

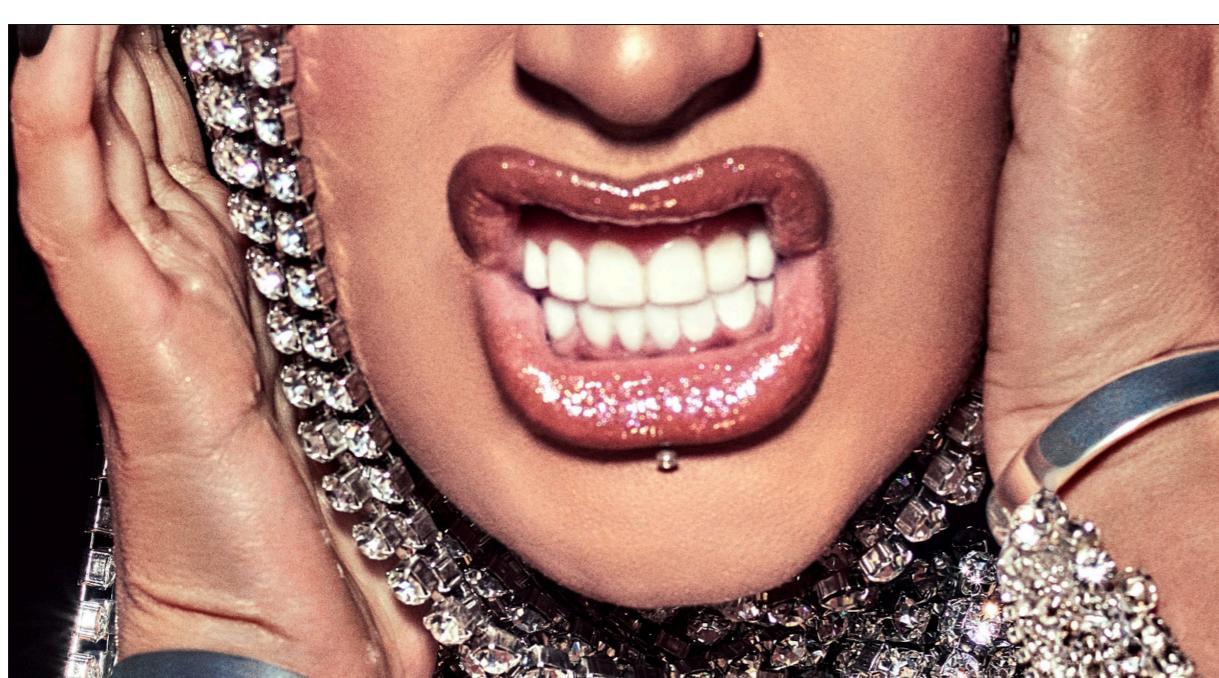
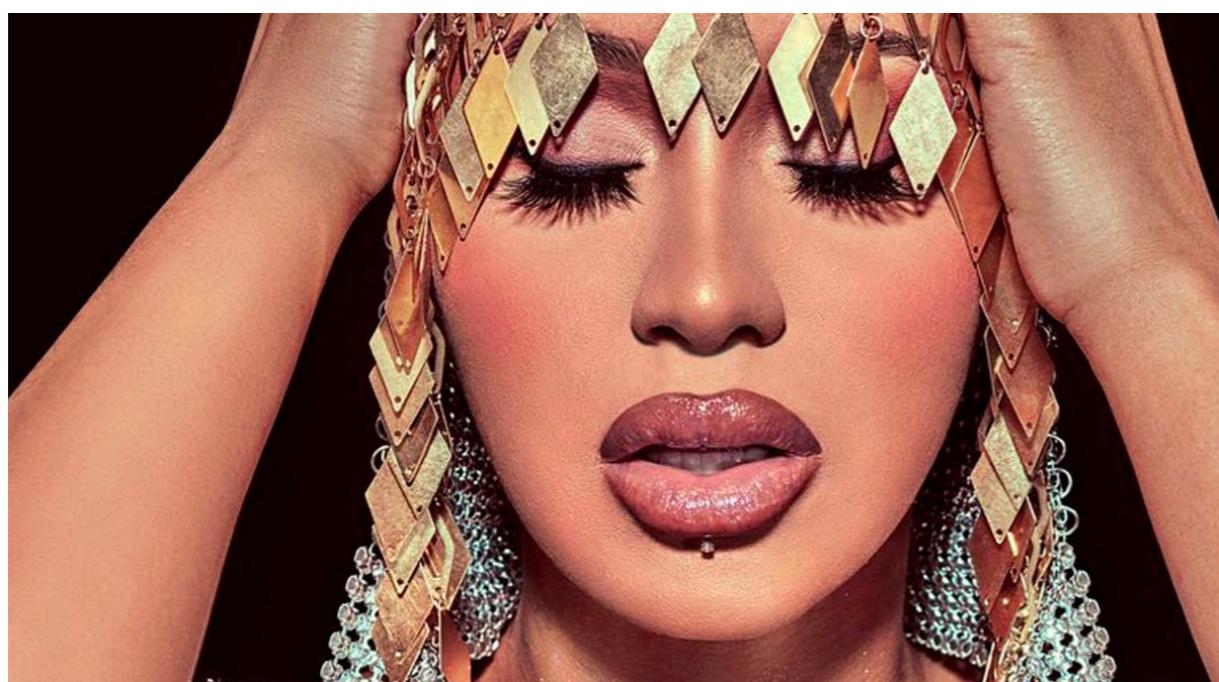
Content:

