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US Elections 2020 **Principles of democracy**

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US Elections 2020 - Principles of democracy

The United States of America is a young nation which, in a remarkable way, has progressed through cycles of boom and bust, prosperity and state crises, to ever higher stages of national maturity. This is a healthy process for a nation - emerging 220 years ago from the thirteen British colonies established along the East Coast - and growing to become the leading world power. At the start of the 21st century the US finds itself in a deep national, sociopolitical crisis. It could lead America to despair, into deep social and political division, into a dark period, or else alternatively, into a new era of hope, into an elevated stage of positive national consciousness, into a new age of prosperity, which could well radiate far beyond the US borders and spread over the entire world.

The November 2020 US national elections have, beyond any doubt, been highly problematic, a turbulent process whose resolution still hangs in the balance, though representing one of the most important pillars of democracy. What has been left behind is a questionable electoral mandate, a bitterly divided Congress, and half of this great nation questioning the legitimacy of the proclaimed but not yet confirmed election win of Joe Biden. What is at stake here is not whether Biden or Trump is officially declared the winner, but whether the election process has been a transparent procedure one that has led, beyond any doubt, to the victory of one of the participating parties. If the latter is the case, then Democracy is indeed functioning as it should in a free Western nation - and, in this instance, it is of especial importance, since we are talking about the largest and most powerful democracy in the world. The fact is that, in the setting of truly transparent sound democratic procedures and the healthy process of alternating governing power, who wins is of lesser importance.

Without the massive amount of mail-in voting in this election, Donald Trump could possibly have won the election. Nevertheless, it was a very tight race in a highly problematic environment where the mass media have overwhelmingly sided with Joe Biden, before, during and after the election date. Three striking issues emerge and are worth noting:

- a) The constitutions of most democracies of the free world define a specific *election day* which corresponds to one particular date where the national election is held (as clearly set-down in the US by 2 U.S.C. §7), and not *an election period*, i.e., a period of several days or weeks.
- b) Elections which incorporate postal voting have, worldwide, historically been open to non-transparent and fraudulent processes - which may or may not have been the case in the current US elections. Government obtains its power through the consent of the governed, namely, the people, who express their clear-cut decision on Election Day, the conduct of which, needless to say, has to be honest, fair, and transparent. Only an honest election - *in strict constitutional and not mass media terms* - determines who will occupy the US White House for the following four years. Mail-in balloting, particularly in such an important process as national elections, can, in certain ways, be compared to the wild-wild West, which is not a model to which America should return. In the event of considerable doubt - as now - it is, ultimately, only through official investigation and by virtue of legal and other government/constitutional bodies, that the irrevocable outcome of the election must be determined.
- c) The votes of the Electoral College alone can decide the presidential election, in the present case by mid-December 2020. The media are in no way entitled to determine the result of an election, but merely announce objectively any and all official results, as constitutionally verified, beyond any doubt. With that in mind, the ongoing string of media reports, stories, suppositions, and projections

about the new Biden administration has been seen to be, to a great extent, part of an orchestrated information campaign and seem only to be an effort to psychologically condition the US public and the entire world to accept Biden/Harris as a fait accompli.

President Trump and the Republican Party have fought an uphill battle against a hostile election mechanism, against too many odds, and with unwarranted negative prognostications and almost all the media of the world, info-tech giants, and a major part of the world's political and economic power centers against them, something that has blatantly been exposed to half of the US voting public and, beyond that, to hundreds of millions of viewers and followers of the US election process around the world.

Democracy cannot survive in doubt, in grey areas, or in darkness. This is why the Trump campaign is taking all the areas of uncertainty to US courts to ensure that the election laws are fully upheld, to clear up all points of ambiguity, to cast light on any dubious aspects of this election, and, wherever necessary, to ensure that every *constitutionally valid vote* is counted - all in all, a highly important process. Only out of this transparent *official* process, no matter how tiresome it may be, can the rightful winner and the next President of the United States be determined. The US State, with all its constitutional and judicial powers, alone has the legitimate authority to bring to light all areas of doubt and, beyond any question, to declare the winner of this election, whether this is Joe Biden or Donald Trump. This is the only process that will re-establish the full confidence of the US public in their constitution, in their democracy, in their nation, and in their leaders. Nothing else and no political announcements of goodwill intended to «heal all wounds» will have any such effect: the nation will remain bitterly divided and the democratic processes irreparably injured.

