Left vs Right

Comparing Newspaper media coverage of the 2024 U.S. Elections

AGENDA

1. Data & Collection

2. **LEFT** vs. **RIGHT**

3. Topic modeling

4. Sentiment Analysis

Data.

- **Media Bias Rating Platform:** Rates media bias as Left, Center, or Right

- **Balanced News:** Shows the same story from multiple perspectives

- **Focus on Media Literacy:** Helps users recognize bias and think critically

- **Transparent Methodology:** Combines research, surveys, and community feedback

HEADLINE ROUNDUP · February 5th, 2025

Is Trump Testing the Limits of Presidential Power Necessary or Concerning?

🏷 Donald Trump, Presidential Immunity, US Constitution, Culture War, Banking And Finance, Federal Budget, Woke

Summary from the AllSides News Team

Since assuming office, President Trump has issued a barrage of executive orders. He has tried to revoke birthright citizenship and pause federal spending, which was quickly rescinded, in actions some see as unconstitutional.

From the Left: Some writers argue that Trump's actions are much more radical than past presidents, especially attempts to control government funding, which is the role of Congress. "These tests of presidential powers may ultimately reach the Supreme Court... They will go before a court with six conservative justices who are Republicans appointees — three named by Trump — and believers in strong executive power," a Los Angeles Times (Lean Left bias) writer said. In Politico (Lean Left) a writer argued there is no constitutional basis for Trump's action on federal funding and, if the president is allowed to stretch the Constitution, he could weaponize his power against blue states.

From the Right: Matthew Continetti in the Washington Free Beacon (Right) argued, "The snafu over the OMB memo was a reminder that de-wokeifying the government isn't a matter of snapping one's fingers. The federal workforce backs Democrats both politically and financially. Powerful interests are invested in the status quo. The response to the spending freeze revealed the extent of government dependence." He said that Trump's actions are necessary to remove ideological capture from government institutions.

Featured Coverage of this Story

From the Right

De-Wokeifying Government Is Easier Said Than Done

Washington Free Be░░ L C R R   See rating details

OPINION

I haven't seen Chuck Schumer so happy in months. There he was Wednesday, practically ready to burst into song while celebrating the Trump administration's withdrawal of a memo ordering a federal spending freeze.

"Americans made their voices heard," Schumer crowed. "Donald Trump rescinded the OMB order."

From the Left

Is Trump pushing his presidential powers beyond what the Constitution allows?

Los Angeles Times L C R R   See rating details

OPINION

President Trump has begun his second term pressing his power to reshape the government by firing federal officials, ending diversity policies and deporting immigrants who are in this country illegally.

Despite fierce criticism, he is likely to succeed on those fronts because the Constitution and the laws generally put those powers in the hands of

Most frequent words in the corpus.

Top Words by Frequency (Lemmatized Text)

Word Cloud - Lemmatized Tokens
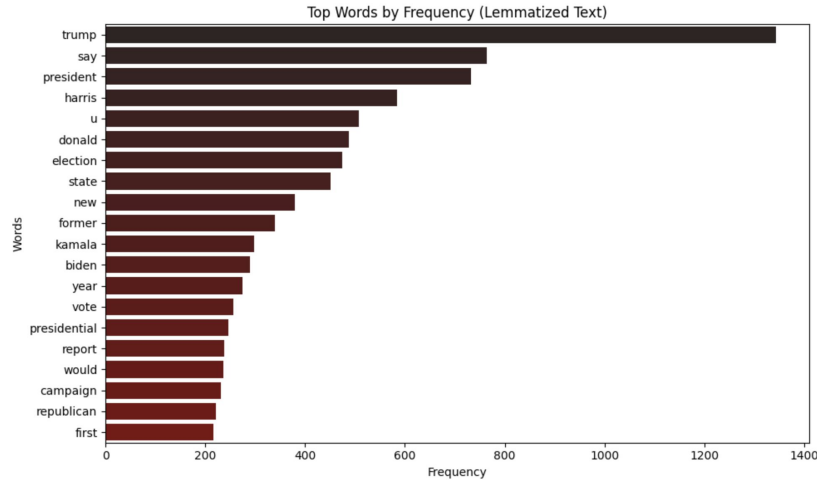
From this initial word cloud, we observe expected results:

➢ The **most common words** include *Trump*, *Election*, *President*, *Biden*, and other election-related terms.

