

# Richest billionaire v most powerful man

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**Punch up:** Trump complained this weekend that Musk had been "very disrespectful", and announced that the relationship would not be mended.

Is this history's most important feud? Donald Trump and Elon Musk have fallen out. Some think their break-up could affect the whole world.

## What's happening?

It all began with a tweet. On Tuesday afternoon, **Elon Musk** posted his thoughts on a new spending plan from US leader **Donald Trump**.

Trump responded mildly at first. But Musk went **nuclear**: "Without me, Trump would have lost the **election**." The president called Musk "CRAZY!" Musk then claimed that Trump has links to a sex offender.

## Find out more

It is an extraordinary **feud**. Donald Trump and Elon Musk have been close friends for many months. Musk has worked with Trump to bring down spending in the US **government**. They have been each other's biggest fans in public. But now the pair have violently fallen out.

Their fall-out might change the course of US politics. Musk gave at least a quarter of a billion dollars to Trump's campaign. He might now give his money to Trump's rivals instead.

Meanwhile, Trump could harm Musk's businesses with new laws and rules.

It takes its place among history's many feuds. Some have shaped the course of history. For example, the **Roman Empire** appeared from a battle between **Julius Caesar**'s killers and his son.

The story of **medieval** England is a long list of fallings out. Henry II faced a **rebellion** from his own family.

Meanwhile, the German sportswear companies Adidas and Puma were founded by the feuding Dassler brothers. They are buried on opposite ends of the same graveyard.

## Is this history's most important feud?

### Some say

Yes! As US president, Trump can reshape the world. Musk owns a major social media platform. They both have a level of power over the world that historical rulers could only dream of. Their feud could be huge.

### Others think

No! Medieval kings could lead thousands of people to their deaths in battle. Trump and Musk's feud seems more likely to affect their own futures, rather than other people's.

## Some people say

*"You must not fight too often with one enemy, or you will teach him all your art of war."*

**Napoleon Bonaparte (1769 – 1821), French emperor and general**

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*What do you think?*

## 1. Connect

**How do you feel about this story?** - Have you ever been involved in a feud? What was it about?

## 2. Wonder

**What questions do you have?** - For example: What is the difference between a feud and a quarrel?

## 3. Investigate

**What are the facts?** - Pick out one thing we know for certain about this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

## 4. Construct

**What is your point of view?** - If you had to take a side in the Musk-Trump feud, which would you take?

## 5. Express

**What do others believe?** - Is Donald Trump fit to be US president? Discuss as a class.

## 6. Reflect

**What might happen next?** - Choose a historical feud. Create a timeline showing how it unfolded.

## Glossary

**Elon Musk** - A South African-born entrepreneur whose companies have included the online payment service PayPal. He now controls Twitter, renamed 'X'.

**Donald Trump** - An American politician, media personality, and businessman serving as the 47th president of the United States since January 2025. A member of the Republican Party, he previously served as the 45th president from 2017 to 2021.

**Nuclear** - A nuclear weapon has a devastating potential to cause damage. A few countries around the world have them.

**Election** - A vote in which someone is chosen to represent a group of people.

**Feud** - A bitter, long-term argument or disagreement.

**Government** - The group of people who govern - or lead - the country.

**Roman Empire** - Lasting from 27BC to 476AD, the Roman Empire controlled regions around the Mediterranean in Europe, North Africa and Western Asia.

**Julius Caesar** - A Roman general, politician, and dictator (100–44 BCE) who played a key role in the fall of the Roman Republic and the rise of the Roman Empire. He was stabbed to death by a group of Roman senators.

**Medieval** - Relating to the Middle Ages.

**Rebellion** - A refusal to obey authority, often involving resistance or uprising against a government or ruling power.