

And the victor is the VIRUS.

Biden is the new President by a margin of 3% and a likely tally of 300 odd electoral college votes. This is less than the 6% margin I anticipated based on the aggregate of opinion polls and the quantification of postal ballots. This is a victory sufficient to prevent the courts overturning counts but insufficient to prevent Trump from calling out the election.

Over the last three days the average daily infection rate has crossed 120,000 and the death rate 1,200. On the 6th November, total infections breached 10 million. With 4.3% of the global population, the USA has 20% of its recorded infections and 13% of its deaths. (<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>) At this rate of daily spread, the USA will hit 200,000 infections by month end totaling 15 million infections and 300,000 deaths, outpacing every other country.

By the time Trump leaves office, and, depending on the availability of a vaccine or nationwide lockdowns, the infection rate could have reached 20 million and total deaths over 350,000. Already hospital occupancy rates are beginning to rise sharply. At over 53,000 on the 5th November, the tally is within 10% of the peaks reached in late July. <https://covidtracking.com/data/charts/us-all-key-metrics> Within a fortnight it will have surpassed its previous peaks.

And yet Trump is closeted with lawyers instead of epidemiologists and health experts, trying to legally overturn the election, instead of focusing on containing the virus. Nor will he seek forgiveness from the nation for his reckless behaviour when his numerous rallies turned him into one of history's biggest superspreaders. History will never forgive him for this. It will remember him, not as the President who "Made America Great", but the President who "Made America Break".

It is unfortunate that Biden did not win by a larger and incontestable margin, for had he, many more US lives would have been spared because political effort and attention would not have been diverted away from the virus by the aftermath of the elections.

Biden the political gift that kept on giving.

There will no doubt be post-mortem angst over the inaccuracy of the opinion polls. Instead of an aggregate lead of 7.5% in opinion polls, Biden garnered less than half that figure. And these were polls that adjusted for the bias that plagued the polls in 2016. What will not be investigated is the appropriateness of Biden as the candidate to oppose Trump. In many ways, the Democratic National Committee gifted Trump with such a candidate, a veritable political punch bag for Trump to hammer away at especially during the terminal phase of the campaign.

Trump reveled in accusing his rival of a political life surrounded by shadows. The allegations swirling around the behaviour of the Biden family's dealings in the Ukraine firmed up. The Obama administration together with the EU were the puppet masters of the so-called "*Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity*" in 2014, really a Coup, which turned that country into a failed state providing easy pickings for the hucksters in and around the Obama administration. This included Biden's son.

In a capitalist society, the ideas of the ruling class become the ruling ideas in society. (Marx) Much has been written about fake news. But there are two versions of fake news, whereas before there was only one. The original fake news, the official fake news, has been with us for centuries, the media owned and

run by the capitalist class which seeks to present a view of the world that serves the interests of capital. It has jealously guarded its monopoly of this official version of the “truth”.

With the advent of social media, its monopoly of fake news has begun to slip. This is evident by its vitriolic attack on the unofficial versions of fake news circulating on-line. Nowhere was this more apparent than the way the main-stream media treated the allegations of corruption and interference in the affairs of Ukraine by the Biden family. Criticism was deflected North Korean style and the contrast with the coverage of the impeachment of Trump over his Ukraine exploits, was eye watering. However, many millions of voters were not persuaded by this, and did see “swampy” Biden as unfit to be President. It may account for some of the lost margin. The only good thing to come out of this sordid affair is that we will not see a Biden dynasty as we saw, for example, with the Bush family.

The second factor was Pelosi’s overreach regarding the second financial support package or TARP 2. Her failure to achieve a compromise before voting began, which impacted tens of millions of the unemployed and the lower paid, hurt the Democrats more than the Republicans. This is evidenced by the reduction in the number of Democratic members returned to the lower house. Of course, this will not topple Pelosi, the architect of this opportunistic miscalculation.

Both she and Biden personify how congealed and undemocratic the Democratic Party establishment is. One of the acid tests for a bureaucratized party is both the age and period of office held by incumbents. Biden is 78, Nancy Pelosi the majority leader in the lower house is 80 and Charles Schumer the minority leader of the upper house (Senate) is 70. Pelosi for example has been Speaker of the House for 15 years. The gradual ageing of those in office mirrors the passing of age of the USA itself. This election was not about rebirth, with younger politicians taking the helm and reviving the country, but of rheumatic politicians tightly holding on to the helm.

The final factor was the targeted misinformation by the likes of the Koch Brothers. This appears to have been effective within the Latino and Latina electorate when Biden was presented as a beardless Fidel Castro seeking to expropriate this community.

The Alt-right, manipulated by the Billionaires and soon to be plagued by the virus.

Trump has his street troopers. And he had a plan to steal this election. He encouraged his supporters to vote in person on election day. This plan was developed in July when it became evident that postal ballots would play a big role in the election. He reinforced this at rally after rally before election day. That is why he had to downplay the virus which was encouraging the postal vote. Therefore, in pursuit of this plan, he was willing to put millions of his supporters at risk, to sacrifice them in pursuit of his political goal, himself. He literally turned them into viral fodder to feed his ambitions. This was not reckless, it was criminal. At some point, epidemiologists will add up the casualties and it will be a national scandal which could tear the Republican Party apart.

About 50 million voters or one third of the total vote, voted on the day. They were overwhelmingly Republican. As these votes are tallied first, it appeared on the night that Trump had a substantial lead. He therefore executed the second part of the plan by declaring himself the winner early the following morning and calling for the count to be stopped.

