

Summary of István Dobozi's opinion piece in the Hungarian daily Népszabadság published on August 1, 2016

## America: Clinton or Trump?

The op-ed assesses the U.S. election landscape following the conclusion of the party conventions in Cleveland and Philadelphia from which Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton have emerged as the official party candidates for president of the United States.

However, no solid party unity was achieved in Cleveland and Philadelphia. Even with noisy protests by some Sanders supporters at the Democratic convention, the Republicans have remained the more deeply divided party, with many considering Trump himself the biggest divider.

The Sanders fans were largely mollified by including in the approved Democratic Party platform a number of key elements of the Sanders policy agenda, pushing Clinton and the party as a whole to the left as a result. Clinton's election coalition is a near-perfect replica of the successful 2008 and 2012 Obama coalition in which minorities played a decisive role. In particular, the rapidly growing Hispanics tip the scales in favor of the Democrats. With his aggressive anti-immigration stand, Trump has driven even more Hispanics to the Democratic Party. If, with this stronger than ever Hispanic voting bloc in her bag, Clinton does not win in November, she can blame only herself.

Trump can pose a strong challenge to Clinton mostly in the industrially depressed Rust Belt where Hillary displayed considerable weakness against Sanders, losing, for example, the important Michigan, while Trump carried the latter hands down. Most election forecasts predict a Clinton win on November 8.

While broadly agreeing with these, the author asks if Trump has any chance to pull out a last major surprise.

Mr. Dobozi sees a narrow path to a possible Trump victory only if three forces conspire in his favor: (i) attracting a high percentage of Reagan Democrats and independents who are unwilling to vote for Clinton; (ii) maximizing voter participation of his base aggressively deploying his communication and mobilization skills (which are more impressive than Clinton's); and (iii) counting on third party libertarian and green presidential candidates to gain votes mostly at the expense of Clinton.

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