

“Trump’s Victory -Some Thoughts” by Anil Shrivastava ‘Musafir’



A friend of mine who always wears his heart on his sleeve was lamenting over Trump’s victory and spouted that the American democracy was threatened as Trump would become a dictator. His sentiment is shared by many of my acquaintances. Obviously, they are oblivious of the built-in safety in our constitution against such happenings. That is called checks and balances.

The system of checks and balances in government was developed to ensure that no one branch of government would become too powerful. The framers of the U.S. Constitution built a system that divides power between the three branches of the U.S. government—legislative, executive and judicial—and includes various limits and controls on the powers of each branch.

The Greek philosopher Polybius 200 – c. 118 BC is the earliest known pioneer of this system. Polybius analyzed the ancient Roman mixed constitution under three main divisions: monarchy (represented by the consul); aristocracy (the Senate); and democracy (the people). He greatly influenced the idea about the separation of powers.

The framers of the U.S. Constitution saw checks and balances as essential for the security of liberty under the Constitution: “It is by balancing each of these powers against the other two, that the efforts in human nature toward tyranny can alone be checked and restrained, and any degree of freedom preserved in the constitution” (John Adams).

The president can veto the law passed by the legislature (which Congress may override by a two-thirds vote) and legislature can impeach and remove the president. The language of the 25th the amendment of the United States' constitution says if the vice president and either a majority of the executive Cabinet or a review body appointed by Congress declare in writing that the president is unfit for office, then the vice president immediately becomes the acting president.

Checks and balances have been used in the U.S. several times. The House of Representatives initiated impeachment proceedings for President Andrew Johnson in 1868 (acquitted by Senate), President Richard Nixon in 1974 (resigned), President Bill Clinton in 1998 (acquitted by Senate), and President Donald Trump in 2019 and 2021 (acquitted by Senate).

Trump will, of course, try to keep some of his promises should the Supreme Court deem them unconstitutional. Donald Trump's promised plan to deport illegal immigrants en masse, known as "Operation Aurora," could now become a reality.

Trump has proposed tariffs of 10% to 20% on foreign goods. He will make sure that the international trade is conducted on level playing field.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has to be terrified that the presidential candidate that they tried to kill has just won the election. Iran's currency tanked to an all-time low Wednesday after Trump clinched victory. The Iranian currency rial traded at 703,000 rials to the dollar the day after Trump won the presidency.

All in all, Trump will fully implement his America First policy. America First's policy blueprint lays out a number of priorities in line with policy views that Trump and his allies have pushed, including imposing tariffs on imported goods, lowering corporate tax rates, protecting "religious freedom," increasing domestic oil and gas production, getting rid of climate change efforts, opposing policies supporting transgender rights, opposing any gun control measures, imposing work requirements for Medicaid recipients, curbing immigration and reducing America's role in assisting with international conflicts.

So, in contrast to my friend's views, I believe that America will be stronger under Trump. Things will certainly be interesting.