The New York Times: -What to Know About J. D. Vance, Trump's Running Mate" [C1]

Il candidato alla vicepresidenza di Trump è passato da essere un repubblicano critico nei confronti del suo futuro capo a esserne il più fervente discepolo.

Senator J. D. Vance of Ohio, the newly-announced **running mate** to **former** President Donald Trump, has gone on a rapid journey over the past eight years from bestselling author and **outspoken**Trump critic to one of Trump's **staunchest** defenders and, now, his **would-be** second-in-command. Before **running for office**, Vance, forty, was known as the author of Hillbilly Elegy, a bestselling memoir recounting his **upbringing** in a poor family that also served as a sort of sociological examination of white working-class Americans. The book was published the summer before Trump's election in 2016, and many readers looked to it after his victory as a sort of guide to understanding Trump's support among white working-class communities. Vance **harshly** denounced Trump during his 2016 campaign. But by 2022, he had embraced Trump, winning a crowded Republican Senate primary with his **backing** and becoming a reliable pro-Trump voice in Congress. Here is more on Vance's background and views: Personal background: He was born in Middletown, Ohio, and spent part of his childhood in Jackson, Kentucky, raised by his maternal grandparents as his mother struggled with drug addiction, before returning to Middletown. After high school, he enlisted in the Marines and was **deployed** to Iraq, doing public affairs work. He later attended Ohio State University and Yale Law School. Career in finance: Vance worked for conservative venture capitalist Peter Thiel before founding his own venture capital firm. Thiel donated millions of dollars to Vance's 2022 Senate campaign. Hillbilly Elegy: The timing of his book, published the year that Trump was elected, helped raise his profile. He argued that a lack of personal agency was responsible for economic suffering, drug abuse and other struggles in white working-class communities like his, and wrote of "a **willingness to blame** everyone but yourself." Since aligning himself with Trump, he has turned his blame toward outside sources, such as **offshoring** and immigration. Criticism of Trump:

During the 2016 campaign, Vance **sharply** criticized Trump, describing him as "cultural heroin" and as a demagogue who was "leading the white working class to a very dark place." He described himself as "a Never Trump guy." In a Twitter post that he has since deleted, he called Trump "reprehensible" because he "makes people I care about afraid: immigrants, Muslims, etc." Senate campaign: After deciding to run for Senate in 2022, he **recast** himself as an **unflinching** Trump supporter. Vance apologized for denouncing Trump, adopted his **hard-line stances** on immigration and other issues, and won Trump's **endorsement**. He has said Trump's **term** in the White House **proved his opposition wrong**. He also said in 2019 that "Trump's popularity in the Vance household went up substantially" because of Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court confirmation **hearings**, during which the judge — whom Trump had nominated and for whom Vance's wife had **clerked** — was accused of sexual assault. Election denial: He has not **committed** to accepting the results of this year's election. "If we have a free and fair election, I will accept the results," he said on CNN in May. It's a **caveat** that many Republicans have used, leaving the door open to the notion of **foul play** and helping **to sow** doubt in advance. In February, he told ABC News that if he had been vice president on 6 January 2021, he would not have certified the election as Mike Pence did, but would have "told the states, like Pennsylvania, Georgia and so many others, that we needed to have multiple **slates** of electors, and I think the U.S. Congress should have fought over it from there." **Published in The New York Times on 15 July 2024. Reprinted with permission.**

Glossary

- **clerked** = lavorare come assistente
- **outspoken** = esplicito
- **willingness** = volontà
- **foul play** = gioco sporco
- **former** = precedente
- **would-be** = aspirante
- **recast** = riadattare
- **running mate** = compagno di candidatura
- **running for office** = candidarsi alle elezioni
- **term** = mandato
- **proved his opposition wrong** = dimostrare che è sbagliata
- **slates** = liste
- **harshly** = severamente
- **hard-line stances** = posizioni estremiste
- **committed** = impegnarsi
- **caveat** = avvertimento
- **upbringing** = educazione
- **backing** = appoggio
- **sharply** = bruscamente
- **endorsement** = appoggio, sostegno
- **hearings** = udienze
- **to sow** = seminare
- **staunchest** = fidato, devoto
- **unflinching** = deciso, risoluto
- **deployed** = schierare
- **to blame** = culpare
- **offshoring** = delocalizzazione