

Intégrer Sciences Po
et les Grandes écoles
de commerce
2027

EN ANGLAIS

TOUTE L'ACTUALITÉ ANGLO-SAXONNE

Tous les événements
incontournables 2026 **décryptés !**

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en anglais
- ✓ Les **dates-clés** et les
faits marquants
- ✓ Les **mots-clés**
à **maîtriser** et
les **expressions**
idiomatiques à retenir
- ✓ Les **questions**
potentielles pour l'essai



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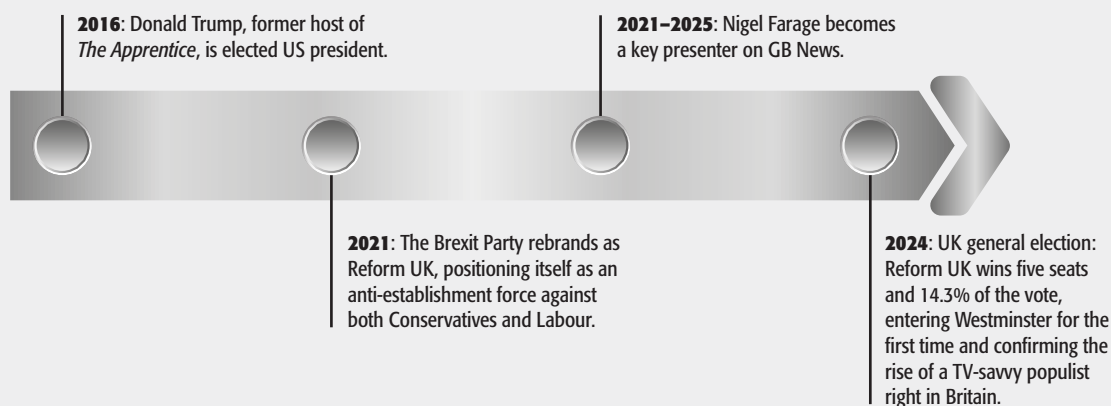
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The Rise of Populism: Identity and TV Show Politics in the Clash Era

By Olivia Fulconis

From Donald Trump's reality-TV presidency to Nigel Farage hosting a prime-time show while leading Reform UK, politics in the West increasingly looks like a permanent talk show built around buzzing and identity. Populist leaders claim to speak for "the people" against "corrupt elites", while media and algorithms reward conflict and simplification over truth and rational narratives. Is identity politics threatening democratic dialogue?



► The rise of populism: weaponising minorities and anti-elite sentiments

In much of the Western world, contemporary populism combines economic anger with identity politics. Following the Dutch political scientist Cas Mudde, populists present politics as a Manichean struggle between a virtuous "people" and a corrupt "elite", often scapegoating migrants and racial minorities as the common enemy.

This logic fits neatly into a broader "clash era", shaped by talk of a "clash of civilisations" (the theory put forward by the American professor of political science, Samuel Huntington, in 1993) and a long "war on terror" against Muslims that began after the

terrorist attacks of 9/11/2001. In this context, securitisation is the top priority: entire communities are treated as suspect and leaders claim to protect a local “way of life” against cultural or religious others that are antagonised. Trump’s travel bans targeting Muslim-majority countries as well as Farage’s constant focus on anti-immigration discourse both tap into this politics of fear and belonging. In this context, populism feeds off anti-elite sentiments and the demonisation of outcasts as a threat in the name of sovereignty and nationalism.

► The wounds of globalisation: socioeconomic crises and the instrumentalisation of fear

The rise of populism is rooted in real social and economic grievances. The consequences of the 2008 financial crisis, wage disparities, inflation or even austerity measures have left many voters feeling left behind by globalisation. At the same time, inequalities within Western societies have grown and traditional parties often seem unable or unwilling to offer credible alternatives. Ultimately, trust in the traditional two-party systems is eroding. Populists indeed tap into a perception that politics is rigged in favour of wealthy insiders, while ordinary people bear the concrete cost of crises.

