**The situation in the morning**

**What do you choose america**

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,

Today we are concerned with election day in the USA, the consequences of a possible defeat for Donald Trump, the terrorist attack in Vienna and the renewed turmoil in the fight for the CDU chairmanship.

03.11.2020, 5.40 a.m.

**Terrorist attack in Vienna**

Terrible scenes in Austria's capital: On Monday evening [, shots were fired at six crime scenes in the city center](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/wien-tote-und-verletzte-nach-attacke-in-oesterreich-a-595a4284-9080-4f11-99cc-cd092ee77599) . According to the Viennese police, there have so far been two dead passers-by and 15 people, some seriously injured.

A perpetrator with a rifle was shot. He is also said to have carried a pistol and a machete with him. **At least one other perpetrator was still on the run** , said Interior Minister Karl Nehammer. He called on the population to stay at home for the time being, compulsory schooling is suspended. The entire center was cordoned off during the night and soldiers were deployed to support the police.

Heavily armed forces in Vienna on Monday evening

Photo: Ronald Zak / dpa

The first shots were fired in Seitenstettengasse, a busy street in the center. There is also a synagogue there. **"People were shot indiscriminately at people in the bars,"** said Vienna's Mayor Michael Ludwig - especially people who were out and about in beer gardens. Austria's Chancellor Sebastian Kurz spoke of a "disgusting terrorist attack". In the early morning, the authorities want to inform about the status of the investigation.

* [Terror in Austria: dead and seriously injured in attack in Vienna](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/wien-schuesse-in-der-innenstadt-medienberichte-sprechen-von-angriff-auf-synagoge-a-6a0a9f7c-a940-4394-a7f9-71ab9cdd8ff4)

**What is at stake in America today**

US President Trump in the final spurt of the election campaign

Photo: CARLOS BARRIA / REUTERS

Almost exactly eight years ago, I witnessed **political triumph - and failure -** in Chicago . At half past five in the morning, 15,000 supporters of the president cheered the re-election of Barack Obama at his election party in an exhibition hall to the sound of "Do You Love Me". The magic of victory. Shortly before, Mitt Romney had admitted his defeat in Boston.

It was a **look into the Republic's engine room** . It wasn't the frenetic cheering around me that gave me goosebumps, but the almost sacred democratic choreography: one man's victory was the other's failure, then the congratulations by phone, the public admission of defeat in a *concession speech* , and finally the winner's appearance .

Sure, at that time the country had long been divided, **the infiltration of the Republican Party by the radicals in full swing** - all factors that would later make the Trump presidency possible. But Romney and Obama still affirmed this democratic ideal in their dealings with one another.

**What will happen next election night?** [In some surveys, Joe Biden is clearly ahead.](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/us-wahl-2020-die-wichtigsten-umfragen-im-rennen-donald-trump-vs-joe-biden-a-b15ff300-1ea7-4bdf-8685-952dc1e56f57) But what does that mean? And: Should Donald Trump actually lose, will he admit his defeat?

It probably doesn't just depend on whether he loses.

**But how he loses.**

Because Trump has once again sown distrust in the electoral process in the last few days. He suspects fraud before the votes are even counted. He has announced in what is perhaps the decisive, competitive **battleground state of Pennsylvania** that his lawyers will take over "as soon as this election is through."

It is this scenario that could become the **stress test of American democracy** : Trump needs Pennsylvania to secure the necessary majority in the electoral college. If things get tight, the decision may not be made for a few days - not until the postal votes have been counted. **But what if Trump is ahead on election night in Pennsylvania** - and declares himself the election winner in order to forestall alleged frauds by the Democrats in postal votes? Charles M. Blow, columnist for the New York Times, writes: "Trump will then look at his burning country and warm himself by the fire."

Sounds like the Banana Republic or the Third World. But: haven't the last four years offered enough reasons to reckon with the unforeseen?

But there may be a way out. And that's in the south.

* [Poll shortly before the election: Biden is ahead in the important swing state of Florida](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/biden-liegt-im-wichtigen-swing-state-florida-vor-trump-a-bd0ddb89-8bd4-44ff-8220-be3c449c2300)

**All eyes on Florida**

Candidate Biden

Photo: JIM WATSON / AFP

The "Sunshine State" [is the big prize in this election](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/countdown-zur-us-wahl-aus-florida-die-mutter-aller-swing-states-a-3639c239-50d1-4fa0-b20c-47189d78722d) . **If Biden takes Florida, the win will be hard to take away from him.** If Trump wins Florida, he is not through yet, but has a more realistic chance of overall victory.

