



The 2024 Clinton Global Initiative

“Clinton Style: Dignity & Class”

EGBN News Dateline: Sep 24, 2024 16:00 CET Paris

Julia Mineeva EGBN News

In a broad context, the Clinton Global Initiative was conceived as a partisan-neutral organization focused on the betterment of our global sociological and existential condition on this planet, and on improving the human condition across many domains that define existence, prosperity and well-being of societies worldwide. More recently, CGI has set a range of unifying priority areas for focused attention, which among others include: climate resiliency, democracy and human rights, education, economic security, health equity and humanitarian response, innovative grassroots finance, and the maintenance of truth and information across global societies.

Perhaps none of CGI's more universal tenets are actions and areas of focus designed to further the reduction of strife both domestic and foreign, and in a general sense the promotion of peace, prosperity and protection of humanity. These principles can just as easily apply at home, as they can thousands of miles distant.

Thus, it is far from inevitable that -- during national election years and particularly those involving substantial social and political turbulence, inclusive the rise of autocracy and the emergence of challenges against legitimate and established democratic rules-based governing and organizational structures -- forces of stress will arise to impact even neutral and consensus-driven or unifying-type non-political structures such as Global Development Organizations exemplified by the CGI model. It goes without further saying that during such historical epochs, special care is required to protect but also

exercise vigilance to insure that organizations such as CGI remain true to their model, particularly during a turbulent and contentious presidential election year such as 2024. CGI has just confronted such a test and has eloquently mastered the challenge.

On March 28, 2024 a major re-election campaign fundraiser was held at New York's Radio City Music Hall, on behalf of the Biden-Harris campaign. Featuring then President Biden, along with former Presidents Obama and Clinton -- as well as numerous A-List Hollywood celebrities -- and raising a record \$26M in campaign donor contributions, the event's aftermath saw the emergence of numerous non-complimentary and non-attributed press leaks from political as well as entertainment luminaries at times derisively-commenting on President Biden's age and mental acuity -- an unfortunate evolution of negative observations from top-level Democratic leadership that notably, and to his credit as an immense statesman, did not involve former President Clinton.

In the months following the March fundraiser and climaxing between late June to July 21, 2024, this backhanded unfolding of an anti-Biden resistance in Democratic circles saw a return to the national political stage immediately following an ill-fated June 27, 2024 Presidential Debate where, following an unforgiving head cold and a gruelling travel schedule, an elderly President Biden in his own words alluded to not having experienced the best of days -- especially as regarding his exceptionally weak debate performance.

In part by again triggering the highly negative issues originally-arising in the aftermath of the March Presidential campaign fundraiser, the late June to July post-debate meltdown proved far worse. This regrettable turn of events -- at least for the Biden-Harris campaign and the Democratic Party -- led to a literally unrestrained avalanche of betrayal, backstabbing and political pressure that induced former President Biden to exit from the Presidential race, which he ultimately did on July 21, 2024. Again, most notably -- and to his credit -- the name Clinton remained absent from this turbulent melange. Two months later comes a pinnacle event, 2024 CGI !

First Lady Jill Biden is scheduled to break a major announcement of a major federal government health care financing package to a packed house near the conclusion of 2024 CGI, where doubtless a President in turmoil and retreat would feel a responsibility and elegance to make an appearance, which former President Biden in fact did -- as

exceptionally challenging as that must have been for a President and eloquent human being who was doubtless experiencing a quasi-agonal moment of forced withdrawal from the electoral stage.

In an example of historical and simply remarkable political accumen, style and elegance, the Clinton organization pulled off a remarkable tour-de-force, namely the nearly concurrent Sept 23, 2024 announcement by First Lady Jill Biden of a landmark \$500M DOD investment in women's health research, and the acceptance by then President Joe Biden -- soon to leave the world political stage -- of the 2024 CGI Global Citizen Award, presented by President Bill Clinton.



Presidents Joe Biden & Bill Clinton, First Lady Jill Biden, Former Sec Hillary Rodham-Clinton, and Dr. Chelsea Clinton at 2024 CGI -- Credit: EGBN News / Alamy Live News

The remarkable historical symbolism of leaving the world stage was all the more poignant, the same award having been accepted a year prior at 2023 CGI, by the First Lady of Ukraine, Olena Zelenska, fighting for her country to remain on the world stage.