➢ At this stage, the word cloud **doesn't reveal significant insights** beyond confirming the general topic focus.

Now, let's try to compare **LEFT** and **RIGHT**

Word frequency does not allow meaningful insights.

LEFT	CENTER	RIGHT
434	382	428

Our corpus has a **balanced number of articles** flagged as either left-wing or right-wing leaning.

The names of candidates are obviously over-represented.

Fun fact highlighted in yellow: Trump seems to have way more coverage than Harris.

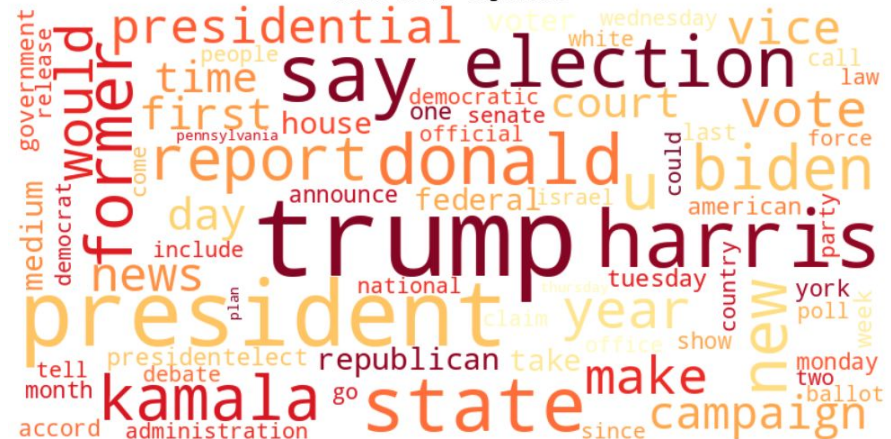Top 15 Words (Overall) - Left vs. Right Coverage

bias
- left
- right

words: trump, say, president, harris, state, donald, u, election, former, new, kamala, biden, year, vote, presidential
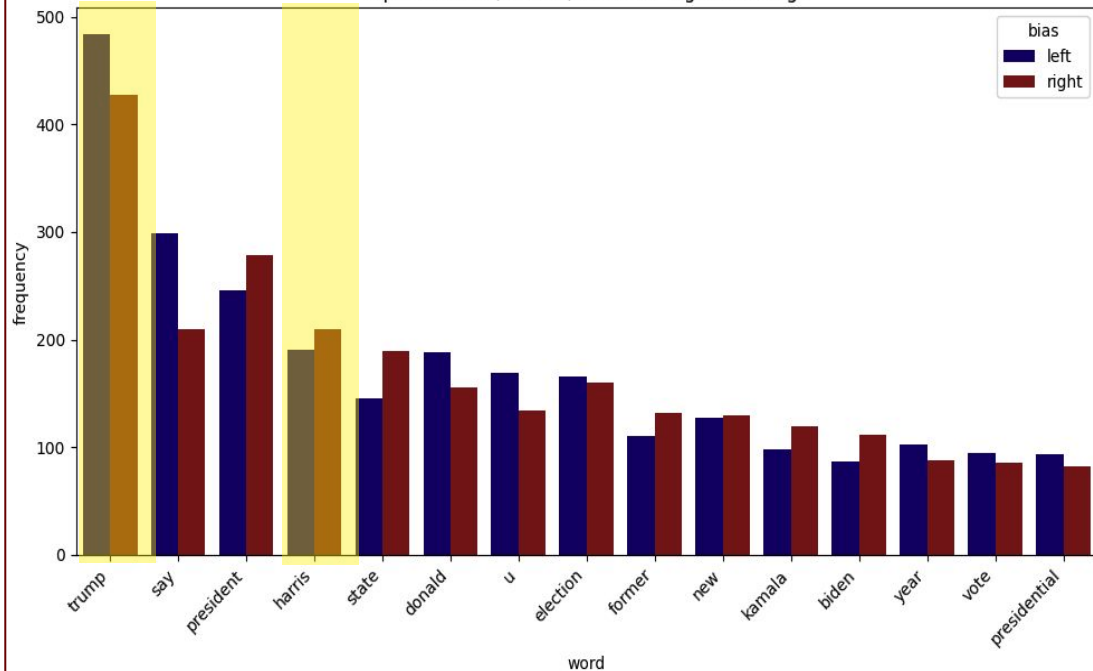
Word frequency does not allow meaningful insights.

