Twitter Thread by eigenrobot



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@eigenrobot

should probably identify some things that I feel are plausible risks right now

i dont have any idea how large these risks are

going to focus on first order risks because most of them have tons of knock-on effects

> I mean... all my friends who prepared for a global pandemic and were stockpiling masks in February are freaking out about this Trump ban thing so it seems safe to ignore them since they are never right about anything.
>
> — PoliMath (@politicalmath) January 10, 2021

1. per a now-deleted thread, anything happening to supreme court justices

2. right wingers doing something really stupid

3. democrats massively overreaching and causing a hostile rupture with establishment republicans

4. Congressional Republicans doing something really stupid as a body. I specifically mean House republicans, I think it is unlikely the Senators will be stupid

just generally the short term risk is anything that results in dramatic political escalation

country is a tinderbox after Wednesday

trump getting media purged is very bad for the medium to long term but i am personally most worried about the next month

(2) and (3) seem like the most likely things to happen.

i have more trust in the bulk of the senate and the biden admin to keep their heads. anything with the court is a tail risk. house members seem relatively powerless in practice.

some stabilizing factors:

1. the business establishment is acting independently and forcefully to exert political pressure for stability. this is potentially destabilizing in the longer term but predominantly helpful in the short term

2. the supreme court will probably perform admirably if needed, and will probably given the current makeup at least mitigate if not wholly overturn some of the excesses of democrats that are likely to ensue.

. . . eventually

3. a significant portion of the republican establishment just fucking hates trump, and deeply resents being driven out of the capitol by a mob

continuing this thought and making it explicit, this probably reduces their sense of loyal in some sense to their party and redirects it toward institutions

i am genuinely grateful for mcconnell and pence holding the offices they do

4. none of the republican state legislatures or governors (of which I believe they are the majority) did anything obviously stupid on Wednesday, and they seem unlikely to do so

5. the military doesnt want any part of this shit and its officers especially at the higher ranks seem to hate trump

this is important because in spite of mixed views in lower ranks and among the enlisted it is very difficult to coordinate below the colonelcy

idk this is where my head is. please do not take this as gospel, God knows things are hard to predict even in good times and I am a humble speculator

overall i think we are likely to muddle through

im gonna lose again in AV and go to bed

gn, pls remember to maintain sangfroid