But beyond that, the outcome of such an official review process will act as a beacon possessing an *overwhelming semiotic and symbolic significance* for the sustaining power of US democracy and for the democracies of the entire free world: *liberal, free, unobstructed democracy is alive and functioning for the most powerful nation of the world and, beyond that, for the entire world*. In times of sweeping worldwide change, it will also be a message with huge positive transformational power insofar as democracies are having to adapt to an increasingly digitized society – *digitalization*, we must remember, having, inevitably, both its positive and its negative aspects. This must be accomplished without democracies losing their fundamental core values, as those have been defined in the US by the Great Founding Fathers of the American nation and in Europe by the principles of classical Greek democracy, handed down over the centuries to modern European nations and throughout the free world.

The framers of the US Constitution intended the presidency to be an office that does not exert unlimited power, which could unfairly and inordinately impact the American people. It authorizes the president to administer laws passed by Congress, and only in exceptional cases should he use his privilege to pass laws via executive orders. As such, the United States of America Founding Fathers never intended the president to unilaterally set the national agenda. The idea that the president should exercise almost unlimited powers is a legacy of the *progressive movement* in the US, also to an extent responsible for the rise of the American welfare/warfare state. A government which aspires to run its citizen's lives, run the economy, and ultimately, run the world, theoretically tends to develop a strong executive branch, which strives to be free of the Constitution's rightfully imposed political power limitations. Since the days of the Cold War, presidential power in the US has had a boost as it justified presidents' assuming more unchecked authority in the name of *national security*. Since those days, more and more of what has become popularly

known in the US as the *deep state*, which comprises national security bureaucracy, the military/industrial complex, congressional staffers, and prominent and powerful media figures, has increasingly assumed the role of a shadow government with its own agenda, in many important instances disregarding the wishes of the American people or even of the president.

In the US, the *progressive socialist/left* interwoven with the *deep state* is leaning toward a *managed, science-based society* that would be tightly controlled by a managerial, expert class. Such a process could turn away from America's sound political roots via attempts to alter Constitutional order and other rules and changing the way the US is governed. All of this would be manifested along two tectonic plates: those who hold the power regardless by what means, and the rest, these being the losers who are bitterly dissatisfied and distrustful about the essential functioning of democracy. Today, American inequality is as great as it was in France during the period just before the French Revolution. The danger is that large segments of the American population who are not in a position of power are being left behind, living in conditions of hardship and marginalization, in what is becoming and is termed the *New Economy*. An American society emerging from this critical conjuncture could present a completely different picture, sliding into a civil confrontation not to say war norm, in which deep societal strife could become the customary way in which political election-based transfers of power are handled. Here lie the roots of potential violent conflict, which could, but obviously should not necessarily, become the path for the decades ahead. It is nevertheless heartening to note that there is still enough of the nation cognizant and ready to resist such negative processes. The 2020 election awoke many Americans to the corruption of the modern state. It provides today the potentially awakening force ripe for the message of liberty and ready to restore the US constitutional republic and reclaim lost rights and liberties.

The American people and people all around the free democratic world are entitled to honest elections, which, in turn, guarantee belief in the deep-seated values of democracy, belief in the democratic political system of the West, and belief in politicians running their countries honestly. If democracy, on the other hand, is compromised in the eyes of the public, then *democracy and democratic principles*, not only in the US but throughout the free world, are in real danger. In an era when other non-Western socio-political systems and nations with radically different historical roots and principles of governance are making inroads and have ambitions to become protagonists in a new world order, already eroding our own Western values, in an era when we are already witnessing within our free societies new autocratic models being applied with scant respect for individual rights and freedoms, the US, above all others, must remain the beacon of our liberal democratic principles. Otherwise, the world will descend into a new epoch of darkness where democracy cannot survive. An era where money will become digital, everything is computed, analyzed, and controlled down to the last detail by giant monopolies, where the lower and middle classes will increasingly slide into poverty, where food is lab-grown and everyday existence is micromanaged and fully monitored by AI systems that register thoughts and feelings even before these arise. We will continue to look at the lessons coming from this US election and the consequences, whether intended or unintended - and these latter themes will probably be the subject of our next research report.

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