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## **The Meaning of the Close Race at the Iowa caucus**

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The first round for the nomination of the presidential election in November, for both Democrats and Republicans, was held in Iowa on February 1<sup>st</sup>. It is the start of the presidential election that the whole world pays the utmost attention. The results were not as expected and it looks a close race for both parties.

First, for the Democrats it was a closer race than expected, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton narrowly won by a mere 0.2 points over Senator Sanders in votes. On the other hand for the Republicans Senator Ted Cruz took first in votes over entrepreneur Donald Trump who had high support in public opinion before the caucus. Trump's vote did not gain enough and stopped in second, on the contrary Marco Rubio vigorously fought and became third.

The results of the caucus showed that, for the Democrats, Sanders a democratic socialist, for the Republicans, Trump with his radical comments, both are populist who are against the mainstream, gained a certain amount of support. There is no need to say about the close race by Sanders but one can say the Republican Trump left with a certain amount of results. Trump did not gain much votes in comparison to his popularity in the opinion polls and not like the other candidates, did not do any on the ground door to door campaigning but just repeated his discriminative radical comments and there were voices of doubts that the voters would actually vote for him, taken these facts into account it might be said that he put up a good fight.

From the good fight put up by both candidates shows clearly that there is really a huge dissatisfaction by the American people towards the economy and society. Last year's November terrorist act in Paris and December's shooting spree incident in the U.S., as concerns about the problems of terror increase and with the background of a firm economy, it looked as if the weight of economic problem would not be large amongst election issues. But the results of the caucus, at least in Iowa, hinted that, the sluggish increase of income of the lower class and widening of economic disparity are a serious problem.

Starting with the primary election in New Hampshire on February 9th, throughout the nomination race that would be go through all over the U.S., it would become clear how much

the voters in U.S. have been disappointed and are dissatisfied with the economy and society. At the same time, the mainstream candidates who were put into a hard fight, to gather votes, would they or would they not draw close to the opinions of the anti-mainstream, by looking at this it might help to comprehend step by step the possibility that the introversion of U.S. is becoming strong.

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