
'Fake news, military budget, trade deals': Trump speaks at CPAC

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President Donald Trump intends to keep his promises to the American people, from securing the border and fighting terrorism, to rebuilding US industry and the country's military, he told the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Maryland.

On media

"The media didn't think we would win. The pundits didn't think we'd win. The consultants that sucked up all that money... didn't think we would win. But they all underestimated the power of the people. And the people proved them all wrong," Trump said, to cheers from the crowd.

"I'm not against the media," Trump said, explaining what he meant when he called some media "enemies of the people" in a tweet. *"I am against only the fake news media or the press. Fake,"* he stressed.

"I'm against the people who make up sources and make up stories," he said, while urging the media to stop quoting unnamed sources and cite people by name.

Criticizing journalists does not run against the constitutional protection of free speech, Trump argued.

"I love the First Amendment. Nobody loves it more than me. Who uses it more than I do?" he joked, adding that it also gives people the right to criticize "fake news."

"[Fake news] doesn't represent the people, it never will represent the people, and we have to

do something about it," he said.

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'I like Bernie'

The president had some kind words for Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who ran for the Democratic presidential nomination, but lost to Hillary Clinton.

"Bernie was right on one issue: trade," Trump said, adding that he had attracted a lot of Sanders supporters in the general election. *"Actually, I like Bernie."*

Sanders' movement *"petered out,"* because the Democratic primary system was *"a little rigged against him,"* Trump said, adding just one word – *"Superdelegates!"* – to the laughter of the audience.

Keeping promises

"Basically, all I have done is keep my promise," Trump said, reminding CPAC attendees of his campaign platform and the steps he has taken to implement it – from cracking down on illegal immigrants and building a border wall to repealing Obamacare and reviewing *"terrible"* trade deals.

"Remember the lie, 28 times? 'You can keep your doctor, you can keep your plan?' Over and over you heard it. So, we're going to repeal and replace Obamacare," he said, referring to his predecessor's pitch for the healthcare mandate.

"Politically, the best thing to do is nothing. Let it implode. Two years, don't do anything. Democrats will come to us and beg," he said. *"But it's not the right thing to do to the American people."*

"The era is empty talk is over. Now is the time for action," Trump said.
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America first

"The core conviction of our movement is that we are a nation that puts and will put its own citizens first," Trump told the audience at CPAC.

Building the wall will stop drugs from "pouring into our nation and poisoning our youth."

A border tax will fund the rebuilding of neglected communities, including inner cities. Deporting illegal immigrants will *"save countless American lives."*

Right now, immigration enforcement is rounding up criminals and *"throwing them the hell out of our country,"* he said.

Trump reminded the audience that he has already made good on one promise: withdrawing the US from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). He pledged to cut regulations that stifle business, while keeping the ones related to safety and the environment in place. He also vowed to cut taxes on the middle class and businesses and simplify the tax code.

"It's time for all Americans to get off of welfare and go back to work. You're going to love it!" Trump said.

At the same time, the president promised a massive military build-up.

"Nobody will dare question our military might again. We believe in peace through strength and that's what we'll have," he said.

"There is no dream too large, no task too great. We are Americans. The future belongs to us," Trump said, adding *"America is going to be bigger, and better and stronger than ever before."*
