

USA Delegation
Tufts Inquiry
18 March 2022

USA Briefing Paper

Introduction

The United States is a liberal democracy, with executive, legislative, and judicial branches, however, the United States was once a colony of Great Britain. In response to England's unregulated control over the colonies, the American Revolution began and was later won by the 13 colonies. The United States gained its independence in 1776 after fighting in the Revolutionary War. The U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787, establishing the structure of the U.S. government with three branches – the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The three branches were created as a collection of checks and balances to make sure that no one political sector ever became too powerful. This government structure greatly impacts how the U.S. passes legislation. The current President of the United States is Joe Biden, and the vice president is Kamala Harris. Both were inaugurated on January 20th of 2021, following former president Donald Trump (2016-2020). The total population of the United States is estimated to be 331,893,745 people as of July 2021, with about 60.1% white, 18.5% Hispanic, 12.2% African American, and 5.6% Asian citizens. 88% of people in the United States earn a high school degree or higher, and the median household income of 2020 was estimated at \$67,521. The United States is the leading global trader and the largest national economy of the world, having a GDP of 22,993.5 trillion in 2021 and generating 20 percent of the world's total income.

President Biden's election in 2020 dramatically shifted the United States' policy on climate change from the approach of previous president Donald Trump. Under the Trump administration presidency, the United States withdrew from the Paris climate accord as Trump tried to undermine attempts at protecting the climate. President Biden rejoined the accord on his first day in office on January 20th of 2020, expressing the importance of addressing climate change. In addition to rejoining the Paris Agreement, President Biden plans to spend \$2 trillion over his presidency to increase the use of clean energies in transportation, electricity, and building sectors while also rapidly distancing from coal, oil, and gas. These actions are a part of his goal to eliminate fossil fuel emissions from electricity generation by 2035 and bring the entire United States economy to becoming carbon-neutral by mid-century (New York Times). In addition, vehicle greenhouse gas emissions are also heavily regulated by the US government. Because vehicles are the largest source of Greenhouse gas emissions in the US, the government implemented higher standards for the motor engines being produced in America and, therefore, making its transportation more energy efficient. While the previous administration was not proactive about finding solutions for climate change, President Biden has made many efforts to improve the quality of America's .

Historically, the United States has taken various approaches to addressing climate change. The Clean Air Act of 1963 was landmark climate legislation for the U.S. Ravaged by a public health crisis caused by the World Wars and Industrial Revolution, the Clean Air Act aimed to control pollution in the country and created new emissions standards. The Clean Air Act involved the federal government in pollution issues and provided research funding. It was later revised in 1970 and 1990 to include additional standards to cut emissions and protect human health and the environment (US Legal). The country signed, but did not ratify, the 1997 Kyoto

Protocol, which requested the countries to agree to binding greenhouse gas targets. H.R. 2454, also known as the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, was passed in 2009, establishing an economy-wide cap-and-trade system to reduce GHG emissions. The companion legislation S. 1733 was not passed in the Senate. “After the mid-2000s, tax incentives and federal grants, including for research and development, increasingly supported renewable energy generation, biomass fuels, and lower-emission vehicles” (Congressional Research Service). The U.S. often switches between strict standards and relaxed regulations. “In 2020, EPA and NHTSA promulgated the SAFE Vehicles Rule, which relaxed the GHG and fuel economy standards for light-duty vehicles. EPA also withdrew the waiver that had allowed California to set GHG emission standards stronger than the national standards” (Congressional Research Service).

