**The situation in the morning**

**Germany is going down again**

By [Sebastian Fischer](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/impressum/autor-9c4e5259-0001-0003-0000-000000000166) , head of the SPIEGEL capital city office

Dear reader, good morning,

what a week this will be! What's this going to be for a week? Exclamation mark, question mark, everything is justified. Today we are dealing with the approaching US elections and the beginning Corona shutdown in Germany.

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**The decision of the year**

This week, on Tuesday, Americans have a choice between a democracy destroyer and a democracy keeper. All of us, **the whole world, will be shaped by the outcome of this election** . We cannot help.

It still sounds surreal: the country that brought democracy to us a generation ago is now seriously grappling with this alternative: destroyer Donald Trump against keeper Joe Biden. Despite so many illuminating explanations, **the** fact that Trump has a realistic chance of staying in office still eludes **political rationality** .

And the chance is always realistic.

Trump in North Carolina on November 1st

Photo: Chris Carlson / AP

The clear lead in the polls that Biden can claim for itself nationwide and in important swing states two days before the election is a **purely virtual lead** . According to the latest New York Times survey, Biden is ahead of Trump in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Florida and Arizona - all four of which Trump won against Hillary Clinton in 2016, paving the way for him to win.

Are they taking him now to Losing Street? But would he even accept defeat?

Over the weekend, the President sought to sow [mistrust](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/us-wahlen-donald-trump-prophezeit-chaotisches-durcheinander-a-ef3f3484-7a3b-42ab-8534-005b1ee478e9) again [with regard to the election process and the postal votes](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/us-wahlen-donald-trump-prophezeit-chaotisches-durcheinander-a-ef3f3484-7a3b-42ab-8534-005b1ee478e9) : "The whole world and our country will wait and wait and wait to find out who has won, you will wait for weeks." November 3rd will come and go, and no one will know: "And you will have **chaotic confusion** in our country."

In the meantime, more than 90 million Americans have cast their votes - that is two thirds of the total number of votes in 2016. A **record turnout** is to be expected. A record is relative: If 65 percent of the electorate voted, that would be a record for US standards.

* [Presidential elections in the USA: another four years of Trump?](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/wahlen-in-den-usa-halten-wir-vier-weitere-jahre-donald-trump-aus-a-a70ed0f3-0e92-40da-a919-79e7e7af5eb4)

**Will Trump stay if Biden comes?**

Joe Biden in Philadelphia on November 1st

Photo: Andrew Harnik / dpa

If **Joe Biden** wins, he won't just be able to put the country back on track. Even if he promises that and sees Trump only as an aberration of history. In fact, Biden would not be able to join where Barack Obama left off four years ago - but **would have to join Trump** .

That is why I would like to recommend our current [SPIEGEL cover story](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-was-von-ihm-bleibt-selbst-wenn-er-gehen-muss-a-00000000-0002-0001-0000-000173743533) to you : What remains of Trump - even if he has to go. Trump is not the only cause of the division of the nation, but a **symptom of a deep-reaching crisis** that will not go away when Trump goes away.

And there's something else: we humans tend to get used to everything. This ensures our survival, but it also sometimes blinds us. **We got used to Trump** , his hatred, his stupidity, his racism.

The great US storyteller Philip Roth wrote of the "terror of the unforeseen" in his book "Conspiracy Against America", which imagines a presidency of the aviator and Nazi Charles Lindbergh in the 1940s. In historical retrospect, such unforeseen events would unfortunately be portrayed as inevitable, one event now follows another chronologically. In other words: There is a tendency to rationalize the fractions away. A disaster, writes Roth, then simply becomes a narrative. We should never forget the Trump disaster.

* [Hate, culture clash, discord: what remains of Trump](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-was-von-ihm-bleibt-selbst-wenn-er-gehen-muss-a-00000000-0002-0001-0000-000173743533) [-](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-anhaenger-rammen-joe-bidens-wahlkampffahrzeug-fbi-ermittelt-a-930dc76f-cbd9-4565-9918-2955f4ecbc7c) [even if he has to go](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-was-von-ihm-bleibt-selbst-wenn-er-gehen-muss-a-00000000-0002-0001-0000-000173743533)

**Closed society**

Blocking sign in front of Kiel sports ground: the partial shutdown in Germany begins today

Photo: Frank Molter / dpa

As of today, we are all faced with major small decisions in our country every day: [The second shutdown in the fight against the coronavirus](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/coronavirus-news-am-sonntag-zweiter-lockdown-kostet-wirtschaft-19-milliarden-euro-und-600-000-jobs-a-2d897a43-cfca-43a8-bfd3-251dbc977281) begins and it is **expected to** apply **until the end of the month** . How many will stick to it? And how big will the minority still be in the future who have gambled away some of the initial successes with their unsolidary behavior in the past few months?

