US hegemony

# •   Facts ans events:

-  The US considers itself as the chosen people endowed with the mission of showing the way, of **spreading its interests and ideas** (or ideology) abroad.

-  The part played by the US on the world stage comes under criticism both at home and abroad; the US has oscillated between **unilateralism** and **multilateralism**.

**9/11** turned the tables and prompted Republicans (who were prone to limit intervention) to invade Afghanistan and to wage a global war on terror to fight against the “axis of evil” constituted by **rogue states**.

-   Barack Obama was granted the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009. He relied more on multilateralism.

-  The Subprime crisis (2008 financial crisis) revealed the dependence of other countries on US economy

-   embargo on Cuba after the missile crisis (cold war)

-  The US troops withdrawal in Irak (2020)

-  The wall with Mexico (isolationism, xenophobia)

-   movie Snowden : about a true story from a former CIA agent, who was illegally watched by the government. (no more privacy for US agents)

-   contradiction in Trump's foreign policy: isolationist = Mexican wall, BUT interventionist = struggle with North Korea

-  Competition in world market or Chinese communism. The trade war with China with taxes on import goods (tariffs) such as steel. Ban on Huawei on US soil => the US fears losing their hegemony.

-   the American dollar is the universal currency = heavyweight in global economy

-   English is the *lingua franca*, it is the most commonly used language in the world, used especially for business, it helps spread US ideas and culture around the world.

-   hard relation with the the Middle East for oil

-   TikTok: from the company “ByteDance”: Chinese company. Suspicion of spying by collecting American data and sending them to Beijin. BUT jars with the 100 million monthly users : 1/3 of the US population. Confrontation between US government, US population and Chinese government: limit to the US hegemony

- movies are used by the US to magnify and emphasize the US army and patriotism. It is a way to spread the American culture. But since 2020, Chinese box-office is more significant than the one in the US. Moreover, Beijing monitors the number of foreign movies shown in Chinese movie theaters, limiting the profit for Hollywood.

·       Interference, Intervention :

-  The rogue states : Iran, Irak, North Corea, Afghanistan; targetted by US president since November 11th 2001.

-  the movie Vice about Vice President Dick Cheney (G.W Bush’s VP), who invaded Irak with a fake reason.(saddam hussein = chemical arms)

-  US power in South America, the CIA pushed dictators to resign to install non- communist leaders

-  Peaceful intervention for the Uighur situation<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/20/world/asia/trump-china-biden.html?searchResultPosition=2>

**Problématiques**:

Is being interventionist the way to thrive?

Is the US still the world’s leader? Is this the end of American primacy? Does the US still run the world market?

Is Trump's foreign policy the best way to trade with the world?

**• Vocabulary :**

a state-run economy

inflation

a share = une action

plunge = dégringoler

thrive = prospérer

protectionism

state intervention

an embargo

a crash = un krach boursier

customs duties = les droits de douane

a currency = une devise

the troops = les troupes

the arms race = la course à l'armement

troop withdrawal = le retrait des troupes