Behind China, the United States is the 2nd largest producer of carbon dioxide in the world. In 2018, the U.S. contributed 15.2% of the world share of carbon dioxide emissions, and it maintains high emissions to this day. However, the United States’ vast economy and administration driven to protect the environment gives it the tools needed to make a great impact on climate change. President Biden’s “Build Back Better Framework will cut greenhouse gas pollution by well over one gigaton in 2030, reduce clean energy costs for working families, give our kids cleaner air and water, create hundreds of thousands of good-paying, union jobs, and advance environmental justice while investing in a 21st century clean energy economy” (White House). The President will also launch PREPARE (President’s Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience), a whole-government initiative to address the impacts of the global climate crisis in order to enhance global stability. Biden will also submit the First U.S. Adaptation Communication under the Paris Agreement, a document outlining U.S. priorities, policies, and initiatives to carry out adaptation and resilience strategies both domestically and in vulnerable

countries and communities around the world. The U.S. will also release the U.S. Long-Term Strategy to create a net-zero economy by 2050, coinciding with the goal of limiting global warming to less than 1.5° C.

Climate change has impacted the U.S. in many aspects. As a leader in international affairs, the United States' response to climate change will greatly influence the approaches of other countries. Migration poses a challenge for the country as climate refugees seeking safety from unlivable conditions will enter the United States. The U.S. will be forced to draw the line between establishing a secure border and treating refugees fairly and humanely. The U.S. will need to make immigration regulations more strict in order to prioritize climate change since most pollution is coming from cities and factories: a majority of where immigrants are in search of job opportunities. Once we can limit the population in the cities, there will be a decrease in the number of factories built. This will mean less pollution, slowing down the process of climate change. Natural disasters are also a security risk to the U.S. since their frequency and severity will continue to increase as climate change progresses. As an important contributor to agricultural trade throughout the world, climate change that impacts the yield and quality of the United State's agricultural industry threatens to affect the U.S. economy and increase food insecurity. The U.S. and global economy have been negatively impacted by climate change, and will continue to suffer if climate change is not immediately addressed. Natural disaster events destroy businesses, crops, and infrastructure, costing the country billions. These costs have continued to grow in recent years, and prevent the country from maintaining a stable economy. The U.S. also faces dilemmas regarding justice and human rights. As the world's largest producer of oil and gas, the United States has prospered from the fossil fuel industry, and often struggles to make the changes necessary in combating climate change.

Key Points

Global Governance:

1. The US's views on global governance and international politics
2. The US's global role and leadership in combating climate change

Migration:

1. It's hard to make policies prioritizing climate change because it is also the US's job to put human rights and safety first
2. Migration is already at its budget and there are still a lot of people migrating into cities causing pollutions

Security:

1. Extreme weather events and more pandemics as climate change progresses
2. Foreign and domestic disputes over fleeting natural resources

Agriculture/Food Security:

1. The threat that climate change poses to the quality and quantity of agriculture in the U.S and globally, and how this may impact the economy.
2. How climate change will affect food insecurity in the United States and world.

Economic Development:

1. How climate change, especially extreme weather events, impacts the US economy
2. The US must take extensive measures to prevent climate change from continuing to harm the economy

Justice and Human Rights

1. How the US is helping the most affected countries of global warming
2. What is the US doing to help vulnerable populations who are affected by climate change in the US

Issues and Committees

Global Governance - Erin Malloy

The USA is a federal democratic republic composed of three branches, the legislative, executive and judicial. The legislative branch is composed of the House and Senate, which collectively are known as Congress. Congress, according to the United States House of Representatives, makes laws, declares war, and regulates taxing policies. The executive branch, led by the President, conducts diplomacy and negotiates treaties with other nations, as well as enforces laws. Lastly, the judicial branch determines the Constitutionality of laws and how they should be applied to cases in real situations. The USA is made up of 50 sovereign States that are indivisible. It is a representative democracy; representative because citizens vote for elected officials by ballot, a republic because the government “derives its power from the people.”

The USA is considered a leader in global affairs, and therefore its responsibility is to responsibly communicate with other superpowers and also maintain alliances. The US attempts to give aid to any developing countries who are our allies. The US is committed to upholding global peace and security through diplomatic relations with other nations. Advancing peaceful relations with Europe, especially since World War II, is a cornerstone of US foreign policy. To do this, the US is an active member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union (EU), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), all of which are committed to promoting peaceful relations. The EU’s purpose is mainly to promote peace and security throughout Europe, but it also focuses on solving international legal issues through the International Court of Justice.