Cultural factors including the digital revolution, demographic shifts or even “woke” feminist and anti-racist movements all generate a sense of status anxiety among some groups. Populist entrepreneurs turn this unease into resentment, arguing that “elites” care more about migrants, minorities or distant international institutions than about “their own people”.

In this environment, populist leaders claim to provide a voice to those who feel ignored. Yet their solutions are often exclusionary: see Trump’s Build the Wall policy, abortion bans in the US, or anti-trans referendums in the UK. The risk is a cycle in which material problems remain unresolved, while identity conflicts deepen and the space for democratic pluralism shrinks.

► TV show politics: the role of the media, social networks and “fake news” in eroding democracy

Contemporary populism thrives in a media ecosystem built for drama. Trump’s campaigns have hence been described as a permanent media spectacle: his rallies designed for television or provocative tweets shed light on his communication style closer to reality TV than to traditional policy debate. Farage similarly uses GB News, talk radio and reality shows like *I’m a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* to keep himself constantly visible, turning political controversy into entertainment.

Social networks amplify this logic as they are based on emotional stimuli and **echo chambers**. Algorithms reward content that triggers strong responses such as anger or fear, which suits populists who thrive on “us versus them” narratives. False or misleading information (**fake news**) spreads quickly, while fact-checking rarely travel as far.

Commentators describe this as “**post-truth politics**”, where what matters is not whether a claim is accurate but whether it resonates with a chosen audience engaging in **culture wars**.

In this “TV show politics” environment, institutions like courts, public broadcasters or independent experts are often framed as biased villains in the script. Populist leaders benefit from the spectacle of endless clashes, as it allows them to sidestep the real issues plaguing Western democracies. Even recently, the newly elected Mayor of New York Zohran Mamdani or British PM Keir Starmer have used social media to engage with voters through buzzing. The challenge is how to rebuild trust and space for complex arguments in a media system that increasingly favours simplistic explanations **to muddy the waters** on institutional and systemic inequalities.

► Vocabulary and useful expressions

Key terms

- echo chamber / filter bubble → *chambre d'écho*
- disinformation / fake news → *désinformation / infox*
- post-truth politics → *politique à l'ère de la post-vérité*
- culture wars → *guerres culturelles*
- to muddy the waters → *brouiller les pistes*

Useful expressions for essays

- to tap into popular resentment → *exploiter le ressentiment populaire*
- to give voice to the “left-behind” → *donner une voix aux « laissés-pour-compte »*
- to blur the line between politics and entertainment → *estomper la frontière entre politique et divertissement*
- to feed off division and outrage → *se nourrir des divisions et de l'indignation*
- to weaponise identity / fear / nostalgia → *instrumentaliser l'identité / la peur / la nostalgie*
- to speak to the gut rather than the head → *parler aux tripes plutôt qu'à la raison*
- to punch down at vulnerable groups → *s'attaquer aux plus vulnérables*

Potential essay questions...

1. Does the rise of TV-driven populism in the West reflect a crisis of representation or simply a new way of doing democratic politics?
2. Are anti-establishment narratives threatening democracy or feeding pluralism?
3. To what extent does contemporary populism turn identity into a political weapon in a “clash era”?



Transatlantism: NATO and Rearming Europe in the Trump Era

By Olivia Fulconis

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, European rearmament seems to have become a strategic necessity. NATO now counts 32 members, including not only European states but also the United States, Canada and Türkiye; Finland joined in 2023 and Sweden in 2024, which clearly illustrates how sharply the European security environment has changed.¹ At the same time, the United States under Donald Trump has made it clear that Europe should shoulder more of the burden. The central question is therefore straightforward: can Europe rearm quickly enough to deter Russia while preserving NATO's cohesion and credibility?