Word Cloud - Left Bias

Word Cloud - Right Bias

Fun results with tri-gram frequency analysis.

Top 15 Words (Overall) - Left vs. Right Coverage
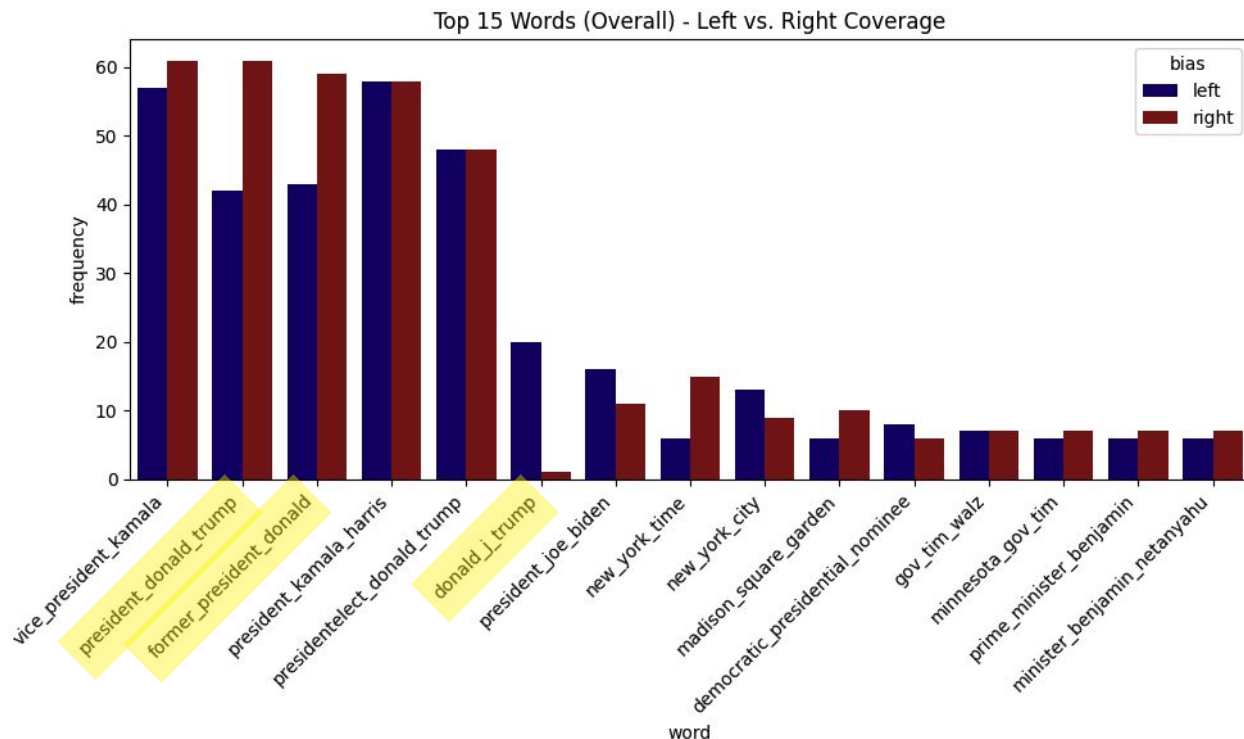
The Right refers more to Trump as **"President Donald Trump"** while the Left refers more to him using his full name **"Donald J. Trump"**.

