



Probis Club of Central Edmonton Newsletter

December 2021

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December 17- Greg Anderson

Greg Anderson is a Professor of Political Science at the U of A with a particular interest in international economic relationship within North America. He spoke about the recent American presidential election.

The election was seemingly about getting Trump out of the White House, not repudiating the republican agenda. He started by saying that he found the last four years exhausting. Also, noting that Madison election design provided able to stand up against this period. This was not the first time that the US seemed to be on the brink of civil war, he pointing to 1968 as an example. He saw parallels between 1968 and now.

There were two op-ed pieces designed to convince New York about the merits of the design of the election system. These are referred to as Federalist 10 and Federalist 51. Greg's assertion was that Madison had foreseen situations such as we saw with the Trump Presidency and the system worked. Also, He recommended that we read book entitled "On Tyranny" by Timothy Snyder.

He contrasted the electoral maps of 2016 and 2020. Pointing out that, due to the Electoral College, an election is about winning swing states. Interesting, the margins Trump benefited from in 2016 were remarkably like the margins that benefited Biden. In both elections, the margins were very thin. For example, just about 10,000 votes gave Biden victory on Arizona. Further, in 2016 just 77,744 votes in three states gave Trump the victory. In 2020, 81,139 votes in 4 states gave Biden the victory. He illustrated this further by examining the county by county voting pattern of key states and the country. Pointing out the rural urban split and the blended, Democrat/Republican nature of much the country.

The Democrats lost seats in the House of Representatives. This does not bode well for the midterms elections when historical the election does not go in favor of the White House occupant. With respect to the Senate, he focused on Georgia. There is a runoff for the two senate seats from Georgia. His view is the Republicans will win both seats. This will put the Senate under the control of the Republicans. If this were to happen, a Biden Presidency will be challenged to get its agenda done.

What happens to Trump? Interestingly, he gained ground in some key demographics, e.g., Latino men and Black men and women. Also, what happens to the Republican Party? In his

view, Progressives took a beating. So, what now for them? To get some understanding of how Biden will deal with progressives in his ranks Greg watches the selection of cabinet. For those who follow US politics the answer to these and other questions will be revealed over the next few years.

Stay safe and enjoy