► The creation of NATO: defence principles and the return of hard security

NATO was created as a **collective-defence alliance**. Its famous unofficial formula is usually attributed to Lord Hastings Ismay, the Alliance's first Secretary General, who allegedly described it as a way "to keep the Soviet Union out, the Americans in, and the Germans down." The legal heart of the treaty **Article 5**, states that **an armed attack** against one ally in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against all, and that each ally will assist the state under attack by taking whatever action it judges necessary, including, if required, the use of armed force.⁴

Article 5 is therefore not merely symbolic, and it is not limited to nuclear war in post-WW2 turmoil. It is the core of NATO's collective-defence system. It also works in both directions: the treaty protects European allies, but it would also apply to the United States or Canada if they were attacked. This is the real Atlantic bargain: North American and European security are formally tied together under a single legal framework.

► **A militarised unity despite political polarisation: increasing the defense budget**

European rearmament is now driven by three concrete factors. First, the war in Ukraine has profoundly changed threat perceptions across the continent, especially in Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltic states and Scandinavia. Finland and Sweden's decisions to abandon military non-alignment and join NATO are a case in point.¹ Second, the United States has turned **burden-sharing** into a central demand. In its watershed 2025 National Security Strategy, Washington states that Europe should be enabled to "stand on its own feet" and take "primary responsibility" for its security — meaning that the US does not simply call for more allied spending; it says Europe should be militarily independent and connects American strategy to a broader "readjustment" of defense priorities.² Third, NATO itself now expects a much stronger effort from Europe and Canada.

At The Hague Summit in June 2026, allies agreed on a target of 3.5% of GDP for core defence requirements and 1.5% for broader security-related spending by 2035.³ Rearmament is therefore no longer a distant objective: it has become the official framework within which the Alliance now operates.

The figures confirm that this shift is already under way. According to the Council of the European Union, EU member states spent around €240 billion on defence in 2022, €279 billion in 2023, €343 billion in 2024 and an estimated €381 billion in 2025.⁵ This means that spending rose by roughly 43% between 2022 and 2024, and by nearly 59% between 2022 and the 2025 estimate. Rearmament, in other words, is already reflected in a substantial and measurable rise in defence expenditure.

► **A stronger European pillar inside NATO?**

The current objective is not to replace NATO with a separate rival system, but to build a stronger European pillar inside the Alliance. That is why the Hague Declaration is of the utmost importance. On the one hand, it significantly raises spending expectations but on the other, it reaffirms the allies "ironclad commitment" to collective defence under Article 5³. This dual movement is essential. It shows that rearmament is an attempt to keep NATO credible in a more dangerous environment and in a period when the United States is signalling a stricter, more transactional view of alliances.

Trump's 2025 National Security Strategy helps explain this rebalancing. The document argues that Europe should become more self-reliant, but it also takes explicit posi-

tions on Europe's internal political trajectory. It praises the rise of "patriotic European parties" and states that the United States should support efforts to "correct" Europe's current direction², which is threatened by a "civilizational erasure", partly due to its "migration policies that are transforming the continent and creating strife." It also warns that some European countries may not remain "reliable allies" if present trends continue. Such language and rhetoric reinforce the view in many European capitals that the American guarantee can no longer be treated as fully automatic in the way it often was after 1945 or even after the Cold War. Rearmament, from this perspective, is meant both to strengthen **deterrence** against Russia and to reduce Europe's dependence on a US administration whose priorities may shift.

At the end of the day, NATO is not at a **standstill**, but it is clearly at a turning point. If Europe re-arms too slowly, deterrence may weaken. If the United States continues to define alliances in increasingly transactional terms, political trust in liberal democracies may erode even if the treaty itself remains intact. The outcome is therefore still open. What is already clear, however, is that rearmament has become a central condition for the future of transatlanticism itself.