However, from all the previous analysis, we can see that candidate names are still over-represented.

Let's remove them with NER!

Tri-gram analysis with names removed.

Low scale: overall not significant results

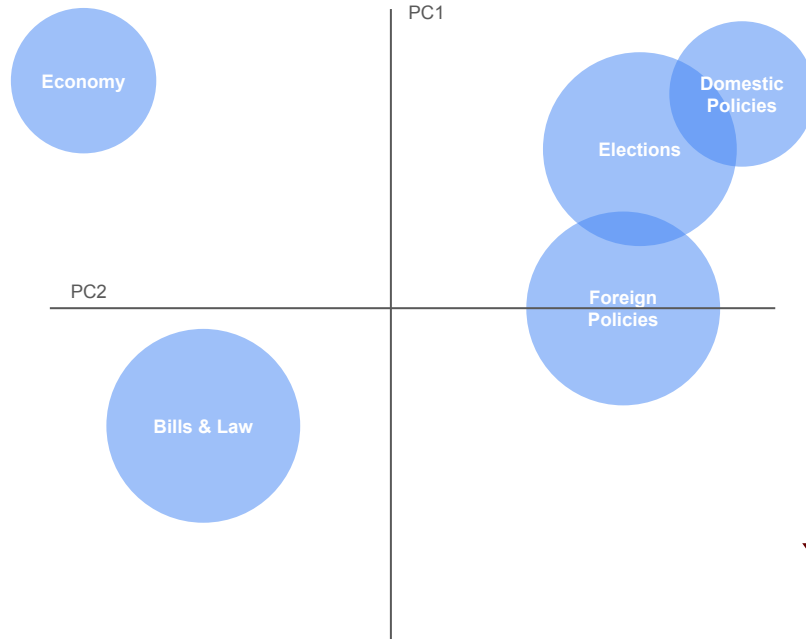| LEFT: most common |
| --- |
| Voter ID |
| Kill least people |

RIGHT: most common
Interest rate cut
Go election day

Top 20 Words (Overall) - Left vs. Right Coverage

bias
- left
- right

frequency

word
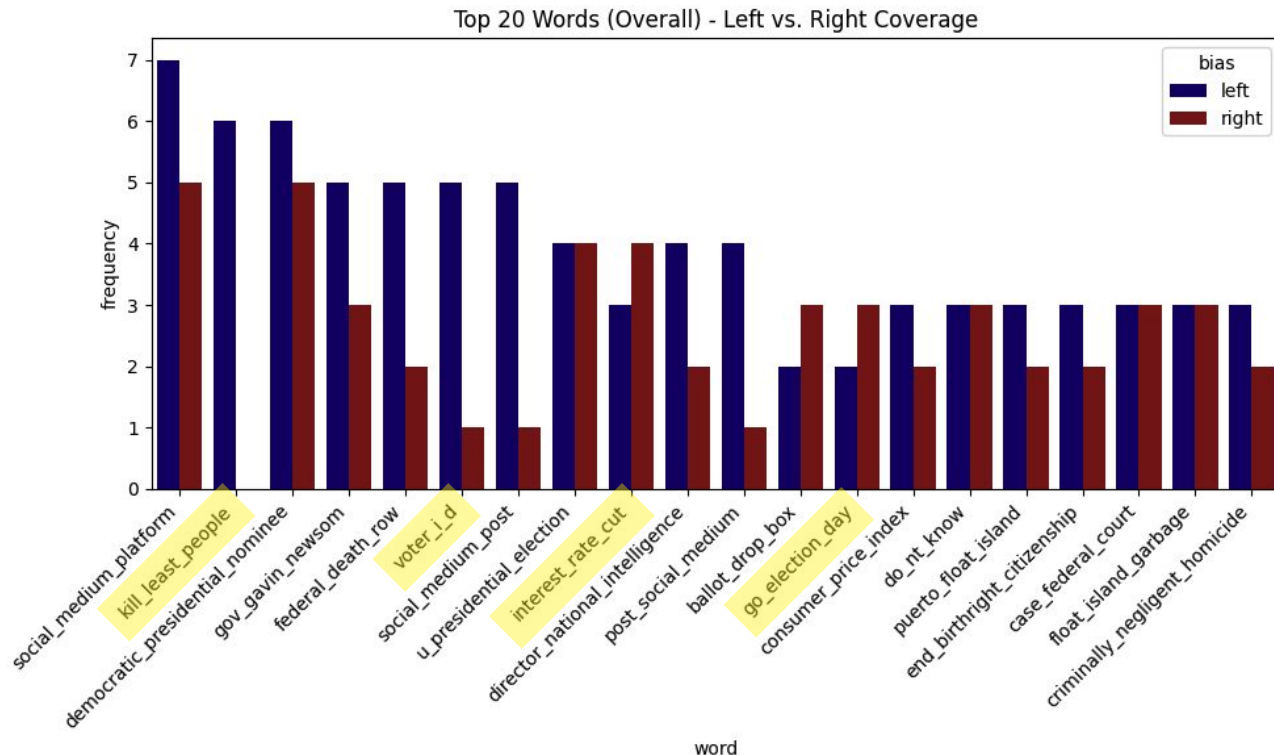
Topic modeling : 5 topics identified.

