

Story 0:

Much to the surprise of The Party and The Opposition, a new President with no political experience has been elected. They're a celebrity who campaigned on populist ideas - nominally as a member of The Party, although The President's policies aren't always well aligned, or even consistent. But through The President, The Party is in power, and they'd like to stay that way.

Reaction:

The Opposition claim The President is bad for The Country.

Story 1:

Civil war in neighbouring country to the south. The President sends peacekeeping forces. Refugees fleeing the conflict are trying to enter The Country.

Reaction:

The People are opposed to endangering our troops.

Story 2:

Journalist Lesley Myles releases speculative piece suggesting The Party was involved in the accidental death of one of The President's junior staff. Source seems to be a leak from The President's Press team.

Reaction:

The President seems uninterested in this story.

Story 3:

There are rumours that Other Major Power interfered in the Presidential elections. The President calls this "fake news" on Twitter.

Reaction:

The Opposition pushes for an investigation into electoral tampering.

Story 4:

The President gives a speech blaming immigration and The Opposition for all problems with The Country.

Reaction:

The People are becoming hostile to immigrants.

Story 5:

The President promises publicly on television to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions to tackle global warming.

Reaction:

The Opposition cautiously praises the President's stance.

Story 6:

The President closes borders to refugees. Refugees are dying trying to reach The Country by water.

Reaction:

The Opposition believes we should welcome those in genuine danger.

Story 7:

The President revokes sanctions imposed against Other Major Power by the Opposition in the past.

Reaction:

The Party believes it's premature to revoke sanctions.

Story 8:

The Party proposes legislation to subsidise The Country's fossil fuel companies. The President signs it.

Reaction:

The Opposition decries The President's broken promises on greenhouse gases.

Story 9:

Newspaper reports that Other Major Power has salacious blackmail material against The President. The President calls this "fake news" on Twitter.

Reaction:

The People want to see the salacious material.

Story 10:

A popular folk singer invents a scurrilous song about The President's private life and preferences and sings it on YouTube. It's infernally catchy; and witty, in a crude sort of way.

Reaction:

The People are mocking The President.

Story 11:

Political journalist Lesley Myles dies in mysterious circumstances. A number of investigative journalists are digging into the story.

Reaction:

The Opposition want an official investigation into this story, but The Party is blocking it.

Story 12:

Other Major Power also sends peacekeeping forces to the neighbouring country to the south. The President praises the humanitarian work of the leader of Other Major Power on television.

Reaction:

The Party does not think we should praise Other Major Power.

Story 13:

Extreme anti-immigration demonstrations near the southern border. The President tweets support for “loyal patriots protecting our border”, but later the demonstrations escalate into violence.

Reaction:

The Opposition claim The President is being irresponsible for personal political gain.

Story 14:

An unusually hot summer causes harvests to fail, and imports of crops from countries to the south have stopped.

Reaction:

The People are demanding that The President do something!

Story 15:

The President’s Brother in Law is arrested for conspiring with Other Major Power.

Reaction:

The Opposition demands that The President is investigated.

Story 16:

Our troops and troops from Other Major Power come into direct conflict. Troops on both sides die. The President insults the leader of Other Major Power on television.

Reaction:

The Opposition calls The President a war-monger.

Story 17:

Evidence that Lesley Myles was having an affair with The President are released. Newspapers are suggesting The President's involvement in their death. The President calls this "fake news" on Twitter.

Reaction:

The People are widely discussing whether The President is involved.

Story 18:

The President's spouse is shown to have benefitted from a dubious immigration scheme which meant wealthy applicants could bypass the system. The President calls this "fake news" on Twitter.

Reaction:

The People are becoming hostile to The President's spouse.

Story 19:

The leader of Other Major Power releases the blackmail material on The President, which is salacious and proves The President has major financial investments within Other Major Power.

Reaction:

The Party is privately questioning The President's connections to Other Major Power, while publically offering support.

Story 20:

The President spent time touring a hospital for sick animals, giving them candy and other treats. They also announced a grand international sporting event for the coming summer.

Reaction:

The President receives some positive social media support from The People.

Story 21:

Famous Astrologist Syd Omarr predicts that doom will come to The People unless “a mighty tree is toppled”. Omarr’s book reaches number 1 in the bestseller list.

Reaction:

The People are buying Omarr's book, but politicians are not reacting.

Story 22:

The President orders a massive deployment of the military into the neighbouring country to the South. Other Major Power responds with equally large deployment of troops.

Reaction:

The People are in the streets protesting against what they see as coming war.

Story 23:

Tensions are high. Many members of The Party join with The Opposition to call for impeachment of The President. Many of The President’s staff are alleged to have committed criminal offences. The President’s government seems unlikely to survive the coming days.

Reaction:

FINAL CARD - after you respond to this the game ends.

Story 101: DRAW THE NEXT STORY AS WELL WHEN THIS ONE IS DRAWN

Disclosure in a legal trial has unearthed documents revealing that a major newspaper bought exclusive rights to a negative story about The President, and then buried it.

Reaction:

The People are speculating about links between The President's press team and the newspaper.

Inserted somewhere after 11 and before 17, if Catch and Kill is used. Not used after story 17 is out

Story 102: DRAW THE NEXT STORY AS WELL WHEN THIS ONE IS DRAWN

Researchers have proved that agents from Other Major Power have used "bot nets" to manipulate social media in favour of The President.

Reaction:

The Opposition demands that links between The President's press team and Other Major Power are investigated.

Inserted somewhere after 14 and before 20, if Bot-Nets is used. Not used after story 20 is out

Story 103: DRAW THE NEXT STORY AS WELL WHEN THIS ONE IS DRAWN

Social media commentators compile a video showing dozens of local TV anchors reading the same news script in unison. The news script is favourable to The President. Print media speculates on links between the TV station owner, John St Claire, and The President's PR team.

Reaction:

The President praises the excellent reporting of John St. Clair's TV stations.

Inserted somewhere after 17 and before 22, if Buying the network is used. Not used after story 22 is out

Story :

Reaction:

