

American exceptionalism

In most western democracies, the defeated can go on to make a living in business. America is almost unique in being able to keep election-losers in handsome employment *within* politics. There is always a television slot, a think-tank sinecure, a tax-exempt political action committee, a speaking gig, a book deal.

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Think of the incentive structure here. Why moderate to win office if you can have the same trappings out of it? Fear of unelectability is what keeps political parties from embracing wild ideas. If that fear goes ... an important check on extremism falls away.

Janan Ganesh, Financial Times, Feb. 27, 2024