

Folge 33 „Corona in den USA“: Vor der Amtseinführung - Welche Herausforderungen warten auf die Biden-Administration? – Martin Thunert – 14.01.2021

In the 33rd episode of "Corona in the USA," Dr. Anja Schüler and US-politics expert Martin Thunert reflected on current events, analyzing the storm on the Capitol as well as the new administration. Thunert opened the episode by emphasizing Trump's unique position as the only president in American history to face impeachment twice. Although some Republicans supported this measure, the majority remained loyal to the passing president, so Thunert. Furthermore, Democrats had to balance such an impeachment with political decisions that had to pass through the Senate following President Biden's inauguration. After all, they could employ measures other than impeachment to hinder Trump from running for office again, Thunert explained. Most successfully, a civil court case might yield a similar result. Yet, how a divided American public would react to such measures remained questionable. While many expected Biden to unify America, Thunert pointed out that the Democrats were just as eager to push their political agenda, seeing they currently held the majority in both Senate and Congress. However, it was necessary to remember that this marginal Democratic majority did not guarantee Biden easy governance, so Thunert, as increasing polarization between Democrats and Republicans, made winning Republicans' support difficult, if not unlikely, in recent decades. One could perhaps expect unity between the two parties on the issue of corona policies, which Thunert believed would be Biden's first measure in office. But an agreement was less likely considering other issues such as the regulation of big-tech companies or climate protection even within the Democratic Party and its highly diverse members. Thus, bipartisan support in the government and across American voters would remain a challenge for the coming administration. While most Americans united on topics such as the US-China relationship, bipartisan cooperation, in general, was often disregarded and actively discouraged. Lastly, Schüler asked Thunert for his assessment of the Republican Party's future. Thunert doubted that they would attempt to return to a pre-Trump identity, as many Republicans, according to polls, wanted to continue on the political path Trump had taken and desired a new leader. What would happen to Mike Pence and who could take Trump's place was impossible to say as American politics often took surprising turns, so Thunert. Here, Anja Schüler agreed before thanking her guest for his assessments and inviting the listeners to tune in to next week's episode.