the raging virus, climate and race

● Biden mauls Trump's record on coronavirus in final US presidential debate

Reuters | Washington

US President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden fought over how to tame the raging coronavirus during the campaign's closing debate, largely shelving the rancor that overshadowed their previous face-off in favor of a more substantive exchange that highlighted their vastly different approaches to the major domestic and foreign challenges facing the nation.

The president declared the virus, which killed more than 1,000 Americans on Thursday alone, will "go away." Biden countered that the nation was heading toward "a dark winter."

"Anyone who is responsible for that many deaths should not remain as president of the United States of America," Biden said.

With less than two weeks until the election, Trump portrayed himself as the same outsider he first pitched to voters four years ago, repeatedly saying he wasn't a politician. Biden, meanwhile, argued that Trump was an incompetent leader of a country facing multiple crises and tried to connect what he saw as the president's failures to the everyday lives of Americans, especially when it comes to the pandemic.

The president, who promised a vaccine within weeks, said the worst problems are in states with Democratic governors, a contention at odds with rising cases in states that voted for Trump in 2016. Biden, meanwhile, vowed that his administration would defer to scientists on battling the pandemic and said that Trump's divisive approach on suffering states hindered the nation's response.

"I don't look at this in terms of the way he does — blue states and red states," Biden said. "They're all the United States. And look at all the states that are having such a spike in the coronavirus—they're the red states."

After a first debate defined by angry interruptions, the Thursday event featured a mostly milder tone. And in a campaign



Donald Trump (R) and Joe Biden (L) participate in the final presidential debate

"I don't look at this in terms of the way he does — blue states and red states. They're all the United States. And look at all the states that are having such a spike in the coronavirus—they're the red states"

JOE BIDEN

defined by ugly personal attacks, the night featured a surprising amount of substantive policy debate as the two broke sharply on the environment, foreign policy, immigration and racial justice.

When Trump repeatedly asked Biden if he would "close down the oil industry," the Democratic standardbearer said he "would transition from the oil industry, yes," and that he would replace it by renewable energy "over time." Trump, making a direct appeal to voters in energy producing states like Texas and the vital battleground of Pennsylvania, seized upon the remark as "a big statement."

Perhaps sensing that the comment could soon appear in Trump campaign ads, Biden did a little clean-up boarding his plane after the debate, declaring "We're not going to ban fossil fuels. We'll get rid of the subsi-

dies of fossil fuels but not going to get rid of fossil fuels for a long time."

As the debate swept to climate change, Trump explained his decision to pull the US out of the Paris climate accord negotiated in 2015, declaring it was an unfair pact that would have cost the country trillions of dollars and hurt businesses.

Trump repeatedly claimed Biden's plan to tackle climate change and invest in green industries was developed by "AOC plus three," referring to New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Biden chuckled during much of Trump's answer and said, "I don't know where he comes from."

On race, Biden called out Trump's previous refusals to condemn white supremacists and his attacks on the Black Lives Matter movement, declaring that the president "pours fuel on every single racist fire."

"You know who I am. You know who he is. You know his character. You know my character," Biden said. The rivals' reputations for "honor and for telling to truth" are clear, he said.

Trump countered by pointing out his efforts on criminal justice reform and blasting Biden's support of a 1990s Crime Bill that many feel disproportionately incarcerated Black men. Staring into the crowd, he declared himself "the least racist person in this room."

Ultimate absentee ballot: US astronaut votes from space station

AFP | Washington

At least she didn't have to wait in line. A US astronaut cast her ballot from the International Space Station on Thursday, making her voice heard in the presidential election despite being 253 miles (408 kilometers) above the Earth.

"From the International Space Station: I voted today," crew member Kate Rubins, who began a six-month stint aboard the orbiting station last week, said on US space agency NASA's Twitter account.

The post featured a photograph of Rubins, her blonde hair floating in the zero-gravity environment, in front of a white enclosure with a paper sign that reads "ISS voting booth."

Rubins and NASA described the process as a form of absentee voting.

A secure electronic ballot generated by a clerk's office in Harris County, home of NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, was sent up via email to the ISS.



International Space Station crew member Kate Rubins pointing to a sign reading "ISS voting booth"

Rubins filled out the ballot in the email and it was downlinked and delivered back to the clerk's office.

She is no stranger to the process: Rubins cast her vote from the ISS during the 2016 election. Congress passed leg-

islation in 1997 that made voting from space possible.

"We consider it an honor to be able to vote from space," she said in a video before she and two Russian cosmonauts launched from the Russian-operated

Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on October 14.

"If we can do it from space then I believe folks can do it from the ground too."

Three other American astronauts were also expected to vote from space but their October 31 trip to the ISS was delayed.



Voting in space has been possible since 1997 when a bill passed to legally allow voting from space in Texas. Since then, several NASA astronauts have exercised this civic duty from orbit

TOP 4 TWEETS 01



I'm running as a proud Democrat, but I will govern as an American president. I will represent you — whether you vote for me or against me.

@JoeBiden

02



Just last month, Donald Trump stood on a debate stage and refused to condemn white supremacists. This isn't the first time he's been an apologist for racists. When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.

@KamalaHarris

03



If Biden gets in, not only will he destroy the Oil & Gas industry (and millions of American jobs and lives), we can all say goodbye to these unbelievably good gas prices. Don't forget the nearly \$5 per gallon we were paying under O'Biden.

@EricTrump

04



Today we remember the 241 brave Americans lost in the Marine Barracks bombing in Beirut. We will never forget or fail to honor the sacrifice those men made 37 years ago. May God bless our beloved fallen and may God bless and comfort their families on this day.

@MikePence

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)