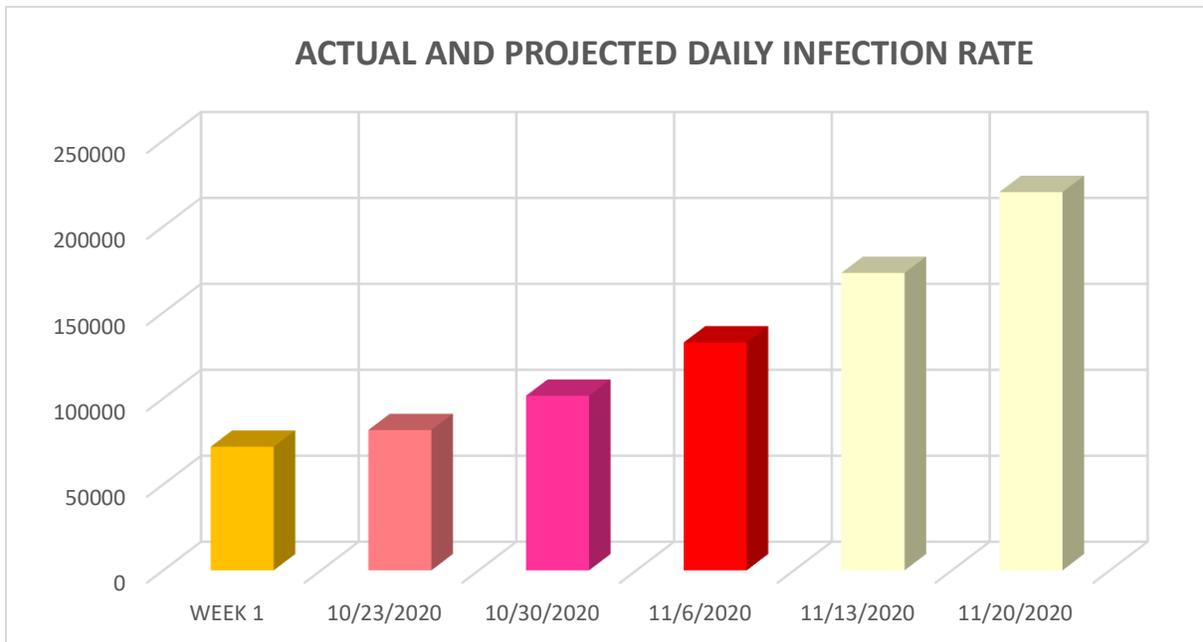
He and the rest of the Republican leadership feared the postal vote. They knew it would be propelled by sensible voters, overwhelmingly Democrat. Their fears were stoked by the sheer scale of the postal vote.

Trump knew that as postal votes were counted, his lead would evaporate. To prepare for this Trump had to discredit the postal vote, castigating it as fundamentally fraudulent.

This inflamed thousands of his supporters who took to the streets. Ideally, Trump would have liked the counting offices in marginal states to be over run, reminiscent of 1932, keeping him in power. But his active supporters were too few in number, the police were off-side, and he was assailed from all directions, including from within his own party, and charged with bringing the electoral system in the USA into disrepute and turning the US into a global laughing stock.

Populist Trump has proved himself to be undemocratic and playing loose with the facts. His Tweets should be given the Oscar for cheekiness. In them he presents himself as the sole defender of the Constitution while actively undermining it. This resonates with if not incites his stormtroopers, who are made to feel that disenfranchising postal voters is the legitimate thing to do.

They are going to have a rude awakening. Below are the actual and projected daily infection rates. These are based on Fridays when the rate peaks due to recording methods. The 6 weeks covered are the 16th October, 23rd October, 30th October and 6th November which are actual numbers, while the last two weeks which cover the 13th and the 20th are projected. All data taken from Worldometers.



It is to be noted that by the 20th November on present trends, the peak daily infection rate will exceed 200,000 having risen almost three-fold in as little as six weeks. In any war, identifying the enemy is key to survival. The Alt-rights PPE of choice, AR 15 carbines are no protection against the virus unless one is an extremely good shot and has millions of bullets. They are no defence against the virus. By the time Trump leaves the White House, instead of receiving a guard of honour made up of his supporters he may need to be defended from them, because by then they will have recognised how deep Trump's betrayal has gone.

By then, they their families and friends, will be at the storm centre of the virus. Hospitals will have filled up. Panic will be in the air. Large scale vaccination will not occur early enough to change this.

Trump will learn that while playing with fire is dangerous, playing with a virus is suicidal.

Biden promises, promises.

Biden must be sighing with relief. He has not won the Senate. He will use this to tone down his extravagant promises of re-floating the economy and changing its direction because, “we need to moderate our proposals to get it through the Senate”. Additionally, the Senate could veto left wing appointments to Biden’s cabinet. The markets are loving it as well, knowing that an oppositional Senate will temper the “extremists” in the Democratic Party.

While Trump has betrayed his supporters, Biden will disappoint his supporters. The US economy is bankrupt. Between April and September this year, the second half of the fiscal year, the deficit came to \$2.388 trillion, an annualised rate of 23%. If Biden enacts \$3 trillion in support and infrastructural spending, then the outcome for the fiscal year ending September 2021 could be north of 25%. Unsustainable, especially for the Dollar. <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2020-10/56661-MBR.pdf>

Now that the elections are in the rear-view mirror and the car is difficult to keep on the road because it is being continuously and relentlessly buffeted by the pandemic, the markets may finally veer back to reality. Of two things we can be sure, at some point immunity will be reached, but there may be no immunity for capital as the anger of society swells due to the lack of preparations before the pandemic, the cost of the pandemic and the punitive conditions which will follow it.

Forget the fancy-pancy economic plans put out by the Democratic Party. Instead our single global and operative slogan must be: “2008 Never Again, This Time The Rich Must Pay”.

Brian Green, shortly after Biden was anointed President on the 7th of November.