

## II.C.5.8

### Landeskunde – Political Life in the USA

# Kritisches Denken fördern: Donald Trumps zweite Präsidentschaft – What does it mean for the USA and for the world?

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Ein Jahr nach Beginn seiner zweiten Amtszeit steht die kontrovers diskutierte Präsidentschaft Donald Trumps im Zentrum der vorliegenden Unterrichtseinheit. Ihre Schülerinnen und Schüler setzen sich aktiv und kritisch mit politischen und gesellschaftlichen Aspekten auseinander. Dabei verbindet die Reihe auf lebendige Weise politische Bildung, interkulturelles Lernen und sprachliche Kompetenz miteinander. Durch den Einsatz von DATT-Methoden zur Förderung kritischen Denkens nach Edward de Bono fördern Sie die Methodenkompetenz Ihrer Lernenden. Die abwechslungsreiche Textstruktur von narrativ bis argumentativ ermöglicht eine motivierende Auseinandersetzung mit dem komplexen Thema.

#### KOMPETENZPROFIL

<b>Klassenstufe/Lernjahr:</b>	10–13; 6.–9. Lernjahr
<b>Dauer:</b>	5–11 Unterrichtsstunden
<b>Kompetenzen:</b>	1. Interkulturelle Kompetenz: die Auswirkungen der Trump-Präsidentschaft analysieren; 2. Methodenkompetenz: Strategien zum kritischen Denken anwenden; 3. Kommunikationskompetenz: verschiedene Perspektiven zu einem Thema erkennen und sich argumentativ dazu ausdrücken
<b>Thematische Bereiche:</b>	USA, U.S. politics, politics and society, globalisation
<b>Materialien:</b>	Video(link) mit Transkript, Karikatur

## Auf einen Blick

### 1. Stunde

**Thema:** Controversial perspectives on Trump – An introduction

**M 1** **The USA under President Trump – A divided nation /** Perspektiven basierend auf Bild- und Textimpulsen entwickeln

### 2. Stunde

**Thema:** The presidential inauguration speech – An overview

**M 2** **“The golden age of America” – Trump’s inauguration speech /** die wesentlichen Aussagen aus Trumps Antrittsrede verstehen

**Benötigt:**

- Internetzugang und Abspielmöglichkeit des YouTube-Videos
- bei Bedarf ZM 1 mit der Transkription der Rede

### 3. Stunde

**Thema:** Possible effects – A deeper understanding of the speech

**M 3** **“Make America great again” – Consequences and Sequels /** die zentralen Themen der Rede identifizieren, die möglichen kurz-, mittel- und langfristige Folgen untersuchen und diskutieren

### 4./5. Stunde

**Thema:** The views of the Heritage Foundation – Political intentions

**M 4** **Project 2025 – A blueprint for Donald Trump’s presidency? /** die zentralen Inhalte und Ziele von Project 2025 verstehen

**M 5** **Key messages of Project 2025 – Aims, Goals and Objectives /** den Text über Project 2025 analysieren und die zentralen Botschaften identifizieren und reflektieren

**Benötigt:**

- ZM 2 mit Annotationen für M 4

### 6. Stunde

**Thema:** The impact of Trump’s presidency – Breaking down complex topics

**M 6** **Trump’s second term and the world – An expert comment /** einen Kommentar lesen und verstehen



## M 7

## Donald Trump's presidency – Recognise, Analyse, Divide



## Tasks

1. Put these statements from the comment in the right order to produce a summary of the text.

Statements	Number
His rhetoric sparks national debate.	
He has not shown he can unite.	
Once a threat, now a democratic force.	
He reshaped politics on trade and China.	
Trump declared his vision, strength, and divine role.	
His second term will divide further.	
Supporters saw power; critics saw hostility.	
He mastered social media like past leaders did with radio and TV.	
He seizes opportunities and connects deeply.	

2. In small groups: Respond to the tasks a)–c).

- Recognise key themes: Identify three major themes presented by the author. Discuss whether these themes are presented neutrally or with a bias.
- Analyse different perspectives: Identify statements that reflect supporters' views of Trump and those that reflect critics' views. Compare how the text presents these perspectives. Does it favour one side or remain balanced?
- Divide the text into key issues: Break the text into at least four categories based on different aspects of Trump's presidency. Discuss which category you think is the most important and why.

