**The situation in the morning**

**Can Biden reunite the United States?**

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 dealing with the likely winner of the US presidential election and his problems, with a broken party and an outsider who could become the head of the CDU.

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**How long do we have to wait now ...**

... until better times start again? Welcome to day 4 after US election night. The final winner has still not been determined. The count continues. Every vote counts. At the same time, it is also clear: There is **hardly a realistic chance of victory for incumbent Donald Trump** .

Candidate Biden at his appearance in Wilmington

Photo: KEVIN LAMARQUE / REUTERS

Last night **Joe Biden went public with Vice-Candidate Kamala Harris** and - yes, how should you put it - held a kind of light version of an *Acceptance Speech* with the handbrake on.

Biden was certain of victory and called on his compatriots to be patient until every vote had really been counted. His appearance was: a boon. Prudent and presidential.

What exactly do the numbers say about the hour? **Joe Biden is 253-214** on the electoral college, and 270 is needed to win. The challenger leads the way in **Nevada** (6 votes), **Arizona** (11) and **Pennsylvania** (20) with 20,000 to 30,000 votes each. In **Georgia** (16), Biden's lead is only a few thousand votes, so there will probably be a recount there at the end. But Biden would not have to rely on the result of the recount in Georgia, the other states would be enough for him if he got them.

**In the case of Trump, desperation has apparently grown in the last few hours** . The anti-democrat keeps sowing conspiracy stories about the allegedly "stolen election" among his supporters and refuses to leave the White House. His son Donald Trump Junior recommended that Daddy **go to "all-out war"** via Twitter .

In this context [,](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-nach-der-us-wahl-der-hausbesetzer-a-00000000-0002-0001-0000-000173898741) be **sure to** read **our cover story about Trump, the squatter** .

All attempts by Team Trump to take legal action against the counting of votes have so far **failed** . In his environment, they will soon have to whisper it to him: Game Over.

* [Trump's dirty fight for the Oval Office: the squatter](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/donald-trump-nach-der-us-wahl-der-hausbesetzer-a-00000000-0002-0001-0000-000173898741)

**What's coming?**

This US election was and is historic in so many dimensions.

* She is expected **to remove an anti-democrat and racist from office** .
* Challenger Joe Biden has clearly won the *popular vote* with around 74 million votes and has won more **votes than any** other **candidate** - also because of the very high turnout.
* However, Donald Trump is now in second place in these statistics. Almost half of the country is behind this man, **who was able to grow significantly compared to 2016** .
* It is likely to make president a traditional middle democrat who for decades knew how to forge **compromises with the Republicans** . But does this Republican party still exist that Joe Biden compromised with?
* The Americans voted out Trump, **but Trumpism will remain** . Read [here](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/usa-nach-der-wahl-der-trumpismus-bleibt-auch-ohne-trump-a-00000000-0002-0001-0000-000173898740) the editorial by my colleague Mathieu von Rohr.

Protests in front of the White House after the US election

Photo: ERIN SCOTT / REUTERS

So if that happens, it's a **bittersweet win for Joe Biden** . Before him lies the most difficult task for a president since the end of World War II. Making a divided, even torn country politically viable again; restore the trust of international partners; fight the corona pandemic; fight the economic crisis; fight racism; fight climate change.

In January 2009, Biden was Vice President when the beaming victor Barack Obama lost his radiance when he took over the country from his predecessor George W. Bush: financial crisis, real estate crisis, auto industry on the verge of collapse, terrorist threat, failed Iraq war.

But all of that is nothing compared to all of the challenges that 77-year-old Biden is now facing. And Trump will remain **in the White House for around two and a half months** until the possible handover in January . Politically he may be a *lame duck* , but he still has all the power tools of a president.

* [White House battle: Biden hopes to announce victory on Saturday](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/joe-biden-hofft-am-samstag-seinen-wahlsieg-zu-verkuenden-a-a96cea5e-4394-4091-8fa9-7c5d76a21ac6)

**What are Republicans doing - and their supporters?**

Under Trump, the Republican Party gave up on itself. In previous years, infiltrated by the radical right-wing tea party movement, it was ripe for storm when Donald Trump came.

This party has allowed itself to be made into the **vehicle of an autocrat** . The Trump years were a test of character for the Lincoln party - and they messed it up. Few upright Republicans like former presidential candidate Mitt Romney have defended democracy and political decency. The vast majority of their elected officials do not.

And now? **We shouldn't assume that the party will now shake itself vigorously and then emancipate itself from Trump.** The poison of Trumpism has seeped into this traditional party, and Biden will find it difficult to compromise with it.

