

DST PT SYNTHÈSE 15 NOVEMBRE 2017

En vous appuyant uniquement sur les documents du dossier thématique qui vous est proposé, vous rédigez une synthèse répondant à la question suivante : What are the challenges of Trump's presidency ? Votre synthèse comportera entre 450 et 500 mots.

Document 1

US Election 2016: The biggest challenges facing President Donald Trump in his first 100 days

Donald Trump has some big issues to tackle when he takes office in January. All new presidents face a formidable workload, no matter what their level of experience... [...]

Overstretch

Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Korea, the South China Sea, Europe, Nato, the Israel-Palestinian conflict, the stability of the Gulf states, the dollar as sole international reserve currency, the US Treasury as lender of last resort to the IMF and the global financial system... the list of US obligations to the rest of the world is formidable. [...] Yet the underlying reality behind defence and foreign policy is that America is no longer so economically strong that it can do everything in foreign policy and in fighting wars and nation-building that it would wish. America has long suffered from strategic overstretch, and Trump will need to rationalise and re-order American priorities to match its material resources and the will of the American people to be involved in costly foreign conflicts.

Isis

The rise of Isis in Iraq and Syria stands as testament to the failures, for whatever reasons, in policy of the last two presidents. There are many issues for their successor to confront, but they can be summarised as follows:

How much co-operation with Russia and Syria's Assad regime is wise? [...] How to deliver humanitarian relief to besieged Aleppo? [...] How to achieve stability in Iraq?

The economy

America continues to live beyond its means, allowed to do so by the rest of the world's willingness to hold vast quantities of American IOUs¹. On that basis, too, America has been able to support both its own broken banking system and that of the rest of the West. The US Treasury carries the dollar and the dollar carries everything else. Yet many economists believe this "exorbitant privilege" that the US enjoys for running the world's only reserve currency is not sustainable. [...]

Healing at home : race

A half-century on from the Civil Rights Act and late into the second term of the first black

1 Reconnaissance de dette

president, and America's racial divisions were violently exposed over the past year. Policing, voter registration and a widespread insecurity about job discrimination and differential rates of poverty are challenges no president can or should ignore. All should agree that "black lives matter". [...]

Personal legal issues

Should any of the campaign embarrassments return to disrupt his presidency, Trump might consider delegating the management of them to someone senior in their office, to ensure that the vital work of the executive is not distracted by, in the great scheme of things, minor issues. [...]

Adapted from The Independent

Sean O'Grady

November 8, 2016

Document 2

The First White President

The foundation of Donald Trump's presidency is the negation of Barack Obama's legacy.

[...] [Donald Trump] is a white man who would not be president were it not for this fact. With one immediate exception, Trump's predecessors made their way to high office through the passive power of whiteness... Land theft and human plunder cleared the grounds for Trump's forefathers and barred others from it. [...] No such elegant detachment can be attributed to Donald Trump—a president who, more than any other, has made the awful inheritance explicit.

[Early in] his political career [...] Trump had made his worldview clear. He fought to keep blacks out of his buildings, according to the U.S. Government; [...] and railed against "lazy" black employees. "Black guys counting my money! I hate it," Trump was once quoted as saying. [...] After his cabal of conspiracy theorists forced Barack Obama to present his birth certificate, Trump demanded the president's college grades [...], insisting that Obama was not intelligent enough to have gone to an Ivy League school... [...]

In Trump, white supremacists see one of their own. Only grudgingly did Trump denounce the Ku Klux Klan [...] —and after the clashes between white supremacists and counterprotesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, [he claimed] that "both sides" were responsible for the violence. [...]

Asserting that Trump's rise was primarily powered by cultural resentment and economic reversal has become de rigueur among white pundits and thought leaders. But evidence for this is, at best, mixed. [...] An analysis of exit polls conducted during the presidential primaries estimated the median household income of Trump supporters to be about \$72,000. But even this lower number is almost double the median household income of African Americans, and \$15,000 above the American median. Trump's white support was not determined by income. According to Edison Research, Trump won whites making less than \$50,000 by 20 points, whites making \$50,000 to \$99,999 by 28 points, and whites making \$100,000 or more by 14 points. This shows that Trump assembled a broad white coalition... [...] Trump's dominance among whites across class lines is of a piece with his larger dominance across nearly every white demographic. Trump won white women (+9) and white men (+31). He won white people with college degrees (+3) and white people without them (+37). [...]

Part of Trump's dominance among whites resulted from his running as a Republican, the party that has long cultivated white voters. Trump's share of the white vote was similar to Mitt Romney's in 2012. But unlike Romney, Trump secured this support by running against his party's leadership, against accepted campaign orthodoxy, and against all notions of decency. By his sixth month in office, embroiled in scandal after scandal, a Pew Research Center poll found Trump's approval rating underwater with every single demographic group. Every demographic group, that is, except one: people who identified as white.

Adapted from Theatlantic.com
T.A.Nehisi Coates
October 2017

Document 3

Trump's credibility crisis goes nuclear

With his jaw set and his arms crossed, Donald Trump delivered the most incendiary public threat by an American president in many decades. Trump, instantly escalating a nuclear showdown with North Korea, warned that if the isolated state did not quit making its own threats, it would face "fire and fury like the world has never seen."

From political, diplomatic, and historical perspectives, Trump's threat, delivered from his golf club in New Jersey, was an extraordinary moment and shattered years of national security conventions in apparently threatening to use nuclear weapons in response to an adversary's rhetoric -- rather than an existential threat to US security. [...]

It might have also walked the United States closer to a full on showdown with North Korea, and placed his own personal reputation on the line in a test of wills with Kim Jong Un.

By accident or design, Trump established a red line [...].

By making such an explicit threat to North Korea, on camera, the President also invested his own personal prestige into the center of the crisis. The next time Kim makes some kind of threat to the US or its allies, Trump will immediately come under pressure to make North Korea pay a price -- or risk having his authority exposed as hollow.

The comments also came at a time when the President is undergoing a crisis of the kind of credibility commanders-in-chief need during a major national security crisis.

A CNN poll Tuesday said that nearly three-quarters of Americans did not trust what is coming out of the White House. And a CBS News poll released Tuesday showed that 61% of Americans were uneasy about Trump's ability to handle the situation with North Korea. [...]

Playing into North Korea's hands?

[...] Given the position of power and influence the United States wields, its presidents have tended to weigh their words carefully, typically thinking several moves ahead. The human carnage that could result from any North Korean attack on South Korea in response to US military action has also given US leaders pause. Trump's broadside on Tuesday sparked warnings that he was pouring fire on an already volatile situation, and could be playing into Pyongyang's hands by validating its narrative that the US wants to go to war with North Korea -- a rallying point for the regime. [...]

Looking for motive behind Trump's words

It was not immediately clear whether Trump's comments were off the cuff, or the product of a

deliberate process between the President, senior members of his national security team and top military brass. But the ferocity of his rhetoric has few recent precedents. [...] The closest parallel might be President Harry Truman's warning to Japan after the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima [...]. But the circumstances of that warning -- at the end of the most ruinous conflict in human history -- hardly compare to the suddenness of Trump's public, televised warning on Tuesday.

Adapted from CNNpolitics.com
By Stephen Collinson
August 9, 2017

Document 4



« Grand Illusion »



Trump Jr « grounded »