Topic-level analysis.

Proportion of Bias within Each Topic (Stacked)

Law & Politics: more coverage from LEFT, emphasizing legal decisions and policy-making.

Elections: more coverage from RIGHT source.

Other Topics: balanced distribution between biases, though minor variations in coverage exist.

Sentiment Analysis on candidates.

Sentiment Polarity Range: Ranges from -1 (negative) to 1 (positive) using TextBlob.

Left vs. Right Bias: Sentiment scores for Trump and Biden/Harris are similar in left- and right-biased media.

Center Bias Stands Out: Center-biased media shows a notable difference, with Trump receiving lower sentiment scores compared to Biden/Harris.

Sample Size Caveat: Limited sample size, so results may not be statistically significant.

Sentiment Polarity for Trump vs. Biden/Harris across Biases
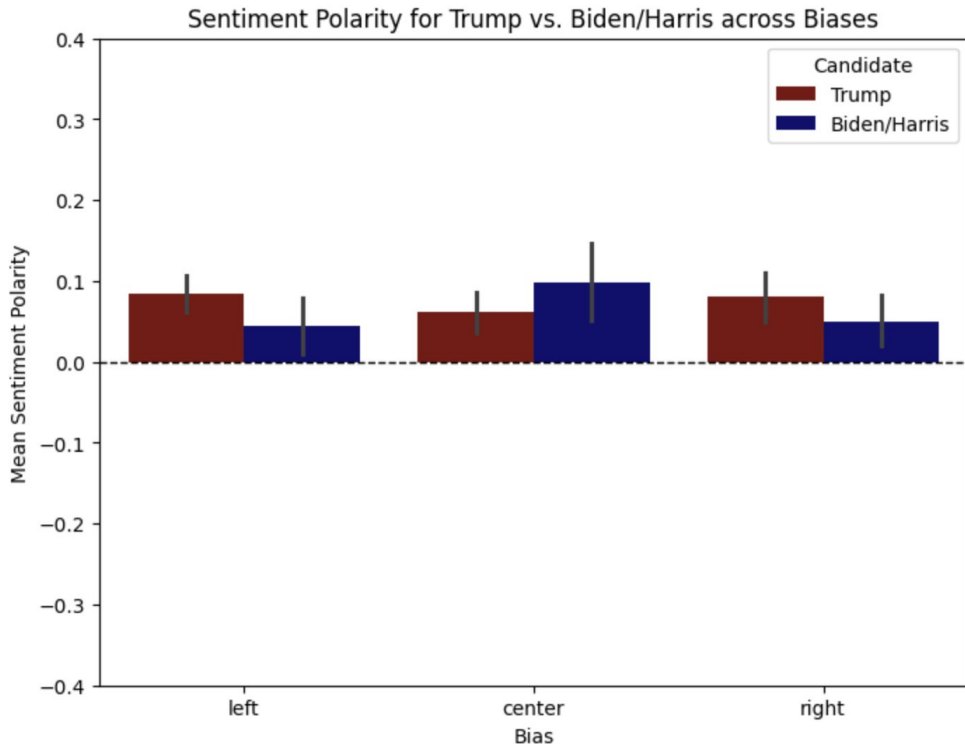
Polarity per topics : some interesting findings.



