



Written by [C. Mitchell Shaw](#) on November 20, 2020

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Correction, Please!

Calling the Game

Item: *The New York Times* definitively announced the presidential victory of Joe Biden on Saturday, November 7, under the headline “Presidential Election Results: Biden Wins.” It included a map showing Biden at 279 electoral votes to President Donald Trump’s 217.

Item: Also on Saturday, November 7, the New York Times — not content to prematurely announce that Biden had won — ran an article about how he had won. The article — subtly entitled “How Joe Biden Won the Presidency,” stated that Biden “campaign[ed] as a sober and conventional presence, concerned about the ‘soul of the country.’” It went on to say, “He correctly judged the character of the country, and benefited from President Trump’s missteps.”

That piece claimed “Americans made Mr. Biden only the third man since the Second World War to topple a duly elected president after just one term.” And after describing the tension in the Biden camp when early votes favored Trump, the article stated, “Within a matter of hours, Mr. Biden’s fortunes had improved as the big cities of the North reported their votes.”

Item: To continue the ruse, the New York Times reported on the celebrations of Biden supporters after media reports of his election. That article — published the same day as the others proclaiming Biden the winner — ran under the headline “‘A New Day in America’: Biden Victory Prompts Spontaneous Celebrations.” In the closest thing the Times could muster to an effort at balance, that article did at least include a mention of the idea that the election may have been stolen — but that mention was only to dispute the claim, referring to it as “the president’s baseless claims of election fraud.”

Item: That same day, the Chicago Tribune boldly proclaimed Biden the winner with a headline reading, “Joe Biden will be the 46th president of the United States, says it’s ‘time to heal’ in speech to nation; Trump disputes election results.”

Item: On Sunday, November 8, the Washington Post ran a headline saying, “After Biden’s win, parties gird for ferocious Senate runoffs in Georgia.” That piece unambiguously stated, “Within minutes of Joe Biden becoming president-elect, top Democrats and Republicans raced to the front lines of 2020’s last battlefield: a pair of January Senate runoffs in Georgia where the country’s racial, economic and cultural crosscurrents could help determine whether Democrats complete their takeover of Washington.”

Correction: The media’s overinflated sense of self-worth notwithstanding, the Fourth Estate does not



AP Images



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decide elections. As clear as that truth is, it appears to be a shock to them, because on the afternoon of the election, CNN brazenly tweeted: “The role of declaring the winner of a presidential election in the U.S. falls to the news media.”

After being called out for the hubris involved in such a public claim, CNN deleted the tweet and tweeted a “clarification,” saying:

Correction: We’ve deleted an earlier tweet that referred imprecisely to the role of the news media in the U.S. presidential election. The news media projects winners and reports results; it does not declare the winner of the election.

The “imprecise” original CNN tweet is a glimpse into the minds of modern-day media. And CNN is not alone in that mindset. Soon after that tweet, NPR tweeted, “NPR will not report election results being tallied or projected by news outlets that are not the Associated Press.” Again, the implication is clear: The media decide who wins. The argument over which media get to make that call is a difference without distinction. That would explain why after the Associated Press (AP) called the race for Biden, NPR tweeted Biden’s “win,” while saying, “President Trump is refusing to concede the 2020 election, falsely claiming that the election is ‘far from over.’” That tweet went on to say, “The AP and networks only call a race when they determine the trailing candidate has no possible path to victory.”

Of course, none of that answers the real question: Who appointed the media to “call a race” in the first place? A basic middle-school civics course would teach them that *according to the Constitution*, that power belongs first to the Electoral College and then (should the Electoral College fail in its duty) to Congress and *never* to the media.

This writer lived in Columbus, Ohio, during the 2000 election. The morning after the election, confusion ensued. I woke up to *two* copies of the *Columbus Dispatch* on my doorstep. They were identical except for the headline above the fold on the front page. One declared Gore had won while the other proclaimed Bush the victor.

It’s a good thing indeed that the media do not call elections.

And NPR’s protestations of President Trump’s claim duly noted, Trump is still correct. The race *is* “far from over.” That is because votes in several battleground states — counted by mainstream media for Biden — are heavily contested. As of this writing, recounts are already under way in Georgia. Others will likely follow since a DOJ investigation of voter fraud is also under way. And a federal judge has ruled that Pennsylvania ballots without proof of voter ID cannot be counted.



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Self-satisfied media: During a time that President Trump had legal challenges against the election results in the toss-up states and ballots were still being counted, the media took it upon themselves to declare Joe Biden the winner, and disparage anyone who disagreed as crazy. *(Photo credit: AP Images)*

Furthermore, LifeSiteNews has reported that former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who is helping the Trump campaign with its legal pursuit of election fraud, says enough votes were improperly counted in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh that those votes could easily affect the outcome of the race if an audit, re-canvassing, and recount were performed. One major point Team Trump has accurately highlighted is the number of dead Pennsylvanians who had ballots illegally cast for Biden. Finally, Republican state senators from Michigan have called for a full audit of 2020 votes for the presidential election “prior to the certification of any results.”

If Georgia, Michigan, and Pennsylvania are examples of a larger problem of voter fraud and irregularities, President Trump may not only have won the election — he may have won it by a landslide. In short, the winner of the election is yet unknown.

The Spoiler

Tim Murtaugh, campaign manager for Trump, tweeted to all at “Team Trump HQ” that “the media doesn’t select the president.” And Murtaugh was not alone. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) tweeted, “This is a contested election and the media doesn’t decide who becomes President,” correctly adding, “If they did, you would never have a Republican President.” And Senator Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), who serves as chairman of the Rules Committee, told ABC News chief anchor George Stephanopoulos — who, remember, served as White House communications director under President Bill Clinton — “You know, actually, the media can project, but the media doesn’t get to decide who the winner is. There is a canvassing process. That needs to happen.” He added, “I said on Friday, I thought it was time for the president to turn this discussion over to his lawyers, time for the lawyers to make the case that they have, both in court and to the American people, and then we’re going to have to deal with those facts as they’re presented. That has to happen, and then we move forward.”

Giuliani, Graham, and Blunt are not alone. Republican Texas Senator Ted Cruz told Fox News in an interview on November 8, “At this point, we do not know who has prevailed in the election,” adding, “The media is desperately trying to get everyone to coronate Joe Biden as the next president. But that’s



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not how it works, the media does not get to select our president; the American people get to elect our president.”

And Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) joined the chorus of the brave and truthful when on November 9 she told Fox News, which — to put in the for-what-it’s-worth column — had also called the election for Biden, “One of the things that the media forgets is they do not select the President of the United States.” Blackburn went on to say:

The American people elect the president of the United States. And in 2000, Al Gore spent 37 days exhausting every option, and President Donald Trump should also exhaust all options that are available to him. He is doing this to make certain that the votes that are legal are counted, that illegal votes are tossed out, and that the American people can have confidence that this election was properly run, that votes were properly cast and counted.

The 2020 election is indeed “far from over.” The courts may yet have to beat it out on the threshing floor to separate the wheat from the chaff, but this much is certain: The media — controlled by insiders — do not get to decide who is president. The *people* — via the Electoral College — do.



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