The US is built on the concept of sovereignty and a nation’s right to govern itself. It is a

sovereign nation because the American people elect their representatives and it is independent. The USA's views on sovereignty and intervention differ across political parties. The current government prioritizes bringing aid to developing countries and allies but allowing those countries to maintain their independence and self-governance. Decreased intervention helps to decrease conflicts and wars, so over the past half-century the US's intervention has decreased. The importance of self-government and independence leads to such a focus on sovereignty, and allowing other independent nations to govern themselves when facing threats from enemies or unrest.

The US is also built on the concept of fundamental human rights, as protected by the Constitution. Current US foreign policy is focused on supporting the promotion of human rights throughout the world. This shows up in the US's attempts to promote democracy globally, which supports not only citizens of other nations but also helps to advance the US's interests. Democracy among other nations promotes political and social rights for people abroad, which leads to a more stable and prosperous world. All US citizens have the right to participate in politics by voting in free and open elections, as well as freedom of speech and the press. Affording citizens basic human rights has been a foundation of the US since its inception. As political tensions internationally increase, the US's role in the changing global dynamics is more unclear than it was even a few decades ago. In the 1990s, the US focused on stabilizing its relationships with its allies as well as creating a democratic, peaceful Europe. This was successfully pursued and facilitated by the US's role in the United Nations. While nearly all US administrations since the inception of the UN have supported this focus on allyship and democratic interests, the recent Trump administration considered it to be restrictive and instead attempted to build US economic power internationally. According to the United Nations

University Center for Policy Research, “Since 2017, US foreign policy has become more transactional, mercantile, nationalist, and unpredictable, with a greater emphasis on sovereignty and a reduced focus on alliances.” Now that its position globally has been weakened slightly, due in part to the recent administration, the coronavirus, and tensions with other powerful nations, there are tensions within the US in terms of how its foreign policy and global politics benefits the US versus other nations. In recent years as US administrations attempt to improve the US’s economic and political power abroad, focus on human rights and democratic values has decreased. Among citizens, there is a gap between populist movements that promote US nationalism and those that are attempting to strengthen cross-cultural bonds. The current administration is working to bridge this gap by promoting peace and security between the US and its allies while also maintaining the US’s leadership position on the global stage.

The USA is one of the most influential members of the United Nations, and initiated its inception after World War II in order to promote international peace and prevent another large-scale conflict. The US currently is the greatest financial contributor for the UN, and hosts its headquarters in New York. While the recent Trump administration brought about a change in the US’s approach to international allyships and work within organizations such as the UN, the current administration is working to return to an approach similar to that of the 1990s, a time period in which peace and trust between nations were highly valued. Under the current administration, the US has worked “to rebuild global relationships and restore America’s leadership at the United Nations,” by working to stop the spread and negative economic impacts of the coronavirus, promoting human rights globally, and fighting climate change. The US has also put forth candidates for important positions within the United Nations.

The current administration is working to fight against climate change by taking concrete

steps to cut emissions and increase budgeting for doing so. In the United Nations, the US is regaining leadership in combating climate change. President Biden has committed to reducing emissions by 50-52% below 2005 levels by 2030, and to have a net-zero economy by 2050. The US also pushed for a resolution on climate by the UN Security Council. In November of 2021, the US played an important role in the Glasgow UN Climate Change Conference, in which 190 nations committed to goals that are intended to efficiently cut carbon emissions and prevent catastrophic damage from climate change. Besides its actions in the UN, the US has also rejoined the Paris Agreement. Meanwhile, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is actively attempting to educate the public on the effects and science of climate change, while providing other organizations with data and tools to combat it. The current administration also is committing to building a greener economy, as well as creating economic incentives for renewable energy. It is pushing for improved energy efficiency and introducing regulations on air pollutants. New legislation is also promoting renewable energy for a greener and larger economy, creating new job opportunities at the same time.