The Politics of Being Cardi B
By Marjon Carlos
Photographed by Steven Klein

"She isn't perfect, nor does she claim to be, but *the loquacious rapper is learning, growing, and proving with her sophomore album that she and her powerful voice are here to stay.*"

It feels like a lifetime ago, given the breakneck pace of the news and the steady erosion of our political system, but it has only been a year since rap lightning rod Cardi B sat down with Democratic presidential hopeful Senator Bernie Sanders in a Detroit nail salon in the summer of 2019. The polymathic force—former stripper/onetime reality star/raptress/wife/mother/hellion—converted the salon into a backdrop for an earnest conversation around the most urgent issues facing Americans today: job creation, police brutality, a livable minimum wage, and workers' rights. The scene was full of obvious asymmetry—Cardi's glamour-puss persona played irreverently off Sanders's mensch—but in many ways, it was just two New Yorkers talking about the issues of the day, with all the camaraderie of the politicking found at any Dominican bodega that dots Cardi's native South Bronx neighborhood.

This wasn't the first time that Cardi, born Belcalis Marlenis Almánzar, had spoken out about politics; in fact, the voluble rapper, who experienced meteoric fame after the release of 2017's chart-topping "Bodak Yellow," can't keep herself from doing so. Whether imploring fellow celebrities and influencers in unprompted Instagram videos to use their platforms to speak out against President Donald Trump's draconian rule, or expressing her infatuation with the New Deal in a 2018 GQ interview, Cardi never minces words. She is a lifelong history buff—a gangsta with a thing for Franklin Delano Roosevelt.



Design:

A smartphone screen displaying the article "THE POLITICS OF BEING CARDI B". The screen is annotated with arrows pointing to different sections of the content:

- Title: Points to the main title "THE POLITICS OF BEING CARDI B" in large, bold, white letters.
- Attributions: Points to the author information "By Marjon Carlos And Photographed by Steven Klein".
- Intro Quote: Points to the introductory quote at the top of the article.
- Body: Points to the main body text of the article.
- Quotes from Cardi B: Points to a section containing a quote from Cardi B.

The phone also shows a timestamp of 7:23 and a battery icon.

battleground of dissent. Nearly every time she speaks on such topics, a rash of online naysayers bark at the self-described "regular degular schmegular girl from the Bronx" making a foray into politics: "You need to stick to rapping, sis, you obviously don't know what you're talking about," one commenter wrote. Fox News panned Cardi's and Sanders's meeting of the minds, slut-shaming her for her former work as a stripper while ignoring the fact that the current resident of the White House was once embroiled in an alleged affair with a porn star. But as Cardi declared in the 2019 song "Clout," "Public opinions from private accounts / You not a check, then you gotta bounce," referring to the verified check marks on social media platforms. Which is to say, Cardi will not be quieted by bots, avatars, critics, or trolls.