The advantage of Florida: There the counting of the postal votes starts weeks before election day, unlike in Pennsylvania. **A reliable result on election night can therefore be expected.** Means: Biden can win without Florida. But with Florida he would make it more complicated for Trump not to acknowledge a possible Biden victory.

During the day and on election night, we will provide you with extensive and detailed information on SPIEGEL.de. Our US correspondents Roland Nelles and Marc Pitzke, for example, deal with the possible **scenarios for the outcome of the election** - and go into detail on the role of Florida.

During the night, our reporters report from the capital **Washington** , **Florida** , **Pennsylvania** , **Michigan** and **California** .

**From 19 clock then our Live Show starts** . We talk to experts, first-time voters, artists like the US writer Jonathan Safran Foer. **From 4.30 a.m. on Wednesday morning** , my colleagues Rachelle Pouplier and Britta Sandberg will welcome you to the morning show with projections, assessments and many discussions with colleagues and politicians. By the way, our LAGE in the morning turns into a live chat on Wednesday: We LAGE authors will talk about the consequences of this election from 6 a.m.

* [Hate, culture clash, discord: what remains of Trump - 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)

**SPIEGEL climate conference in livestream**

And another note on our own behalf: Today from 4 p.m. we will stream our climate conference on SPIEGEL.de. Among other things, we interview **CSU boss Markus Söder** and economics minister **Peter Altmaier** on climate policy, there are panels with business **leaders** like **Lufthansa boss Carsten Spohr** , scientists like **Ottmar Edenhofer** , politicians like **Annalena Baerbock, head of the Greens,** and climate activists like **Luisa Neubauer** . All information, schedules and guests can be found [here](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/klimakonferenz) .

**Winner of the day ...**

Group leader Brinkhaus in the Bundestag

Photo: TOBIAS SCHWARZ / AFP

... is **Ralph Brinkhaus.** Last week, the Union parliamentary group leader defended the anti-corona shutdown of the government in a brilliant speech in the Bundestag ("The point is that we, as an open, democratic, plural society can prove that we can get this pandemic under control") and will now even brought up as a **replacement candidate for the CDU chairmanship** and thus also the candidacy for chancellor.

There are many personalities in the party who are suitable for "top positions", "the parliamentary group leader Ralph Brinkhaus is certainly one of them, [" Thuringia's CDU leader Christian Hirte told SPIEGEL](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/cdu-vorsitz-christian-hirte-bringt-ralph-brinkhaus-ins-spiel-a-668d1739-a6b7-410c-b616-c21336d8b331) .

Now a shepherd is not making any candidates, but even the current chairwoman, [Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, recently](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/cdu-annegret-kramp-karrenbauer-ruft-friedrich-merz-und-armin-laschet-zur-ordnung-a-0bfacc78-98ee-4dcc-9f6a-2ba3721adb14) warned the quarreling trio of applicants Merz-Laschet-Röttgen in [an interview with SPIEGEL](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/cdu-annegret-kramp-karrenbauer-ruft-friedrich-merz-und-armin-laschet-zur-ordnung-a-0bfacc78-98ee-4dcc-9f6a-2ba3721adb14) : "The more ruinous the competition, the more some people will react as a reflex this discussion might ask the question about other applicants. "

Wait and see. In any case, the Junge Union today presents the **result of its member survey on the party chairmanship** , which the JU leader Tilman Kuban considers binding for himself, but not for his association. So the winner would certainly have one vote.

**The latest news from the night**

* **"We are still fighting":** Top politicians have condemned the ongoing terrorist attack in Vienna and pledged their support. [EU Council President Charles Michel called the act a cowardly act against life](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/wien-politiker-bekunden-beileid-nach-terroranschlag-sind-nach-wie-vor-im-kampf-a-5a8bfd73-1e24-472c-ba5f-9dd9b4137b24)
* **Biden is ahead of Trump in the important swing state Florida:** Florida could become one of the electoral states - and there is a clear lead for Joe Biden. [Not long ago, he and Donald Trump had been tied there](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/biden-liegt-im-wichtigen-swing-state-florida-vor-trump-a-bd0ddb89-8bd4-44ff-8220-be3c449c2300)
* **VW has to call back 218,000 Jettas in the USA: In** the worst case, leaking fuel could lead to a fire: [Due to defects in the Jetta, Volkswagen orders vehicles to the workshops in the USA on a large scale](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/auto/vw-muss-in-den-usa-218-000-jetta-wegen-benzinlecks-zurueckrufen-a-66614d33-00da-430f-a70c-04728ef03447)