► Vocabulary and useful expressions

Key terms

- collective defence / Article 5 → *défense collective / Article 5 du Traité de l'Atlantique Nord*
- armed attack → *attaque armée*
- burden-sharing → *partage du fardeau*
- deterrence → *dissuasion*
- standstill → *période de moratoire / au point mort*

Useful expressions for essays

- a watershed moment for European security → *un moment charnière pour la sécurité européenne*
- to pull one's weight → *prendre sa part de responsabilité*
- to sit on the fence → *rester dans l'entre-deux / ne pas choisir son camp*
- to move the goalposts → *changer les règles du jeu*
- to shore up something → *consolider / renforcer quelque chose*
- to hollow something out → *vider quelque chose de sa substance*
- to foot the bill → *assumer le coût de*
- to bear the brunt of something → *subir le plus durement les conséquences de quelque chose*

Potential essay questions...

1. Has European rearmament become a necessity since 2022?
2. Does a stronger European defence effort strengthen NATO or reveal its fragility?
3. Can NATO remain credible if the United States becomes more transactional?

Notes

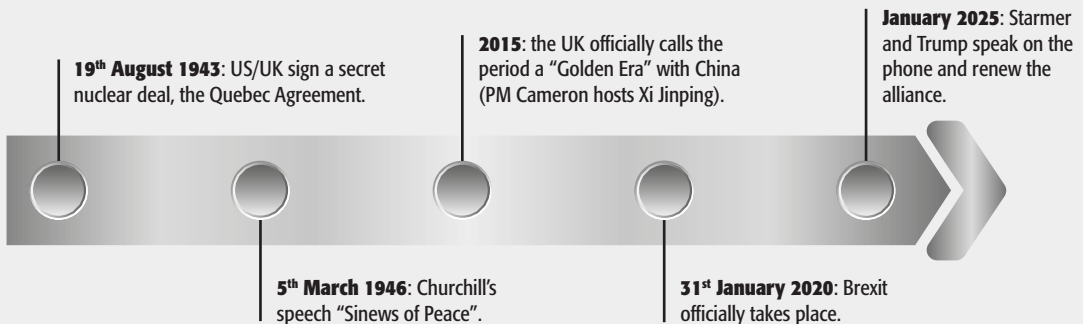
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US/UK: the end of the “Special Relationship”?

By Claire Le Gouriellec

In 1946, Winston Churchill called the bond between the US and the UK a “special relationship” in a now-famous postwar speech. In 2025, this relationship, though still in place, has shifted to adapt to new sets of circumstances: Brexit, Trump’s election, new international alliances, and the relative dimming of the UK’s power on the global stage. What does this evolution tell us about geopolitical stakes between the two countries?



► Winston Churchill’s “Sinews of Peace”: the origin of the special relationship

On the 5th of March 1946, Prime Minister ‘Winston Churchill addressed the world in his most famous post-WWII speech, “Sinews of Peace” (also known as the Iron Curtain Speech, in Fulton (USA). In it, he calls the US his “kindred nation” and insists that “opportunity is here now, clear and shining for both our countries”. The following lines are considered to be the basis of and constitute the naming of the special relationship between the US and UK:

“I come to the crux of what I have travelled here to say. Neither the sure prevention of war, nor the continuous rise of world organisation will be gained without what I have called the fraternal association of the English-speaking peoples. This means a special relationship between the British Commonwealth and Empire and the United States.”

The speech materialised into concrete and solid cooperation between both countries. Collaboration on intelligence, nuclear research, military operations, trade and overall policies has persisted through the years.

► The special relationship in action through the years

For decades, as part of the European Union, the UK was an ally to the American cause in terms of free-market economics, deregulation, closer transatlantic cooperation and pro-US taxation. The UK also pushed against devising a EU-only defence strategy that would go against NATO (preferred by the US). Overall, London often acted as a **spokes-person** for the American government in European debates.

The US and UK have collaborated on intelligence since WWII, through their secret agreement of 1943. Their alliance has been formalised in an agreement signed in 1946, which was soon joined by Canada, Australia and New Zealand. These five countries operated throughout the Cold War under the ECHELON surveillance system, under which they monitored communications of the Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc. The ECHELON system was then extended to include economic espionage and is still in operation. Its existence was publicly revealed in the late 1990s and through a European Parliament inquiry in 2001.

