

Current topics in short: Talking about the outcome of the U.S. presidential elections (S II)

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Im November 2020 wurde in den USA mit Joe Biden ein neuer Präsident gewählt. Dieser hat den in vielerlei Hinsicht ungewöhnlichen Präsidenten Donald Trump bereits abgelöst, auch wenn viele Trump-Anhänger die Wahlergebnisse für gefälscht halten und nicht anerkennen wollen – was zu dem schockierenden Sturm auf das Kapitol führte. Nach jeder Präsidentschaft stellt sich die Frage, was bleibt. Welches Erbe tritt der neue Präsident an, welche mittel- und langfristigen Konsequenzen hatte die Politik des scheidenden Präsidenten? Die Schülerinnen und Schüler setzen sich in diesen Unterrichtsmaterialien mit verschiedenen Einschätzungen aus Interviews mit US-Bürgerinnen und -Bürgern auseinander und ordnen diese auf dem Spektrum politischer Meinungen ein.

KOMPETENZPROFIL

Klassenstufe:	11/12 (G8) bzw. 11–13 (G9)
Dauer:	3 Unterrichtsstunden
Kompetenzen:	1. Leseverstehen: Einschätzungen/Meinungen verschiedener Personen lesen und verstehen; 2. Sprechen: am Unterrichtsgespräch teilnehmen; 3. Interkulturelle Kompetenz: Werte, Haltungen und Einstellungen des zielsprachigen Landes erkennen und unter Berücksichtigung des fremdkulturellen Hintergrundes einordnen

Thematische Bereiche: USA, aktuelle gesellschaftliche Probleme
 Text

M 1

Position papers: What are long-term effects caused by the Trump administration? What could change under Biden?



Tasks

1. Read the texts.
2. Use four different markers. Mark the information regarding the achievements of the Trump administration mentioned in the text. Then mark what the texts say about any possible long-term problems caused by former President Trump and his decisions. After this, mark the information given about who voted for Biden and what will very likely change under the new administration.
3. Compare your findings with your partner's.

Person 1: There is one achievement: participation in the 2020 presidential election was higher than in any election in the past 100 years. More people are interested in politics than ever before, particularly younger people. They realized that they have to become actively engaged and that they do have a voice. I believe that an increased participation in the political life is an achievement by the Trump administration. There are several long-term problems. Number one, international relations have severely suffered over the past four years. Biden is going to have a hard time to reestablish former alliances and gain back trust from other countries. Secondly, a lot of environmental standards were lowered. The new administration has to work hard to rebuild an environmental framework. Third, Trump had a major impact on the Supreme Court by nominating three judges. The court has shifted to the right. We will see how this will play out in the next few years and decades. There is actually a fourth problem. The division between rural and urban voters has increased. It is not about race, age or education, the new divisive factor is where you live.

When you look at who voted for Joe Biden, you can see that he attracted different groups of people. The majority of women voted for him because they were not happy with Donald Trump's behavior before he became president as well as after. The majority of people living in urban areas voted for Biden. They are more open to diversity, they are used to diversity, they are not scared by it. Also, a majority of people with college degrees voted for Biden and finally, I believe that Biden's slogan "Make America kind again" attracted a lot of people. He just offered a very different picture and showed that even a successful politician can still maintain integrity and compassion, something that a lot of people missed during the Trump presidency. Joe Biden is a very impressive man. He showed the American people what strength means and that you can and have to move on after personal tragedies. He took his time to grieve but then he found strength again and he knew he had more work that needed to be done. I would love to have him over to my house and ask him where he gets his optimism from, that he never gives up. He just keeps working for his family and for the country. There will be many changes when Biden starts his presidency. His biggest problem will be the pandemic. He will offer a new approach. He will rely more on experts and doctors to lead this fight. He will also continue working on expanding health care instead of taking it back and battling in court. And finally, he will put more emphasis on environmental policies that the Trump administration changed. He will rejoin the Paris agreement at the beginning of his presidency. He will fight climate change together with other countries.

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