Migration - Annie Chan

The US migration and immigration have “more than quadrupled”. About 13.7% of the U.S. population are immigrants, which is nearly triple the share (4.8%) in 1970. However, the population is declining now because of the numbers falling in Mexico, which was the largest immigrant group coming to the US. While Mexican immigrants have decreased, there are still immigrants moving into cities from Central America and Asia. The US sees that we need US foreign assistance to fund and develop space-based technologies, monitors, and early warning technologies. With the development of space based information, we can track the adaptation of communities to climate change. Once the US is warned in advance of the growing population

coming into the country, they are able to create more regulations and laws on immigration in order to prevent over populations in cities.

Migration is a threat because it causes political instability. It is a threat towards domestic and international stability and social cohesion. However, it is extremely hard for us to cut off immigrants from migrating into the country because it is our job to protect and prioritize humans first. It is our responsibility to protect refugees and immigrants. Because the US is stuck between choosing whether to prioritize human rights and needs, the conflict of what is more important for this reason complicates our role in focusing on climate change. The cost of migration has already exceeded the budget and will continue to increase, especially in areas with a lot of conflicts already. The middle income countries will be attracted to urban areas in the U.S., where most factories are built and will continue to grow as the population grows. With more building and factories, it causes an increase in pollution.

The US current flow of migration is massive since people of all ethnicity and races are seeking for more freedom and opportunities in the US. Since the US is one of the most diverse countries, with a stable economy, many people are migrating over to the US to be more accepted in society. There are a lot of people immigrating into the U.S. From 2000 to 2009, there were over 10 million immigrants and $\frac{3}{4}$ of which were from Europe to Latin America and Asia. There have been several waves in our history, such as the Irish and German Catholics migrating due to the dominance of the Protestant Church in the 1840s to 1850s. Also, between 1880 and 1914, there were over 20 million European immigrants moving into the US. However, during the times when our country isn't doing well, like the Great Depression, the US has gotten fewer immigrants.

As the committee of migration for the US, we think it is necessary to make a more strict

policy on migration, but not completely ban it. This way, they can put more effort into helping our global climate change. The US should increase our policies of migration, making it longer for foreigners to enter the US since it is creating more cities and urbanization. With more buildings and factories created to provide more jobs, it creates more pollution, damaging our global climate. The US agrees that they need to secure our borders because many of the US's immigrants moving to the US are low income people who are looking forward to more job opportunities. Usually these immigrants will go to big cities to seek low income jobs such as factory workers, construction, etc. If a city becomes overpopulated, the government will build more buildings and factories that will start expanding outside our city, causing more and more pollution.

If the US doesn't start controlling the large flows of human migration that cause the immense pollution and climate change, many animal's lives are threatened. The constant climate changes and the differences that it's causing is affecting animal migration patterns. Because many animals based their migration on the seasonal climate, it is very hard for them to know when to migrate if the climate is constantly changing. For example, the mule deer follow the green wave for their migration. However, with the constant climate changes that lead to droughts, their migration is hard because they can't follow where the vegetation grows.

Security - Maddie Cronin

The US faces many security issues that are relevant throughout the country as well as in localized areas. These issues include but are not limited to natural disasters, foreign affairs, and domestic political disputes. The United States is a country with very diverse climates, and each one has its own set of natural threats. For example, on the West Coast, forest fires and droughts are common and are expected to increase even more by the year 2035. In the south, hurricanes