Since WWI, both countries have also been allies in nuclear development. The Quebec Agreement, secretly signed by Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt on the 19th of August 1943 outlined the terms for coordinated development of nuclear energy and weapons, stipulating that both countries would share intelligence, neither allowed to use them against the other, nor against any other country without mutual consent. Cooperation waned in 1946, with the US becoming more protective of its programmes, but in 1958, bilateral cooperation was renewed with the signing of the **US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement** (MDA).

Finally, in terms of military operations, Dr. McCausland, retired colonel from the US Army, gave this quote in 2006: “No other state has the daily involvement in the planning and preparation of operations that the UK has with the United States”. From the end of WWII and until this day, both countries have indeed cooperated on a variety of military interventions.

Illustrative list of significant US and UK military interventions post World War II

Date	Intervention
1948	Berlin Airlift
1950-1953	Korean War
1990-1991	Gulf War
1991-2003	Enforcement of the No Fly Zones over Iraq

Date	Intervention
1995-2002	Bosnia
1998	Operation Desert Fox
1999-2003	Kosovo
2001-2021	Afghanistan
2003-2009	Iraq
2011	Libyan Civil War
2014-present	Countering Daesh in Iraq and Syria

Source: Compiled by Committee Staff using publicly available material

► Changes in the 21st century: the US and the UK, a hallmark of rivalry?

On the 7th of May 2007, President Bush publicly renewed the collaboration between the US and UK in a speech: “Our two nations hold fundamental values in common. [...] And we have built our special relationship on the surest foundations – our deep and abiding love of liberty.” However, the 21st century saw the relationship being rocked by a variety of factors.

In 2013, in the context of the Syrian war, British MPs voted against authorizing military action against military and command targets associated with Bashar al-Assad’s regime, a plan that had been set in motion by the US, which then British Prime minister David Cameron wanted to support. However, without the approval of the House of Commons, Cameron relented. This effectively complicated US planning of the attack, which was not carried out in the end (after a diplomatic agreement was reached with Syria shortly after).

From early 2000s and until the 2020s, British leaders also entertained positive relationships with China, known as the **Golden Era**. The UK saw China as a strategic ally in technology, military modernisation and trade. Chinese investments in key sectors, such as infrastructure and energy, were encouraged, and Huawei’s participation in the rollout of UK 5G became a talking point for the US, who saw it as a weakening of a united western front against China.

On the European front, Brexit, voted in 2016 and coming into full effect by 2020, greatly weakened the countries’ relationship. As a more peripheral player now, the UK does not represent the bridge to Europe it once did. The UK is now seen by the US as a “middle power” rather than the equal it once was.

More recently, Trump’s diplomatic approach to the UK has eroded trust in an already **fraught context**. Donald Trump publicly criticised Theresa May’s Brexit strategy, saying her policy was “tearing a country apart”, and Keith Starmer’s immigration policy, arguing that it was responsible for the rise in crime in the UK. Overall, Trump’s often

unpredictable approach and public addresses made it difficult for his UK **counterparts** to feel like they could depend on him.

The special relationship has not disappeared entirely, but been readjusted to fit changing roles on the global stage. In a recent poll, 70% of Brits say they no longer believe in the special relationship. However, leaders are set on maintaining the alliance. In June 2023, Rishi Sunak and Joe Biden's governments signed a new agreement, the *Atlantic Declaration for a Twenty-First Century US-UK Economic Partnership*, renewing five pillars of the transatlantic relationship (tech, security, digital transformation, clean energies, defence). And in practical terms, since May 2025, the United Kingdom under Keith Starmer has been one of the few trading partners of the United States to have secured from Donald Trump such low base tariffs on its exports from Donald Trump – 10%, with variations in certain sectors such as the automotive industry.