Mean Polarity Score per Topic, grouped by Bias
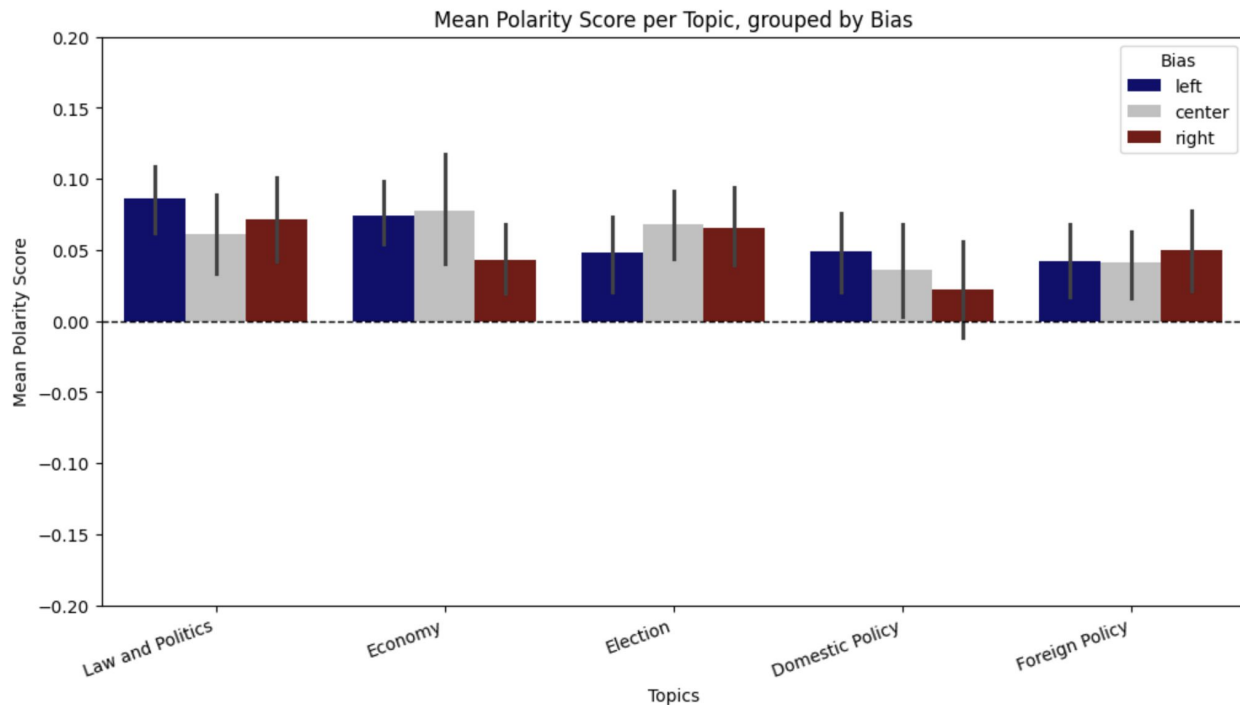
Economy: RIGHT less positive than LEFT, likely due to Democrats being in power.

Domestic Policy: LEFT shows no negative sentiment, while RIGHT expresses some negativity.