devastate entire towns with high winds and flooding and similarly to the west, these catastrophes will increase in the next 15 years. Along the coasts, many beachfront properties will be drowned by the rising ocean due to the polar ice caps melting. According to the US National Intelligence Council in 2016, “clusters or rapid sequences of relatively modest weather events may cause more damage than very powerful single events”, further proving that our country will not be able to handle being bombarded with an increasing number of natural disasters. Another threat facing this country is conflict with foreign nations. There are many military and government disputes happening around the world, and they are only exacerbated by the climate change crisis. As said by the 2016 US government, “Many countries will encounter climate-induced disruptions” such as fighting over disappearing natural resources and land. In addition, “some governments could be so preoccupied with managing the effects that they have little time or energy left to engage on broader foreign policy issues.” (US Government, 2016). Climate related conflicts in foreign countries will likely cause the US to need to step in for Disaster assistance and military response to external disputes. Not only will the US need to engage in foreign disputes caused by climate change, but the US citizens and government members will argue over climate change policies. The US does not have a uniform opinion regarding the validity and importance of climate change. Some people believe it is the most pressing issue our country faces, while others do not believe it exists. This trend is even consistent among legislators and government officials, which has and will continue to cause domestic political disputes. The United States of America faces many threats to the security and well-being of its citizens, many of which are direct results of climate change.

In the past, the United States has not seen climate change related security threats as a top priority. Because of weather events such as Hurricane Sandy, the US Government has become

more aware of the dangers surrounding climate change. When Hurricane Sandy hit the northeastern coast of America, New York's infrastructure was heavily impacted. According to the Obama administration, "Hospitals were evacuated and train and roadway tunnels and wastewater treatment facilities were flooded" and "the storm left 8.5 million people without power and caused tens of billions of dollars in damages." This disaster prompted the Government to arrange for military personnel to aid in the delivery of food, fuel, and medical supplies to the communities impacted by similar storms. In addition to rebuilding communities after natural disasters, The Obama Administration signed executive order 13653, which directed federal agencies to support Climate resilient efforts. Essentially, this order mandates agencies to do everything they can to support anti-climate change efforts. Because recent events have started to impact the infrastructure of populated areas, the United States government is starting to prioritize climate change.

The United States is a part of Multiple security alliances, but one of the most important is NATO. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO, is an alliance of North American and European Countries. The general idea of the alliance is that if one member country were to be attacked, the others would help defend them. The countries involved with NATO strongly believe that climate change is a significant threat to security around the world. The alliance has released a 4-step agenda to battle our climate crisis. First, NATO must increase awareness in the allied countries by showing how Climate change is affecting citizens. Second, the Countries must adapt to climate change based on their assessments in step one. Third, NATO will mitigate the effects of climate change and finally, it will enhance its outreach to other countries. In addition to addressing climate change, NATO is working to end the human trafficking and criminal networks that are fueling the migration crisis. Because of conflicts occurring in and

around NATO countries, there is a great number of people fleeing their home countries for safety. NATO is currently monitoring the Turkish and Syrian boarder to try and prevent more human trafficking and illegal migration from occurring. In addition to NATO, the US is part of other alliances such as the NORAD with Canada, and the ANZUS with Australia and New Zealand. These other alliances are also majorly concerned with climate change and have adopted plans to make their countries “climate proof”.

The Biden administration in the US believes there should be an immigration system with “a well-managed and secure border, while also treating people fairly and humanely” (US White House, 2021). According to the current US government, there should be some level of security, but it should not prevent refugees from entering the country. The Biden administrations wants the security at the borders to prevent threats like human trafficking and drug smuggling. To aid with identifying, disrupting, and preventing human trafficking operations, the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Task Force was created. The Biden administration has been focused on helping immigrants safely and legally enter the country, however, in the US there are very diverse opinions regarding immigration. Past presidencies such as the Trump administration have been opposed to people entering the country. During his presidency, Donald Trump built a 450-mile wall along the border of Mexico, showing how the Former President strongly believed in securing the border. In conclusion, it is difficult to determine the United States’ stance on border security because not all members of the government share the same opinions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way our would function since it's spread in 2020. Some of its most impactful effects on our global security include lack of military preparedness, food shortages, and increase in poverty. As stated by Emily Priborkin of American University, when it comes to the Military, “COVID-19 makes it difficult to maintain ready