► Vocabulary and useful expressions

Key terms

- spokesperson → *porte-parole*
- US/UK Mutual Defence Agreement → *Accord bilatéral de coopération nucléaire entre les États-Unis et le Royaume-Uni*
- Sino-British Golden Era → *période de collaboration étroite entre les gouvernements britannique et chinois*
- fraught context → *contexte complexe, conflictuel*
- counterpart → *homologue*

Useful expressions for essays

- to hold fundamental values in common → *partager des valeurs fondamentales, être alignés sur un ensemble de valeurs fondamentales*
- to push against... → *s'opposer à..., imposer une résistance à...*
- to readjust to a changing situation / set of circumstances → *s'adapter à une situation mouvante / changeante*

Potential essay questions...

1. To what extent has Trump's election altered the nature of the US/UK special relationship?
2. What are the main stakes in international bilateral cooperation?
3. To what extent can the looming threat of international conflict affect bilateral cooperation?



Ukraine: Are the US Still the “Police of the World”?

By Claire Le Gouriellec

After World War II, the United States emerged largely unscathed by a conflict that devastated Europe and reshuffled leadership on the international stage. Economically stronger, and with the world’s most powerful military, sole holder of nuclear weapons, the US established itself as the *de facto* architect of a new order, as well as the “police of the world”. With the arrival of Trump in power and in the context of various wars, the narrative has shifted towards a more transactional approach. What can the Ukrainian situation tell us about the evolution of the US in the geopolitical arena?



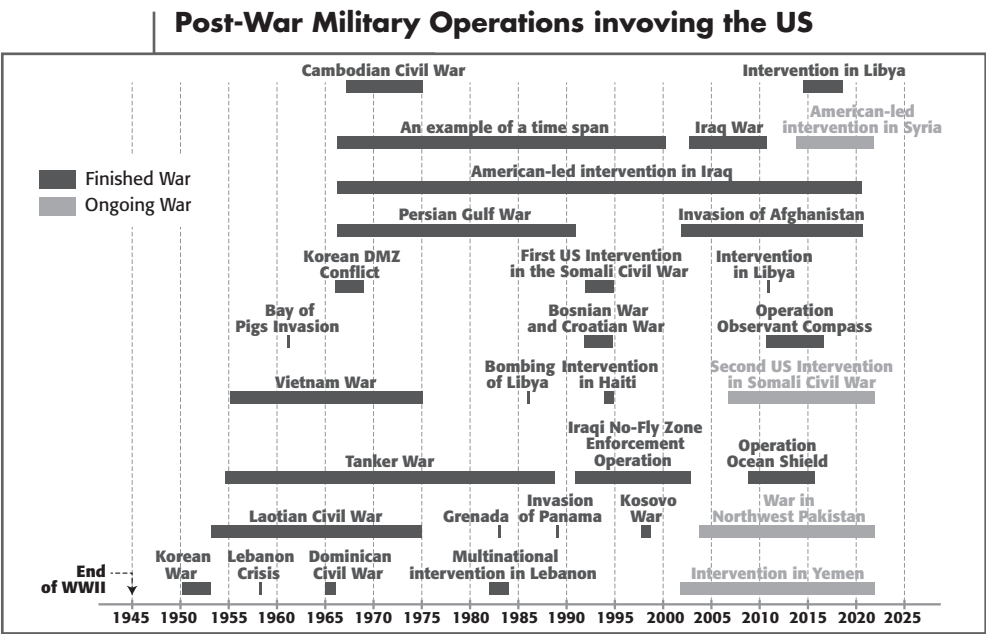
► Post WWII: a new world order, and the US as the global policeman

The term “**global policeman**” does not have its place in international law, according to which every nation is equal. The principle “*par in parem non habet imperium*”, translating to “equals do not have authority over one another”, forms the basis of this notion. However, in practice, a powerful state can exert dominance over others. Perhaps the most famous case is that of the US. By the end of WWII, the United States, created on the 24th of October 1945, seemed more promising than the League of Nations (having failed at upholding peace). Designed to be under the leadership of the five permanent

members of the Security Council with veto power (the United States, the Soviet Union, China, the United Kingdom and France), it also contained a General Assembly, perceived by Roosevelt as a place for them to “blow off steam”, with the bulk of global decisions happening between the five. However, whilst the United States secured the Security Council’s approval to lead the Korean War (1950) and the Gulf War (1991), it has acted without a United Nations mandate in a number of major interventions. This was notably the case with the Vietnam War, which began in 1955, the war in Afghanistan in 2001, the war in Iraq in 2003, and the war against Iran in 2026.

