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POST-2020 POTUS ELECTION: WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS?

Despite earning more votes in the 2020 presidential election than he did in the 2016 presidential election, President Trump narrowly lost his re-election attempt to former Vice President Joe Biden earlier this month. Trump has reportedly received the votes of [67 million Americans](#), he got approximately 63 million votes in 2016. The issues of social and racial unrest and a failed response to the COVID-19 outbreak became the main factors of the incumbent President Trump's narrow defeat.

Meanwhile, President Trump has launched legal challenges alleging election irregularities or [improper ballot-counting](#) procedures in five states where President-elect Joe Biden leads. On 16 November, President Trump's [National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien](#) said that, although he hoped Trump would eventually be declared the winner, he would ensure a professional transition to the team led by Biden if he is deemed to be the winner of the 2020 Presidential Election. Speaking to the Global Security Forum, "If the Biden-

Harris ticket is determined to be the winner, and [obviously things look like that now](#), we'll have a very professional transition from the National Security Council, there's no question about it." By last week, however, Trump directed his administration to cooperate on the transition. Additionally, members of the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recently made an official statement boldly stating, "The November 3rd election was the most secure in American history."

As most leaders around the world congratulated Biden as his victory became more certain, analysts have weighed in with expectations that a new administration will embrace a softer tone, known to some as a return to normalisation and greater international cooperation. This view is perhaps best expressed by an international relations expert at the World Trade Institute of Bern University, Professor Manfred Elsig, who was quote in [Straits Times](#) as observing, "I think everyone is basically waiting with open arms for the US government to come back."

President Trump is known for his unilateral foreign policy with the theme of "America First." As the COVID-19 number of cases soared, on May 29 President Trump announced in a speech that the United States would terminate its relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO). The announcement came amidst the criticism towards WHO for being too friendly with Beijing, as well as for the way the bureaucracy handled the pandemic.

As predicted, the announcement drew criticism from many public health officials. The WHO should have been more assertive towards Beijing; also, it could have announced the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic sooner. However, the withdrawal from the WHO isn't without consequences. Some [experts fear the decision will threaten](#) other public health and vaccination programs around the world, beyond the current pandemic. Some may argue that withdrawing from the WHO could pave the way for Beijing to obtain even greater influence within an international organization.

President-elect Biden has promised to return the United States to the international organization, tweeting prior to the election, "On my first day as president, I will rejoin the WHO and restore our leadership on the world stage."

Whilst a more collegial NATO alliance under the new administration is expected, questions remain as to how would US-Turkey ties look during a Biden presidency. The relations of the two NATO allies have been strained over some important issues, most notably Turkey's acquisition of the S-400 air defence system from Russia. There is also tension over Syria, mainly focused on Kurdish-led militias that have partnered with the United States against the Islamic State, over Ankara's strong objections because of these groups' connections to terrorism.

Despite the strained relations, during the outbreak of COVID-19, both governments sought to highlight their strong transatlantic bond. In August, US Ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland praised Turkey's role in Libya. The [talk](#)

between Ambassador Norland and Turkish officials that was held in August have focused on exploring some of the possibilities for specific steps towards the de-escalation. Both sides are being on the same page on the issue, which is a step toward strengthening the relations.

When asked about why Ankara is critically important for Washington today, Michael Doran, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute and the former senior director in the National Security Council in the administration of President George W. Bush said, "Turkey is critical, because it sits at the nexus of the Balkans, the Eastern Mediterranean, the Caucuses and the Middle East, regions that are famously volatile and that present opportunities for America's adversaries, especially Russia and Iran, to challenge its position. No vision of international order can succeed if it fails to accommodate Turkey, which is more stable and powerful than most other actors in those regions, and which is poised to play an increasingly important role in them. Finding that accommodation should be a top priority in Washington."

Some may argue that the relations between the US and Turkey under Biden administration will not be easier. Michael Doran also mentioned that there are domestic lobbies who don't support a better US – Turkey relations. While there was no guarantee that current disagreements would have been solved had Trump won re-election, it appears more likely that the above-mentioned issues will remain during the new administration, regardless of whether the United States plays a more active role in issues that impact Turkey.

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