

If Donald Trump Wins Today

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The U.S. presidential election is so close—polls say—that no one can predict who will win. The coin toss is in the air and the world is on edge, because the ramifications of a possible Donald Trump victory will not only affect the future of the United States but will also shake the entire world. This is not an exaggeration.

We are not pessimists. On the contrary, we believe that Kamala Harris will be elected today as the first woman, the first African-American, and the first Asian-American to lead the most powerful nation in the world. But, if we are wrong and Trump wins we want to leave testimony of what awaits us. Because the United States will lose, Mexico will lose, democracy will lose, our planet will lose. We all will lose.

Undoubtedly, polarization, revenge, banality, poor judgement, and lies will be the hallmark of a second Trump presidency. Not only because in his first presidential term he proved—time and again—to have an enormous capacity to divide and destroy, but also because he cannot be reelected for a third term so he will no longer have the limits nor incentives that Presidents normally have during a first term. Moreover, thanks to the immunity granted to him by an obsequious Supreme Court, Trump will have no motivation to curb his worst excesses.

That is why a second Trump's presidency would be so dangerous and toxic. It would be an imperial presidency.

Trump's second term will be directed by two ultraconservative organizations, the Heritage Foundation (and their Project 2025) and the America First Policy Institute. These two organizations have already drawn up hundreds of executive orders written and ready to be signed by Trump. One of the thrusts of these orders would be to give Trump power to fire any federal employee who he deems progressive in their thinking or who might resist his undemocratic moves. They also have detailed plans that would further restrict abortion at the federal level and that would prevent states from denying or restricting gun ownership to people with mental health or legal issues (i.e., rescind America's important "red flag laws").

If Trump wins, he will leave both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party in a deep identity crisis. In addition, the polarization (already acute) of Americans will be exacerbated, affecting their daily and future coexistence. It will be as if a mad genie has escaped, and it is impossible to put him back into the magic lamp because he himself shattered it to pieces. Donald Trump has proven to be a Pandora's box filled with most of the world's worst evils and ills.

If Trump wins, he will exact revenge. As he has stated, he will use the military and justice department to attack his personal "enemies within." Women will see their reproductive freedoms seriously restricted, if not totally taken from them altogether. Because, whatever Trump said in recent weeks to try to disguise his opposition to abortion, he was the one who, with the ruling of a co-opted Supreme Court, overturned *Roe v. Wade*, that landmark

Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in 1973. If Trump wins, individual rights, free press, and free speech lose.

If Trump wins, xenophobia wins, racism wins, criminalization of migrants wins. He will build his infamous wall on the southern border and make Mexico pay for it, one way or the other. Mexico and the rest of Latin America lose, because he will fulfill his brutal presidential campaign promises to put millions of undocumented migrants into internment camps and then deport them, launch missiles against drug cartels in Mexican territory, renegotiate at will (and in his personal favor) the 2020 Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada (USMCA), impose abusive tariffs on Mexican exports, and punish U.S. companies that dare to invest and establish themselves in Mexico.

Trump's insistence on establishing high tariffs will negatively impact Americans in numerous ways, most directly by dramatically increasing the cost of imported goods for consumers. U.S. firms importing goods must pay the tariff, so they then raise the cost of the goods to consumers to compensate. The wealthy won't feel it, but everyone else will. There is near unanimous consensus among economists that tariffs are self-defeating and have a negative effect on economic growth and welfare. Furthermore, if Trump enforces high tariffs on foreign goods, it will likely lead to retaliatory tariffs and a "tariff war" with numerous other countries, most of whom are our allies. This creates a lose-lose situation that would lead to increased worldwide inflation.

If Trump wins, nationalism, protectionism, and isolationism win, while America's traditional allies and partners all over the world lose. His threatening rhetoric and unilateral actions will pervasively affect global economies and U.S. relationships with allies. Democratic nations around the world will lose as his victory emboldens satraps around the globe, whether from "left" or the "right." He will do his best to dismantle the United Nations, NATO, and other multilateral organizations and treaties that, while imperfect, for decades have facilitated dialogue and conflict-resolution, providing some measure of global stability.

His election would mark a return to an era of foreign policy decrees not based on any clear national policy strategies, nor in consultation with the State Department or national security officials, but only upon his personal whims. It would bring chaos to foreign policymaking and global stability. And this, at a time of extraordinarily high international peril.

Let us not forget that Trump admires Adolf Hitler and dreams of having in his service the generals the *führer* once had. If Trump wins, Vladimir Putin (Russia), Xi Jinping (China), Kim Jong-un (North Korea), Mari Le Pen (France), Viktor Orban (Hungary), Giorgia Meloni (Italy), Nayib Bukele (El Salvador), Javier Milei (Argentina), Nicolás Maduro (Venezuela), Daniel Ortega (Nicaragua) and many other dictators, populists and neo-fascists win.

If Trump wins, the planet loses. The United States will abandon and, in the process, sabotage climate change negotiations and other international environmental treaties. Given his voracious appetite for fossil fuels and his enormous disdain for science, Trump, the climate change negationist, will promote increasing fossil fuel production and use. Oil companies and multinational interests win, while we all lose and while the catastrophic impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss impact all countries as never before, especially the poorest.

Let us be clear: if Trump wins, only *he* wins. Are U.S. society, the new Mexican government, the European Union, and the global community at large ready to face a second Donald Trump presidency? That is why, in our view from both sides of the border, Kamala Harris should be elected president of the United States today. Judging by the election four years ago, however, Trump will most likely not accept defeat. The implications of such are unpredictable.

Let's fasten our seat belts while hoping for the best.

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