The Cold War offered the opportunity for the US to prove itself as the container of the communist threat. In 1949, the North American Treaty created NATO, an intergovernmental military alliance, whose main purpose was to deter and counter the threat posed by the Soviet Union. Thus, it was under NATO command – with the United States as its dominant force – that the Kosovo War (1991) and the military intervention in Libya (2011) were conducted.

The dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 left the United States without any rivals and created space for what he historians have called a “unipolar moment”. Humanitarian crises and conflicts were dealt with by the US. After the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the US expanded even more its military and intelligence, leading wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere. Today, the US still has the world’s most powerful military, more than 700 overseas bases, but can they still be regarded as the “police of the world” ?



► Modern stakes: Trump, Putin, and the war in Ukraine

In February and March 2014, Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula. The annexation was condemned as violation of international law and the UN General Assembly reaffirmed the “territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders”.

The US did not “recognise” the attempted annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation”. Under President Obama, it imposed sanctions, including the freezing of certain Russian government officials’ assets in the US and blocking their entry into the country. On the 24th of February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Immediately, the US deployed 7,000 US military personnel across Europe, and Joe Biden authorised \$350 million in military assistance. Between February 2022 and 2025, the US have provided over \$130 billion in direct budget support to the Ukrainian government. This solidified the country’s role as the leader of resistance against aggression.

However, since Donald Trump returned to power in 2025, a new chapter has begun. Washington has sought more beneficial alliances, shifting from multilateral action towards bilateral deals, and American support has come at a cost for beneficiaries. In terms of **congressional appropriations**, military aid is still significant as of late 2025, but negotiations and communications have weakened compared to the Biden era. Trump has also pushed towards Ukrainian concessions in order to acquire peace, declaring in November 2025: “One way or another, we have to get [the war] ended.”

► Zelenskyy at the White House: a media showdown

On the 28th of February 2025, Trump (alongside Vice President JD Vance) received Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, to discuss military strategies as well as potential security guarantees for Ukraine. However, the crux of the discussion was, for Trump, to establish joint investment in Ukraine’s natural resources, seen as payback for American aid throughout the war. The Mineral Resources Agreement was signed on the 30th April by both countries. The White House invited media into the Oval Office in February and televised the meeting. Although the aim was cooperative, what transpired during the meeting (heated exchanges and a humiliating moment for Zelenskyy) **caused backlash**, with Americans widely calling their side “disrespectful” (51% according to a poll).

Trump and Vance’s strategy revolved around forcing the Ukrainian President to publicly thank the US, with quotes such as “You’re not acting at all thankful”, or “You have not said thank you once.” Such pressure, in the context of high-stakes peace negotiations, widely came across as **amateurish** from the US government, and Ukraine received international support. Overall, the 28th of February meeting exemplified a departure from the US’ historical role, and a new way of dealing with geopolitical issues under President Trump, from a transactional perspective.

Today, NATO still largely depends on US military power. However, hard power has lost some of its appeal. Therefore, the US' way of policing the world now revolves mainly around sanctions, supplying weapons to other nations, intelligence sharing and leveraging, instead of occupation on the ground. The reckless air war launched on 26 February 2026 by the United States and Israel against Iran resulted in only a few casualties amongst American soldiers, but several thousand deaths amongst the Iranian population.