Foreign Policy: LEFT is less positive, with negative scores, likely reflecting conflicts like Israel-Gaza and Ukraine-Russia.

RoBERTa : context-based sentiment analysis.

Sentiment Analysis (BERT) per Topic, grouped by Bias
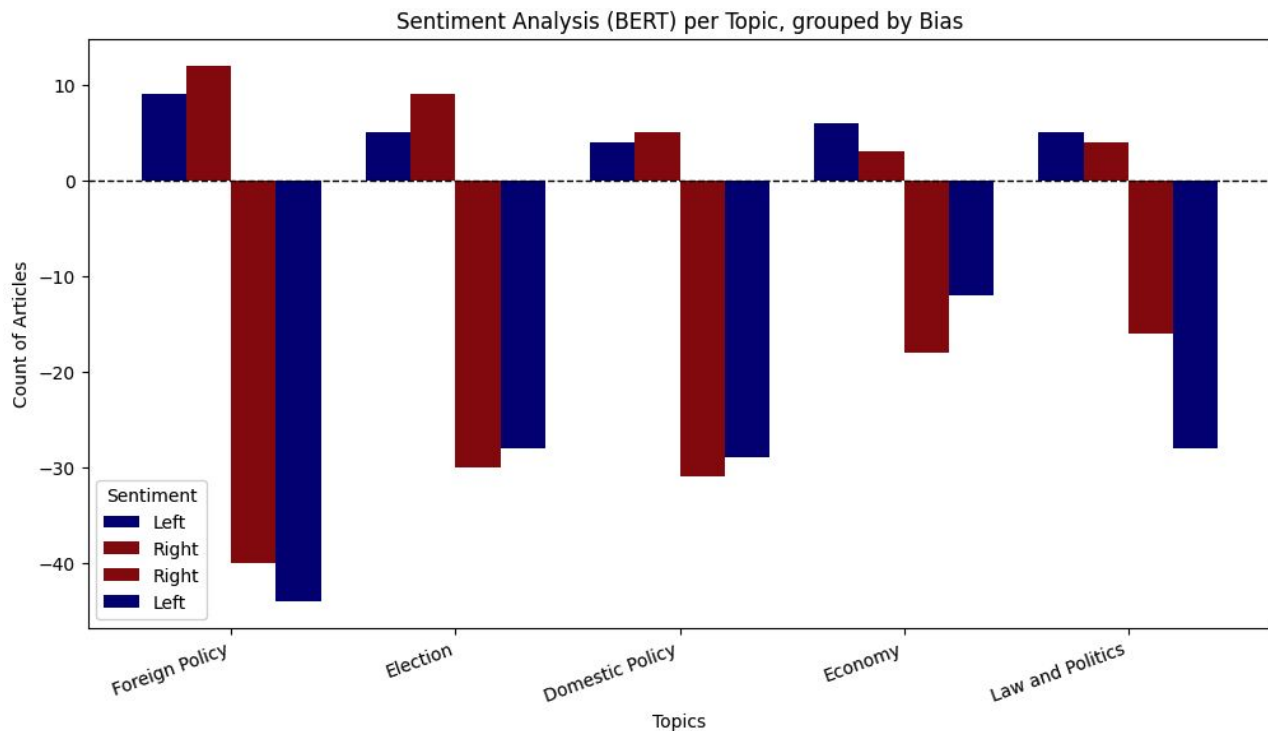
Foreign Policy: LEFT critical of conflicts, humanitarian issues, while RIGHT emphasizes security and diplomacy.

Election: RIGHT more positive, seeing election as a strong chance to regain power.

Economy: RIGHT criticizes Democratic economic policies; LEFT highlights progress.

Limits & room for improvement.

Dataset Size: Only ~1,200 articles analyzed, limiting the statistical significance.

Article Source: Articles are from professional newspapers, mostly objective in tone.

Lack of Strongly Polarized Media: Including more polarizing sources (e.g., TV, tweets) could reveal stronger biases and contrasts.