

What is the chance of a Harris presidency?

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As this week has progressed I have become increasingly aware of the fact that the right question to ask with regard to the US presidential election is not who will win it, but whether Trump will accept the result.

I am aware that opinion polls in the USA are suggesting that the election result is close, but when those polls are sorted on the basis of the reliability of the entities either conducting or publishing them, then there is a suggestion that Harris is more likely to win, and that other polls are being created as a basis for questioning the validity of her doing so.

In addition, it is apparent that in many of the more marginal swing states pro-Trump Republicans have been working for several years to establish their positions on the committees that are supposed to endorse election results so that they have the opportunity to challenge whatever the chosen opinion of the electorate might be. This is perhaps the biggest danger to Harris.

And then, even if that fails for Trump, no one can ignore the precedent of January 6, 2020, although a massively biased Supreme Court might intervene to deliver the result to Trump whatever the people of the USA might think long before the equivalent date arrives this time.

To put all this another way, whilst I have long suspected the validity of election results in some countries where corruption is rife and ballot rigging an almost normal course of events, during previous US presidential election races I never thought that such corruption would have to be taken into consideration as one, if not the primary, determining factors in the outcome of that process. Even during the shenanigans of 2000, when the decision in Florida hung in the balance for some time, I always presumed that the due process of law would eventually prevail. I did not like the outcome, but accepted it.

This time I have no such confidence. By next weekend the coup d'etat that might deliver Trump the election result I still hope and expect will not be his to claim could be

under way.

I stress, I am under no illusions about Harris. I have no doubt that she will continue to promote American neoliberal imperialism around the world, not least via Netanyahu, and nothing about that appeals to me. But, given the choice that has been presented to the US electorate by a supposedly democratic constitution that fails to reflect the nature of modern American society, I would have no choice but vote for her if I had the opportunity to do so, which of course I do not. I would do so even though I know I will be deeply underwhelmed by her presidency in the remote chance that she might happen to enjoy one. For all my reservations, that presidency would, in my opinion, be vastly better than anything that Trump might deliver.

But, whilst I think her prospects for success at the ballot box might be high, her chance of being inaugurated is, I fear, incredibly low. And that is shocking.