forces”. Armies are having a difficult time keeping up with training, and Navy ships are difficult to deploy because the close quarters make it easy for the virus to spread. Both of these factors and the general idea of “stay at home” make it difficult for countries to deploy their soldiers during the pandemic. Other crises caused by COVID-19 are global food insecurity and extreme poverty. Because of the stay at home mandates that were put in place around the world, 114 million people lost their jobs in 2020 alone. Because many people lost their income, the number of people living in extreme poverty skyrocketed. Since the pandemic began, the US has viewed military preparedness, food insecurity, and poverty as major threats to global security.

The United States uses a massive amount of energy every day to power its cities, factories, vehicles, homes, and much more. This energy comes from fossil fuels such as petroleum and natural gas, as well as other, more minor sources. While there are other sources of electricity such as solar and wind power, 81% of America’s energy is from fossil fuels. The US obtains its fossil fuels from states such as Texas, California, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Alaska, however the US cannot produce enough fuel to keep up with its own demand. Because of this, America needs to import fossil fuels from other countries including Canada, Saudi Arabia, and Mexico. Without these imports, the United States would not have enough energy to support its demanding society.

Global energy trade has been both a source of cooperation in America because it is a key product for US trade. One example is the United States' relationship with Canada. Canada is America’s largest supplier of oil and without its trade, the United States would have a very difficult time keeping up with its citizen’s demand for energy. In addition, Canada’s proximity to the US allows there to be secure trade with “uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price” (ICF, 2021). On the other hand, the United States is Canada’s largest buyer of

unrefined crude oil. Because of America's contribution to Canada's economy and Canada's reliable flow of oil, the two countries are able to cooperate in an interdependent relationship.

The United States is in a difficult position regarding climate change because it contains very diverse areas that are all susceptible to different threats. For example, the West coast is at risk for droughts and forest fires, the south is at risk for hurricanes and tropical storms, the coastlines are at risk for flooding, and the land locked areas are at risk for tornados. When looking at the US as a whole, one can see that this country can be hurt in so many ways and theoretically, it can all happen at once. The probability of simultaneous natural disasters is rising due to the increase in frequency of weather events due to climate change. This is not only dangerous for the people living in the affected areas but also for our country as a whole because government relief services can only tend to a few areas at a time. In addition, Climate Change will affect the Air and water quality, and make it more difficult to dispose of waste. These factors will both have detrimental effects on the health of America's population. Because of the geographic diversity in America, the US is at a greater risk for natural disasters caused by climate change.

Agriculture - Lilly Caplan

The United States is both an exporter and importer of food. Agriculture in the US has a positive trade balance, meaning it exports more than it imports. In 2021, the US had its highest annual export levels ever recorded. Exports of U.S. farm and food products to the world totaled \$177 billion, beating the 2020 total by 18 percent and the previous record, set in 2014, by 14.6 percent. The top 10 export markets of the United States all experienced gains in 2021, with China, Mexico, Canada, South Korea, the Philippines and Colombia setting new records. The top US export products worldwide include soybeans, corn, beef, pork, dairy, distillers grains and pet

food, which have also reached all-time highs. The United State's effective exporting is supported by U.S. farmers and ranchers, who export more than 20 percent of their production overall. Agricultural domestic exports reached nearly \$137 billion in 2019. United States agricultural imports for the 2022 fiscal year are forecasted at \$172.5 billion, with 50 percent of U.S. agricultural imports being horticultural products such as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, wine, essential oils, nursery stock, cut flowers, and hops. The US also imports sugar and tropical products such as coffee, cocoa, and rubber, in addition to vegetable oils, processed grain products, red meat, and dairy products.