► Vocabulary and useful expressions

Key terms

- global policeman → *Le gendarme du monde*
- Pax Americana → *époque de paix relative marquée par la dominance politique et économique des États-Unis*
- Marshall Plan → *Plan américain d'aide à la reconstruction de l'Europe (1947)*
- unipolar moment → *période d'unipolarité (post-Guerre froide) où seuls les États-Unis dominent le monde, sans rival*
- congressional appropriations → *commissions budgétaires du Congrès américain*
- to cause backlash → *susciter des réactions négatives, déclencher une vague de critiques, s'attirer les foudres de...*
- amateurish → *amateur*

Useful expressions for essays

- under the guise of... → *sous couvert de...*
- to deter and counter → *décourager et contrer*
- to take part in a media showdown → *prendre part à un cirque médiatique*

Potential essay questions...

1. Is the US still the “policeman of the world”?
2. How do transactional political dealings affect international dealings?
3. To what extent does the Ukrainian conflict shed light on Trump's leadership?
4. Can Trump's “America First” stance be considered to have helped Russia in the war?



Israel: US Weapons and the Defence Budget

By Sabine Audelin

Ever since its creation in 1948, the country has received \$174 billion in 2025, making it the main recipient of American security assistance. It is worth noting that after the Six-Day War, this support once seemed almost automatic, anchored in a broad bipartisan agreement. In the current context, the Gaza war that began in 2023 has reversed the trend. Emergency weapons deliveries, growing concerns about civilian protection, and debates over the rising US defence budget could reshuffle the cards in the Middle East. These tensions now force Washington to confront deeper questions about its strategic priorities and the strength of its own democratic supervision.



► Historical perspective: from Cold War ally to strategic partner

At first glance, US support for Israel originally stemmed from Cold War logic: Washington saw Israel as a democratic foothold in a tense region and a counterweight to Soviet influence. On these grounds and over time, this strategic alignment was formalised through long-term **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)**, which stabilised both expectations and funding.

The current MoU, negotiated by the Obama administration, commits the United States to \$38 billion in military aid, mostly through Foreign Military Financing (FMF).

The core assumption behind this arrangement is that Israel's **Qualitative Military Edge (QME)**, and its ability to be present against regional rivals, is a precious tool in favour of American interests.

For years, such aid was treated as routine. Nonetheless, the Gaza conflict has exposed how politically fragile these arrangements can be, insofar as it transforms a long-standing consensus into a more contested topic.

► **US weapons flows in the Gaza war: urgency, secrecy and political blowback**

Since late 2023, Washington has, with far-reaching consequences, rushed shipments of precision-guided munitions, artillery shells, armoured vehicles and air-defence systems to Israel. Many of these transfers were approved under emergency authorities, meaning that Congress, normally central to foreign-policy oversight, had little time to intervene. Critics argue that these shortcuts weaken transparency at the very moment scrutiny is most needed.

At a deeper level and because much of this process unfolds privately, often justified by “operational urgency”, calls for greater accountability grew quickly. In stark contrast, human rights organisations, UN agencies, and even some US officials raised concerns about whether American-supplied weapons actively contribute to civilian harm in Gaza.

In other words, debates have fractured what once seemed a predictable bipartisan stance. Progressive Democrats increasingly call for attaching humanitarian conditions to aid, while Republican leaders present any delay in weapons deliveries as a risk to Israel's security. Indeed, what used to be a technical matter has become an emotional and highly visible political and media fault line.

► **The defence budget: a rising tide shaped by Middle Eastern commitments**

Assuming that US support for Israel takes place against the background of a steadily expanding American defence budget, rising global tensions, new strategic commitments, and renewed competition with major powers have pushed defence spending upward for years. The Gaza war intensified pressure to fund:

- additional Iron Dome and David's Sling interceptors,
- replenishment of US munitions drawn from emergency stockpiles,
- supplemental aid packages linking support for Israel, Ukraine and Taiwan.

Trump's administration argues that helping Israel reinforce its air defence, ultimately strengthen US national security, namely with Iran developing more advanced missile and drone capabilities. Critics counter that repeated short-term supplementals simply delay the harder task of building a long-term, sustainable budgeting strategy.

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