

As the American presidential election approaches, the world watches with bated breath. Recent events, including President Joe Biden's lackluster debate performance and the subsequent calls for him to withdraw from the race, have sent ripples of uncertainty through the ranks of U.S. allies and partners. This focus on Biden's capabilities has painted a picture of chaos in Washington, much to the delight of adversaries like Moscow and Beijing.

The decision Biden faces will not only shape the domestic landscape but will also have profound implications for U.S. foreign policy and global stability.

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Should Biden choose to exit the race, questions about his ability to complete his term would inevitably arise. Such a move would effectively render him a lame duck, both at home and on the international stage. This perceived weakness could embolden adversaries, potentially leading to increased aggression from Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, a heightened Russian offensive in Ukraine, escalating threats from North Korea, or intensified Chinese provocations towards Taiwan or the Philippines. A president seen as unable to fulfill his duties leaves the Western alliance vulnerable during perilous times.

Moreover, Biden's withdrawal would trigger a tumultuous succession process within the Democratic Party, drawing the nation into a maelstrom of internal politics. This unprecedented situation could distract policymakers from addressing international crises that might erupt in the lead-up to November. Such a scenario would leave the United States and its allies scrambling for stability in an already volatile global environment.

For U.S. treaty allies in NATO, Japan, and South Korea, Biden has been a stabilizing force after the unpredictable Trump presidency. His potential departure could escalate anxieties among these nations, who have come to rely on Biden's commitment to continuity in post-Cold War American foreign policy. In a world fraught with disorder, the last thing these allies need is further instability from the United States. Conversely, this is precisely what adversaries like Russia and China hope to exploit.

There is, of course, a glimmer of hope that a younger, more dynamic Democratic candidate could rejuvenate the party's image and turn the tide in their favor, much like Barack Obama did in 2008. A fresh face might project an image of strength and vitality, providing a stark contrast to the perceived fatigue of the current administration. This could reassure allies and reinvigorate America's standing on the global stage, similar to John F. Kennedy's handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

A new nominee could also serve as a testament to the resilience and transparency of American democracy. Unlike autocratic regimes, the U.S. demonstrates a system where leadership can be challenged and changed in response to public sentiment, reinforcing its appeal as a democratic model worldwide.

However, the ideal scenario—where Biden gracefully steps down and a strong successor emerges—requires flawless execution. The reality is that the likelihood of chaos is higher, given the late stage of the race. For the sake of U.S. foreign policy and global security, the potential risks of Biden's withdrawal may outweigh the benefits. Stability hinges on the belief that Biden remains capable of leading the nation through these turbulent times.

While the prospect of a new Democratic candidate offers some appeal, the complexities and potential fallout of Biden's withdrawal present a formidable challenge. Allies and adversaries alike are closely watching the unfolding drama, aware that the outcome will have far-reaching consequences for global stability. The world is counting on America to navigate this

critical juncture with wisdom and steadiness, ensuring that the mantle of leadership remains secure in these uncertain times.