While the first wave in spring was still a natural disaster to which society, science and politics had to find (new) answers, the second wave is primarily **man-made** . Because we knew what to do and what not to do.

This last weekend before the shutdown was not only encouraging. At my house entrance, for example, there was a note from a club: They want to party again and apologize for the volume.

Volume is probably the least of our problems.

Knock one out before we're all back in there. If every day counts, as the saying goes, that's a very stupid strategy. And it illustrates again that our current problem is man-made. The bigger the self, the bigger the crisis.

Except for schools and daycare centers as well as supermarkets and shops (and of all religious services) everything is now being shut down again. Because the regionally specific measures of the past few weeks did not take effect, there is only hope for this more general, so-called **breakwater model** .

Is that fair? No it is not. It can't be at all. Because now committed entrepreneurs, artists and restaurant owners are also paying the bill for the fact that we all did not manage it together. You [can](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/shutdown-diese-massnahmen-gelten-ab-montag-a-bcda226e-72d0-41b8-b363-417acd7726c4) read the details of the individual measures [here](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/shutdown-diese-massnahmen-gelten-ab-montag-a-bcda226e-72d0-41b8-b363-417acd7726c4) .

I would also like to take this **opportunity** to recommend an exciting **SPIEGEL book project** : Today is **"Lockdown"** - 21 authors from various departments retold and analyzed the political crisis fight in the first phase, such as tangible conflicts between the ministries - and At the end the question was asked what politics, what we as a society can learn from it for the future, and what that means with a view to the rolling second wave.

**Loser of the day ...**

"Permanent representation" in Berlin (archive picture)

Photo: Britta Pedersen / dpa

... is the **StäV** . Because of the Corona shutdown, the Berlin Koelsch pub "Stestandrepresentation" near Friedrichstrasse station does not want to serve Angela Merkel, Olaf Scholz, the governing mayor Michael Müller, Bavaria's Prime Minister Markus Söder and others (anymore) [.](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/berlin-staendige-vertretung-erteilt-merkel-scholz-und-anderen-politikern-hausverbot-a-3b0c39b4-6e93-47f8-9a0d-fd76b889babd) The [politicians are banned](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/berlin-staendige-vertretung-erteilt-merkel-scholz-und-anderen-politikern-hausverbot-a-3b0c39b4-6e93-47f8-9a0d-fd76b889babd) First of all, of course, difficult under shutdown conditions, secondly, it is not known whether Merkel and Co. had even planned a visit to the location in the near or distant future, and thirdly, it is for a shop that advertises that it is political now and then Celebrities drop by, perhaps not as effective as banning political celebrities.

**The latest news from the night**

* **Spahn swears Germans to "months of restrictions":** The measures will take effect from Monday - and they are significant: Before the new escalation in the fight against the virus, the Minister of Health finds clear words: [According to Jens Spahn, the country is facing a hard time](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/jens-spahn-schwoert-deutsche-wegen-corona-krise-auf-monate-der-einschraenkungen-ein-a-71e2889d-8b0d-4f16-af7d-11715f7ef556)
* **Trump supporters ram Biden's campaign vehicle** - **FBI investigates:** Dangerous situation in Texas: Donald Trump fans have attacked the column of challenger Joe Biden. [Praise and ridicule came from the White House - the federal police got involved](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-anhaenger-rammen-joe-bidens-wahlkampffahrzeug-fbi-ermittelt-a-930dc76f-cbd9-4565-9918-2955f4ecbc7c)
* **"Nobody is planning anything at the moment":** Anne Will asks about the sense and nonsense of the restrictions in the second shutdown. [Markus Söder apologizes in advance](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/kultur/tv/anne-will-zu-aktuellen-corona-einschraenkungen-kein-mensch-plant-im-moment-irgendwas-a-ff1d9f67-5c39-430f-94a8-f97c9d6f7b36) [-](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-anhaenger-rammen-joe-bidens-wahlkampffahrzeug-fbi-ermittelt-a-930dc76f-cbd9-4565-9918-2955f4ecbc7c) [and trumpeter Till Brönner worries about the starving cultural industry](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/kultur/tv/anne-will-zu-aktuellen-corona-einschraenkungen-kein-mensch-plant-im-moment-irgendwas-a-ff1d9f67-5c39-430f-94a8-f97c9d6f7b36)