

Nathan Empsall offers solace to conservatives after President Obama re-election – 11.7.12

Dear conservative friends - Here's my message to you as a "pro-life", anti-pot liberal from two very red states who knows politics and has been on the losing end of some bruising elections: It will be okay.

As a former professor of mine used to say, a look at history proves that America survives in spite of her leaders, not because of them. He's right. Furthermore, I survived Bush, and you will survive Obama. That's what America does: She survives, endures, grows, leads, and perseveres, and when she does make mistakes (we'll disagree about last night, but surely we agree that there have been devastating mistakes before), she almost always makes up for them. To despair is to lose your patriotism for America your faith in God, and I know you're stronger than that.

Go ahead. Say the country is ruined, the voters were duped, our freedom is gone, we'll never be the same. Of course I disagree; I'm proud of what the U.S. accomplished last night, and we could argue about what happened and about what it means. But that's not the point. The point is this: Catharsis is good. Get it out. But on some level, remember that people said the exact same things and, more importantly, felt the exact same way in 2004, 1996, 1972, even, yes, 1986. So take a week, pick yourself up off the mat, and come give us your best shot over this fiscal cliff. It wouldn't be the same without you.