The United States major agricultural industries are cattle, corn, soybeans, cow's milk, miscellaneous crops, and wheat. The United States is the world's largest producer of corn and cow's milk, while its soybean industry provides 34% of global production. The US is the fourth-largest producer of wheat after China, India, and Russia. The agricultural, food, and related industries had a 5.0% share in the US gross domestic product in 2020, contributing \$1.055 trillion dollars to the US economy. American farms contributed an output of \$134.7 billion, about 0.6% of GDP. Close to 90% of food and beverage spending in the United States is for domestic products. In 2016, 87.3 percent of U.S. consumer's food and beverage purchases including grocery store and eating out purchases were from domestic production, while 12.7 percent were imported food and beverages.

Food insecurity rates vary across States because of characteristics of their populations and State-level policies and economic conditions. Food insecurity in the United States peaked at 14.9% in 2011 and has declined since. In 2020, 89.5% of the United States was food secure throughout the year. 10.5% of households were food insecure at least some time during 2020, while 3.9% of households (5.1 million households) had very low food security. In 2020, 35.3%

of households with incomes below the Federal poverty line were food insecure with either low or very low food insecurity. On average, single-parent households and Black and Hispanic households had higher than the national average rates of food insecurity. Additionally, food insecurity was more common in large cities and rural areas than in suburban areas. 14.8% of households with children were food insecure in 2020. While only adults experienced food insecurity in about half of food-insecure households with children, both children and adults were food insecure sometime during the year in 7.6% of households with children. Both children and adults experienced instances of very low food security in 0.8% of U.S. households with children, adding up to 322,000 households. Federal spending on USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs totaled \$122.1 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2020, 11 percent of which was accounted for by spending on programs created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer and the Farmers to Families Food Box Program. There was a 28 percent increase from FY 2019 to FY 2020 in combined spending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and related Nutrition Assistance Programs (NAP). Combined spending on the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) decreased by 6 percent, while combined spending on child nutrition programs decreased by 9 percent.

Extreme weather in the last ten years has had few positive effects on agriculture, but has overall negatively impacted the United State's agricultural industry. Changes in temperature, atmospheric carbon dioxide, and the frequency and intensity of extreme weather could significantly impact crop yields. Annual average temperatures across the United States have increased by 1.2 degrees Fahrenheit over the past decades. These rising temperatures could potentially benefit plants that grow optimally in warm areas, but will harm crop yield if it

exceeds the plant's optimal temperature. For example, in 2010 and 2012 high nighttime temperatures affected corn yields across the U.S. Corn Belt, while a warm winter caused premature budding in Michigan cherries and resulted in \$220 million in losses. Some lab experiments suggest that elevated CO₂ levels can increase plant growth, though it can also affect crop yields and nutritional quality. More atmospheric carbon dioxide reduces protein and mineral concentrations in most plant species, including wheat, soybeans, and rice, potentially threatening human health. Not to mention, greenhouse gasses such as carbon and methane contribute to global warming as a whole. Annual precipitation increased across most of the northern and eastern United States, while much of the south and west experienced a decrease. Precipitation and extreme temperature, along with floods and droughts, can prevent crops from growing and harm crops and reduce yields. Increased temperatures, wetter climates, and increased CO₂ levels allow weeds, pests, and fungi thrive. One issue this poses is the money U.S. farmers must spend -around \$11 billion per year- to fight weeds, which compete with crops for light, water, and nutrients. Additionally, human health is threatened by increased pesticides usage to counteract heightened pest pressures and reductions in the efficacy of pesticides. Climate change also disrupts the availability, access, quality, and transportation of food.