Candidate Biden, Harris

Photo: Carolyn Kaster / AP

The majority in the future Senate will be decisive, with a third of the total of 100 seats up for grabs in the election on Tuesday. **At the moment it's 48 to 48** and the Republicans are likely to win two more seats. There are still two more. And these are - of all places - the two seats of the already contested Georgia (see above). Both will be decided in a runoff election in January. If it is then 50:50, **the vote of the US Vice President decides** in a stalemate in the Senate. And that in turn could be Kamala Harris.

And what about the voters? Or is it better to say with a view to polarization: the Trump fan base? She will be **put on cold withdrawal** in the coming months . That can have unpleasant consequences.

Biden and his Vice President Kamala Harris will find it hard to get into contact with these people at first.

Should you even look for it? Yes, because **not all Trump voters are the same as Trump voters** . There are the conspiracy narrators, the right-wing extremists: you don't integrate such people, you fight them. But half of Americans are not right-wing extremists. Countless numbers have been led behind the spruce tree by Trump, the Republicans, the propaganda media.

Biden appealed to these people on his last appearance that night: **"We may be opponents, but we are not enemies. We are all Americans."** He will work just as hard as president for those who did not elect him. "We have to leave the anger and the demonizations behind us," he said - it will not be easy.

* [The reward for shamelessness **-** The election result is not as disastrous for Republicans as it seems.](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/republikaner-nach-donald-trump-lohn-der-schamlosigkeit-a-04553b30-0efe-44fd-a0ff-cae8058bfb2b)

**Will Röttgen now head of the CDU?**

During the election drama in the USA, one can observe how a politician comes to the fore in Germany: Norbert Röttgen. The chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Bundestag is a candidate for the CDU chairmanship - **so far, he was considered to have no chance** .

CDU politician Röttgen

Photo: Christian Spicker / imago images / Christian Spicker

But now his expertise is in demand, and his opponents **Friedrich Merz** and **Armin Laschet** recently fought an unsavory fight to postpone the CDU party congress in times of Corona.

**Röttgen recognized his chance, gave the reconciler** - and is already perceived by some as a candidate for compensation. My colleagues Florian Gathmann, Christoph Hickmann and Veit Medick describe the situation as follows: "The fact that Röttgen suddenly plays the reconciler, however, is also annoying **to** some in the party . Many in the CDU still remember how often he had that impression conveyed being smarter than everyone else. " He has never shied away from power struggles, years ago, for example, snatching the district chairmanship from a flatmate.

And yet: Röttgen as party leader would **still have an attractive advantage** for many at the CDU base . His colleagues write that he would be the only Christian Democrat who could hand over the candidacy for chancellor to the **CSU leader, Markus Söder,** who is popular with the CDU people, without losing face.

* [CDU outsiders catching up: can Norbert Röttgen become party leader after all?](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/cdu-kann-norbert-roettgen-etwas-doch-parteivorsitzender-werden-a-00000000-0002-0001-0000-000173898765)

**Winner of the day ...**

... are today (maybe tomorrow) **Joe Biden** and **Kamala Harris** .

**The latest news from the night**

* **Constitutional protection chief suspended after attack in Vienna** : The terrorist **attack in Vienna** has personnel consequences: The chief of the Vienna constitutional protection is vacating his post for the time being. [Austria's Minister of the Interior admits further omissions by the authorities](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/ausland/wien-verfassungsschutzchef-erich-zwettler-nach-terroranschlag-suspendiert-a-fb0f89ca-0cc3-4ce3-b5c5-d9a5698ec266)
* **The number of dead and missing from storm "Eta" rises to around 200** : More than a hundred people died in landslides and floods caused by a tropical storm in Central America. [An entire village was buried in Guatemala](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/panorama/gesellschaft/eta-zahl-der-toten-und-vermissten-nach-tropensturm-in-zentralamerika-steigt-auf-170-a-de98effc-1635-4444-bb53-aadc293fc8e1)
* **Child's body recovered from the river in Lower Saxony - suspected manslaughter against mother** : A mother disappears from the hospital in Rotenburg with her four-year-old son. Hours later the boy is lying dead in the pool. [Now the public prosecutor is investigating the 40-year-old](https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=de&prev=_t&sl=de&tl=en&u=https://www.spiegel.de/panorama/justiz/rotenburg-in-niedersachsen-kinderleiche-aus-fluss-geborgen-totschlagsverdacht-gegen-mutter-a-0502b75d-8eb6-4717-8cbe-f9c06b709675)