Category	Evidence from the text	Importance ranking and why
Category 1:		
Category 2:		
Category 3:		
Category 4:		

3. In small groups: Respond to tasks a)–c):

- Identify three key insights from your analysis.
- Evaluate whether the text gives a balanced view of Trump's presidency. Justify your opinion.
- Formulate one question or viewpoint that still needs investigation.

4. Each group shares a one-minute summary with the class.

## M 11

## Loud but losing? – Internal discontent, external discord



Explore the early months of Donald Trump's second term as U.S. President, highlighting how his bold promises have run into growing resistance both at home and abroad.

## Loud but losing: The silent collapse of Trump's second presidency

Donald Trump stormed back into the White House promising disruption of the old order and a new golden age of American greatness. Instead, just months into Trump 2.0, the administration is discovering that bluster has a shelf life and tariffs don't substitute for diplomacy. The courts are blocking his signature moves, longtime allies are publicly contradicting his boasts, and even Elon Musk – one of the few high-profile allies lending him respectability and credibility – has pressed the exit. China remains unswayed<sup>1</sup>, Russia is unmoved, Iran is defiant, and India is unamused. Trump may still be shouting, but fewer people are listening – and even fewer are obeying. In what was hailed as a dramatic political comeback, Trump's return to the White House – often referred to as "Trump 2.0" – has been anything but the triumphant restoration that his supporters hoped for. But a mounting series of legal setbacks, foreign policy frustrations and differences with key allies are threatening to undermine the very foundations of his administration. While Trump's first presidency was marked by turbulence but resilience too, the second appears increasingly beleaguered<sup>2</sup> and reactive, struggling to find stable footing amid resistance at home and abroad.



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[...]  
What emerges is a presidency under siege<sup>3</sup> – not just from political opponents but from within too. Trump 2.0 is facing challenges on multiple fronts: judicial pushback, policy gridlock<sup>4</sup>, strategic defections and geopolitical failures. Far from reasserting dominance, his administration seems increasingly isolated and ineffective. The unravelling of Trump's second term may not come in the form of any dramatic scandal or a specific catastrophe. Instead, it appears to be a slow erosion – of alliances, of authority and of the narrative power that once propelled him. Unlike in his first term, where chaos was often weaponized to political advantage, the chaos of Trump 2.0 lacks coherence or momentum. It reveals a president grappling<sup>5</sup> not just with opposition, but with the limits of his own power in a world that has learned how to push back. In sum, the early days of Trump's second term are shaping up as a sobering reminder that political revival does not equate to political might. Trump 2.0 promised to "Make America Great Again". Instead, all Trump has been able to deliver is slow erosion of American power.

Source: ET Online. May 29, 2025. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/global-trends/loud-but-losing-the-silent-collapse-of-trumps-second-presidency/articleshow/121488087.cms> [Last access: 15/12/2025]

**Tasks**

1. Match the items from the trash in the cartoon with their correct explanation.

Items	Explanation
1. Congress	a) the principle that everyone should be treated fairly in legal procedures
2. Rule of law	b) suggests Trump rejected facts and scientific evidence
3. U.S. allies	c) indicates weakening or ignoring cooperation with other countries
4. Truth	d) symbol of American public broadcasting, threatened under Trump
5. PBS	e) refers to legal accountability and equal application of laws
6. Science	f) refers to the legislative branch of the U.S. government
7. Federal workers	g) suggests mistrust civil servants
8. Trade	h) refers to changes in international trade policies and agreements
9. Due process	i) suggests a disregard for honesty and factual reporting

2. Work with a partner: Study the cartoon and read the text to understand all relevant factors before forming a judgment.

- a) **Domestic challenges:** Consider all factors that limit Trump's political power within the USA during his second term. Write down at least four internal factors and explain how each one affects his presidency.
- b) **Foreign policy:** Consider all factors contributing to Trump's lack of success in foreign relations. List international developments or reactions mentioned in the text and explain how they reflect resistance to Trump's second presidency.

Country	Reaction to Trump	Meaning/Consequence
China		
Russia		
Allies (e.g., Europe)		

- c) **Erosion of influence:** Consider all factors that explain why Trump's second term is seen as weaker than the first. Compare both terms using at least three political, rhetorical or strategic elements that have changed.

Element	Trump 1 (first term)	Trump 2 (second term)	Key change
Use of chaos			
Media presence/rhetoric			
Support base/allies			