

FORUM: General Assembly of the Sixth Committee

ISSUE: The question of third party interference during a democratic vote

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Introduction

In a democratic government, the system is designed to give the people of the country a voice to choose their political leaders and team. This leads to different parties where they pursue to earn the trust and votes of the people. This may lead to many controversial methods, however, the main focus of this question is the role of a third party. They are outside groups or individuals who aren't directly apart or running for the political positions as the main parties, but do have an effect on the results. This may mean the act may either be illicit, causing an unfair advantage for a party over the other, or apart of the public system, where their involvement is expected and both parties are equally affected. Because of these odds, there is a debate whether or not third parties should interfere in democratic votes generally. This had everyone speculating more after recent years when the 45th president of the United States of America (USA) was elected to his seat.

Definition of Key Terms

Third party *A legal term for an individual who doesn't have a direct connection to a legal transaction but could affect it*

Democratic vote *In a democratic system, the number of people are given the chance to voice out their choices between legal candidates*

Candidate *A person who offers or runs for a place in the governmental office*

Election *A collective effort by the people of a country to give a candidate their position in the governmental office*

Interference *An act of hindering an event*

Parties *A group of individuals who are interested or directly apart of a political*

affair

Disinformation

Deliberate fraud that's sent to the public to create misinterpretation of pieces of information to weaken the people's opinion of the victim

Background Information

In recent years, the news about third party interference in America's 45th presidential election had created a massive upsurge since it had changed the course of history dramatically. This had directed the public's attention and awareness towards the question of third party interference in democratic votes. This is a widely-known term that associates with the negative impact of its interference. In this case, there are only negatively impacted cases such as false information, spread in the media to indirectly change the people's opinion of the target candidate, and abuse of political and social power, since the people aren't the only factors to place the winning candidate in the presidential position.

The main cause to these parties being so uncommon or unspoken is due to their large requirements to affect the elections. Unlike the two main parties of the presidential candidates, these third parties to work from their own efforts. This includes self-promotion to even get their names onto the ballot as a candidate and large sums of financial difficulties to maintain their popularity amongst the people to continue with their hopes to be elected. This is a type of third party in democratic votes. If there aren't any listed outside parties, then the two main ones have conspired or mutually kept their interest in decreasing the number of opponents of presidential candidates. Take, for example, Coca Cola and Pepsi; they've always had mutual interest to keep competitors off the markets' aisles, and in doing so, they have shared marketing over the year. This makes it more difficult for other brands to be displayed, therefore causing them to be unheard of or unpopular, like the third parties.

This may have been the cause to the third parties' negative image that's formed in the present media. As a result of the neglect of these third parties, they would often resort to foul actions to deplete the main parties. These could include spreading disinformation through the media with graphically edit recorded images and/or videos and forming classified agreements with foreign parties (often from different countries). These have caused a global uproar, which began with The United States of America's (USA) 45th presidential election in 2016. As an

example of rumored interference, Hillary Clinton had hinted at the idea of foreign influence upon the final decisions of the election by the third party of the Green Party. This is only an example of the results of a third party interference of a democratic vote, which could cause more collateral damage in future elections.

Key Issues

Disinformation

In definition, disinformation that is spread across all types of media are simply forged imagery and/or videos, created by a third party, with the intention of causing damage to a specific group or individual. With the help of present technology, this act is easily manipulated and successful. By being such a big phenomenon in the present world, this has been created as a separate issue on itself as a general issue in the present society. The present day has offered some aid to the people on the internet to check credibility in sources they find as they read them. This threatens the youths as they are well-exposed to these false accusations and are naive to the world's harm through the media. This forced the youth to heavily concentrate on reflective thinking and thorough research. This would be the only benefit from this issue.

Foreign interference

Unlike third party interference, foreign interference is simply other nations or countries who have hindered or secretly aided a local party or group during these democratic votes. For such an act, these foreign nations would have needed to take part in different illicit acts to cover their intentions. This includes spreading disinformation and/or providing funds illicitly to their supported local parties. This had raised many flags upon the present government, locally and internationally, to prevent such acts from hindering their results and causing an impactful consequence against their nation. Responses to resolve this issue, however, requires much time, effort and numbers. This needs to be addressed to cease any negative impacts from foreign nations onto the local ones. This could include manipulate public discourse, discredit the electoral system, bias the development of policy, or disrupt markets for the purpose of undermining the interests of said local nations.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

The United States of America (USA)

The United States of America (USA) had been victims to these interferences, and a heavy and major example of this would be for their 45th election back in 2016. President Donald Trump had won the presidential seat against Hillary Clinton, to everyone's surprise. This has caused a storm on social media and news stations to question how the results was the causation of his success in the elections. Hillary Clinton had won the overall numbers of the voters, yet the interference from the Green Party and their president, Ralph Nader had tripped the system and caused the election of President Donald Trump. As third party interferences were rarely effective, this occurrence had surprised the whole nation and global population. Hillary Clinton had accused the Russian's contributing to her loss. This was never strongly proven, but this had many thinking. Her reasons for this accusation was the Green Party's candidate, Jill Stein, as a "Russian asset". Jill Stein was their candidate for the 2012 and 2016 presidential elections. There are many other connections to the Russians with the Green Party as "They know they can't win without a third-party candidate," Clinton said last month of the Russians.

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions

Date	Description of the Events
November 5, 1912	Theodore Roosevelt was second place in the election as a non-Democratic party with the accused interference of a third party to help President Woodrow Wilson (a Democrat). This was the first documented success of the third party interference in the United States of America (USA).
April 1, 1999	A/CN.4/498/Add.3 was written with the intention to call out country's state responsibility against third parties.
November 8, 2016	President Trump had won the 45 th presidential elections against Hillary Clinton. This was after a sudden change in votes in 6 different states, which had caused his number of votes to increase. This was an accused act of a third party interference, the Green party, where these results were unexpected and unusual to some eyes.

Treaties and Events

➤ A/CN.4/498/Add.3

- Link to document:

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N99/093/20/PDF/N9909320.pdf?OpenElement>

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

With local nations aware of the effect of third parties interfering their democratic votes, countries with a democratic government system have brought it upon themselves to try and solve this issue. An example of Canada's attempt is their new rule for third parties. Their main approaches were having third parties in an election to be charged financially, track foreign interference (by investigating the origins of online posts, and has reached out to social media platforms to ask them to both remove and preserve any content that may be evidence) and for voters to simply think before submission. These factors are very important when discussing third parties in the democratic votes. These were clearly stated and explained by Yves Cote, an independent officer in charge of enforcing federal elections law.

Possible Solutions

Other possible solutions to these affairs could be for present government officials to be very active during the upcoming elections to come since interferences may be the most active at this time. Legal punishments should be established as well to any illicit acts to interfere with the results of democratic votes from a third party, whether it be from their local nation or foreign influences. Funds should also be constantly tracked by known third parties for a better understanding in their activities and partners. This could be addressed with financial transactions and travel routes.

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