

Rights under threat - Brochure

Let's anticipate

The cartoon depicts the façade of the U.S. Supreme Court, with its imposing columns and triangular pediment, a symbol of law, stability, and democratic order. However, the classical frieze is not filled with dignified figures of justice. Instead, it shows toga-clad characters inspired by ancient Rome, creating an atmosphere of decadence and political intrigue. At the center sits a large, relaxed figure who, when identified as Donald Trump, becomes the focal point of the image. Wearing a laurel wreath and holding grapes and a goblet, he resembles a Roman emperor, symbols of absolute power, self-indulgence, and personal rule.

By placing Trump at the top of the Supreme Court, the cartoon suggests that he stands above the judiciary, dominating or influencing it. The smaller figures around him, who can be interpreted as judges or political allies, appear to be reacting to him rather than acting independently. This implies that the Court is no longer fully autonomous but instead operates in Trump's shadow, shaped by his authority and expectations.

The Roman setting reinforces this message. Ancient Rome often symbolizes the collapse of a republic into authoritarianism, and by presenting Trump as a Caesar-like ruler, the cartoon warns that democratic institutions are being transformed into tools of personal power. The Supreme Court, traditionally the guardian of the Constitution, is portrayed here as part of an imperial court, serving the ruler rather than checking him.

Overall, the cartoon criticizes Trump's influence over the judiciary and expresses concern that the separation of powers — a cornerstone of American democracy — is being dangerously weakened.

Corrigé synthesis – cf. cours