

PREMIERE LANGUE - ANGLAIS

BANQUE ELVI

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Traduction du français en anglais

As soon as she stepped into the house, Norah felt how empty it was.

It was night time now.

The grand living-room was bleak. (...)

On the bumpy rock walls, Norah recognised the framed photographs of the holiday camp her father had once owned and directed, which had made his fortune.

A large number of people had always lived in this man's house, a man contemptuous of his success, not so much a generous person, as Norah had always thought, as a proud one, proud to show that he could welcome and house brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces and various family-relations, so much so that Norah had never seen the grand living-room empty of people, whatever hour of the day she had found herself in it. (...)

That evening, the deserted room heartlessly unveiled the harshness of the materials which made it up, the shining stone floor and the mortar walls.

"Isn't your wife here?" Norah asked.

He took two chairs away from the main table, set them

close to each other, then changed his mind and put them back where they were.

He turned on the television and turned it off before the slightest image had even had the time to appear.

He was dragging his flip-flops across the stone floor as he moved around, not picking his feet up.

His lips were shaking a little.

"She went on holiday," he eventually said, dropping the words like stones.

Oh dear, thought Norah, worried, he doesn't dare admit that she has probably left him for good.

from Marie Ndiaye, Trois femmes puissantes

Traduction de l'anglais en français

Quand j'étais à l'école, je pensais que personne ne m'aimait, et c'était presque vrai. J'avais une amie, Roxane Weaver, mais son affection à mon égard était facilement discutable tellement elle était de bonne nature. Elle abhorrait les filles qui sentaient la transpiration ou avaient des cheveux gras, ou de l'acné, mais c'est plutôt parce que sa mère déplorait vivement le fait de mal s'abstenir que parce qu'elle ne me aimait pas. Madame Weaver avait des ancêtres français. C'était des ancêtres lointains mais elle les considérait proches en esprit, et c'est pour cette raison qui elle avait donné un prénom français à sa fille.
(...)

Une seule autre personne m'aimait bien à l'école, ou du moins en donnant l'impression : la directrice. J'étais flattée par son intérêt pour moi, j'appréciais les livres qu'elle me prêtait et je la trouvais impressionnante, mais j'étais une hypocrite quand j'étais avec elle parce que je ne voulais pas lui ressembler. C'était une femme sévère et austère (...), une admiratrice de l'éducation pure et de l'engagement pour des causes, et elle voulait que son école livre au monde des filles qui feraient des choses exceptionnelles mais désintéressées. Je voyais qu'elle espérait que je sois une de ces filles, mais je savais qu'elle se trompait.

Les faveurs de Mademoiselle Potter ne m'aideraient pas dans mes relations avec les autres filles ou avec les maîtresses, et je savais que les adjectifs les plus souvent associés à mon prénom étaient «satisfait», «supérieure» et «spéciale». C'est pour ça que Madame Fitzgerald me déconfontrait. Elle descendait de Londres deux fois par semaine et voulait comme une baleine pour nous apprendre à peindre, et elle ignorait totalement les tendances de pensée qui couraient dans l'école.

d'après Diana Athill, Don't look at me like that

Expression écrite

1. According to the author of the text, what effects have Republicans and "Trumpism" had on the American electoral process?

By recalling that Trump called upon conspiracy theories and fraudulent votes in his refusal to concede defeat in the 2020 presidential election, Jamelle Bouie introduces the legacy that the American electoral process has to deal with after Trump's presidency: an ever-more-divided nation and normalised attacks on democracy.

The journalist first underlines that what he calls "Trumpism", a divisive and exclusive definitions of Americans who matter and those who don't, is actually deeply rooted into republican mentalities, so much so that Trump's effects on the American electoral process^{*} as easily as Trump sabotaged the elections. Trump's politics defined a new form of "Americanness" which, contrarily to the nationalism he claims to defend, excluded American citizens from a sense of belonging to one great nation, on the basis of race, but such divisions existed before Trump. Indeed, in the author's eyes, Republicans have become anti-Democrats rather than defendants of their own tenants.

The first harmful but persistent threat that division-driven Republicans have had on the American electoral process is the normalisation of attacks on core tenets of democracy, and Trump is the first to blame. Although he failed to bring down the 2020 presidential elections, he proved that democratic institutions can be undermined by individuals alone. The electoral process will therefore lose its trust. The second consequence of a deep-rooted division between Americans who count and those who don't could be an extreme polarisation of society and a rise in the already existing inequalities in voting procedures.

The American electoral process has thus been weakened by distrust, inequalities and an attack on its democratic foundations.

* will not fade away

272 words

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2. In your opinion, is political polarisation, or the divergence of political attitudes to ideological extremes, as we have seen in the United States, inevitable? Do you believe it is the responsibility of politicians, or others, to address this?

In William Golding's Lord of the Flies, a small group of boys with good intentions who want to establish a form of political governance end up tangled in violent divisions. If political polarisation is inevitable even among school boys, can it be defeated on national scales? However hard it may seem, I believe it must be defeated, for the whims of polarisation are too dangerous.

Political polarisation appears inevitable. Be it in the United States, ruled by a bipartisan system, in the United Kingdom, divided since Brexit between those David Goodhart calls the "anywheres" and the "somewheres", or even in New Zealand, where the Christchurch attack voiced hidden racism, politics seemed destined to division. Brought to the extreme, polarisation can however be violently dangerous: the storm of the US Capitol, for instance, made America's democratic leadership waver and slip away.

Political polarisation can, and must, be stopped, and in its place we should aim to build constructive opposition. What is inevitable in political polarisation is debate, but when handled with caution it doesn't necessarily bring down democracy or cost lives. Dealing with confrontation is, in my opinion, a matter for politicians to handle: they should at the very least discourage unfounded opposition, but can also participate actively, as did Martin Luther King in peacefully

NE RIEN ÉCRIRE DANS CE CADRE

abolishing Apartheid in South Africa. Politicians shouldn't, however, be the only actors, in order to avoid autocracy. Educating citizens on the resources of controversy, as David Davis explains in his battle for freedom of speech in universities, is essential to teaching people that opposition doesn't equate with danger but with new ideas.

273 words