monitor Americaﹾs troubled elections
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Authoritarian nations, semi-legitimated dictatorships and dying democracies are regularly subjected to international observers whom they grudgingly allow into their countries to monitor elections. The United States sends teams of former government officials and private-sector volunteers around the world to certify ﹾand sometimes condemn ﹾ election practices and results. They bear witness to vote tampering, citizen intimidation, ballot stuffing, polling place irregularities and outright stolen elections. They also often get to watch inspiring people power and real democracy at work.

Itﹾs now Americaﹾs turn.

This year, the global democratic community needs to gear up and step in to oversee, monitor and judge the fairness of Novemberﹾs U. S. presidential election. Germany, Sweden, Japan, India, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Chile, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Israel, and other nations all need to up their game. They should immediately train and send new volunteers to conduct sweeping election monitoring across America, mostly in tough battleground states.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) already has a 500-person delegation slated to monitor Americaﹾs process. It should crank up those numbers significantly, especially since OSCE recently raised concerns around Novemberﹾs ﹾmost challengingﹾ election.

Americaﹾs 2020 presidential election process is in question at home, too. Even before the first vote has been cast, both parties are challenging the outcome.

President Trump regularly raises the specter of mail-in fraud and illegal votes. Hillary Clinton has warned Joe Biden not to concede on Election Night, when exit polls, overzealous pols or online reporting might declare a premature or pre-emptive Trump victory.

Clearly, the stage is set for one of the nastiest post-election moments in U. S. history. Even ﹾ especially ﹾ during a pandemic. Now is the time for all good nations to come to the aid of our country.

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