



A BIBLICAL VIEW ON

Political Realignment



Kerby Anderson



Political Realignment

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America is in the midst of a significant political realignment. Some of this is due to geography. The rest of it is due to changing political landscape.

Geographical Realignment

Three years ago, I wrote *A Biblical Point of View on American Realignment*. I discussed three biblical principles. First, we need to understand the times in which we are living. 1 Chronicles 12:32 says that the sons of Issachar were “men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do.” Likewise, we need to understand our time with knowledge of what we as Christians should do.

Second, we should also plan for the future. Isaiah 32:8 says that “the noble man devises noble plans, and by noble plans he stands.” Third, have a plan but also depend upon the Lord. Proverbs 16:9 says, “the mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”

One geographic example of realignment came after the 2020 census. Social scientists say: “Demography is destiny.” That is a simple way of saying that demographic changes alter our future. But you don’t have to be a social scientist to see the impact. As people move around, the political landscape changes.

The day before the 2024 election, *The Wall Street Journal* published an editorial with the surprising title “Could California Elect Donald Trump?”¹ The editors didn’t mean that California would swing the election for him, but they were pointing to the fact that the geographical realignment of the Electoral College could help Donald Trump.

Let’s look at the changes from 2020 to 2024 in some battle-

ground states. Trump, they argued, could reach 270 electoral votes with Georgia, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina, but those same states would have only won him 268 votes in 2020. Winning Arizona, North Carolina, Michigan, and Wisconsin would give him 270 versus 269 in 2020.

Trump, of course, won all the swing states. But you can see the impact of the geographical realignment that occurred when American voters move from California, New York, and Illinois. And the trend will be even more significant after the 2030 census.

The 2030 Apportionment Forecast by the American Redistricting Project is based upon current population estimates.² If these predictions are accurate,

Republicans could pick up an additional 12 electoral votes. For example, California would lose 4 electoral votes, while Texas would pick up an additional 4 electoral votes. New York would lose 3 electoral votes, while Florida would pick up an additional 3 electoral votes.

Some fear that migrants from blue states to red states will liberalize the politics of the red states. It appears that many of them are fleeing high taxes and progressive policies. The editors of *The Wall Street Journal* explain, “Florida is now the home to 1.6 million native New Yorkers” and yet “Florida has become solidly Republican.”

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American voters are not only

changing states. They are also changing party preferences. The two elections of Donald Trump illustrate this shift.

His election to the White House in 2016 was due in large part to the fact that he became the leader of a white working-class coalition. Philip Wegmann recalled some of the key phrases of Trump's inaugural address.³ He talked about "the forgotten men and women" and vowed to reverse the "American carnage" brought about by deindustrialization, globalization, and unchecked immigration.

His election in 2024 was a repudiation of the leftist shift of the Democratic Party and the policies of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. His winning coalition included a much broader swath of

the American electorate. At his victory party, Trump proclaimed his winning coalition was drawn “from all quarters—union, non-union, African American, Hispanic American, Asian American, Arab American.” He added, “We had everybody, and it was beautiful.” He and others called it “a historic realignment.”

Much of this realignment is due to the Trump factor. He not only won the electoral vote but also won the popular vote (first time in two decades for a Republican). Steve Kornacki (NBC) reminds us that for “three straight elections Trump has been the Republican candidate.” Usually, a candidate is before the people for two elections. Trump has been there for three presidential elections.

Kornacki documents the difference between pre-Trump voters and current voters.⁴ “Pre-Trump voters under 30 were going for the Democrats by 23 points. Folks with incomes under \$50,000, 22 points for the Democrats. Folks without college degrees, four points for the Democrats.” In this election, we see that Trump cut the Democratic margin for the youth vote in half. And voters under \$50,000 have become a core Republican constituency.

While it is true that the black vote is still overwhelmingly Democratic, there was a 15-point shift (87% became 72%). The Hispanic vote before Trump was significantly Democratic, and now is basically a toss-up. A similar shift occurred for Asian American votes.

Another interesting shift has been for affluent voters, people making more than \$100,000 used to a Republican constituency. Today, college-educated voters and voters earning \$100,000 or more have become a Democratic constituency.

A Permanent Realignment?

Is this a significant shift in realignment or merely a Trump phenomenon? It is too early to determine what the future electoral map will be like, but the trends are encouraging. No realignment is forever, but there are a few indicators that this political realignment will last for some time.

One example came in a poll two weeks after the election. Echelon Insights discovered in

their poll that a majority (53%) of voters approved of the way Trump was handling the transition. Remember, this positive feeling was taking place while Democrats and the media were criticizing many of Trump's cabinet appointments.

The voters were willing to give Trump and his administration the benefit of the doubt. A majority (58%) said it's likely "the country will start to head in a better direction in 2025." They perceive the Republican Party as the party of the big tent. They believe the Democratic Party is no longer a big tent party but one that is hyper-exclusionary. If Donald Trump and his administration deliver on many of his campaign promises, the American voters are likely to vote in future elections as they

voted in 2024.

The geographic realignment is likely to continue. Americans have been moving from high-tax states to low-tax states. The states with the highest personal income growth are Texas, Idaho, Nevada, Florida, North Carolina, and Arkansas. California ranked last along with Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, and Hawaii.

Futurists used to argue that cities would become more important in the 21st century. Thus, mayors (most of whom are Democratic) would become more influential in this country and the world. That has not happened. A professor at Columbia University has observed a “doom loop” in New York City and predicts it for other cities.

More people work from home, office space is less valuable, and the cities get less revenue from real estate taxes. People with money, whose work no longer requires them to be in the city, move out, taking their tax dollars and retail spending with them. In ten of the largest cities, half of all offices sit empty. America's big cities lost more than two million people in the last few years.

Nearly two decades ago, Arthur Brooks wrote about the "Fertility Gap" in a column in *The Wall Street Journal*.⁵ He said, "Simply put, liberals have a big baby problem: They're not having enough of them . . . and their pool of potential new voters is suffering as a result."

Brooks noted that ". . . if you

picked 100 unrelated politically liberal adults at random, you would find that they had, between them, 147 children. If you picked 100 conservatives, you would find 208 kids.” That is a “fertility gap” of forty-one percent.

We know that about eighty percent of people with an identifiable party preference grow up to vote essentially the same way as their parents. Brooks says that this “fertility gap” therefore “translates into lots more little Republicans than little Democrats to vote in future elections.”

We must also admit that colleges and universities seem to be working to convert conservative kids into liberal kids. Fortunately, groups like the Daily Wire, Turning Point, USA, and

PragerU (along with the *Point of View Millennial Roundtable*) are helping to promote biblical and conservative values to young adults.

We are fortunate to live in such a time as this (Esther 4:14). We should be like the sons of Issachar (1 Chronicles 12:32) who were “men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do.” We should work to understand this historic realignment and embrace it and this country’s future.



Additional Resources

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Endnotes

¹"Could California Elect Donald Trump?" Wall Street Journal, November 4, 2024.

²American Redistricting Project, <https://thearp.org/blog/apportionment/2030-asof121923/>

³Philip Wegmann, “Trump Win Signals Historic Realignment,” https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2024/11/06/trump_win_signals_historic_realignment_151904.html

⁴Steve Kornacki, “Republicans Achieve Historical Realignment,” https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2024/11/10/nbcs_kornacki_.html.

³Arthur Brooks, “The Fertility Gap,” *The Wall Street Journal*, August 22, 2006.

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