Economy - Angela Lin

The US economy is growing rapidly in several aspects, but has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The international trade deficit has increased to \$80.7 billion as of December 2021. In 2020, new foreign direct investments in the U.S. have fallen to \$120.7 billion from \$221.2 billion in 2019, which is a 45.4% decline. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "the U.S. current-account deficit widened by \$16.5 billion, or 8.3 percent, to \$214.8 billion in the third quarter of 2021" (U.S. BEA). Inflation rates, at 7.5% the annual rate,

are the highest in forty years and are caused by high consumer demand paired with supply disruptions and labor shortages. On the flip side, unemployment rates have decreased from 4.2% in November 2021 to 3.9% in December 2021. Average hourly wages have also risen 0.3%, which can be attributed to “an increase in compensation of employees” (U.S. BEA).

The United States’ economy has been negatively affected by the impacts of climate change, and will continue to suffer if climate change is not addressed immediately. In 2021 alone, extreme weather events have cost the U.S. \$145 billion dollars (NOAA). In the past five years, the total cost of extreme weather events, \$742.1 billion, “is more than one-third of the disaster cost total of the last 42-years (1980-2021), which exceeds \$2.155 trillion” (NOAA). It is estimated that if the U.S. does not address climate change, “annual losses will likely grow to exceed \$500 billion” by the end of the century (U.S. House Committee on the Budget). Climate change poses the biggest threat to agriculture. Flooding, droughts, increased heat, and other disasters harm food production, which in turn causes inflation and negatively impacts the economy (Columbia Climate School). As climate change increases in severity, health risks will also increase, forcing citizens to spend more on healthcare.

The US has been significantly affected by extreme weather. There were 20 climate disaster events in 2021 that cost the U.S. over \$1 billion each. Eleven of those extreme storm events caused a total of 114 deaths. The severe tornado outbreaks across the central and southern U.S. in December cost about \$18 billion in total damages and economic losses. The 2021 Dixie Fire in California covered over 960,000 acres. It was the second largest wildfire in California’s history, after the 2020 August Complex Fire, which burned over 1 million acres. The Dixie Fire destroyed 1,329 structures and damaged 95 structures. In 2017, Hurricane Harvey cost a total of \$125 billion in Texas. The hurricane caused widespread flooding and power outages.

The U.S. perceives climate change as a challenge to the global economy. Climate change negatively impacts the global economy as vast amounts of money are spent each year to repair damage caused by climate change. Changes in food production, water quality and quantity, and the security of citizens all impact the global economy. Damaged by extreme weather and heat, lower agricultural yields will cause global inflation. Global warming also disproportionately impacts undeveloped countries who are unable to adequately prepare against these threats, and are often located in high risk areas. “Damage to property and infrastructure, lost productivity, mass migration and security threats” will hinder economic growth (Wade, Jennings). Due to sea level rise, flooding, and other extreme weather events, businesses will be forced to move or shut down, harming the economy. If climate change is not seriously addressed in the next few years, it is estimated that “a worst-case impact of a 1% reduction in GDP growth per year could be realized” (Wade, Jennings).

The best policies for the U.S. would aim to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, change private sector behavior, and create incentives for citizens and companies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. A market based approach, which involves carbon taxes, subsidies, and cap-and-trade programs, would be ideal. The U.S. Senate suggests a “comprehensive and effective national program of mandatory, market-based limits and incentives on emissions of greenhouse gasses that slow, stop, and reverse the growth of such emissions at a rate and in a manner that will not significantly harm the United States economy” (U.S. Senate). International agreements, such as the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement, are also a powerful way to impact public opinion and create unity between nations.

Austerity measures should not be implemented in the U.S. The United States’ debt has only grown through the COVID-19 pandemic, and while austerity measures would lessen the

national debt and boost the economy, it goes against the fundamental principles of the country. Austerity measures make cuts to programs and negatively impact working conditions. These measures impact the lower classes the most, as government programs lose funding. Healthcare and social programs would be harder to qualify for, reducing the number of people able to receive government assistance. Eligibility for retirement and unemployment benefits would be limited. Many citizens would also strongly oppose tax reforms and high taxes.

Justice and Human Rights - Chloe Leger

While America has the freedom to develop fossil fuels, it has become the world's largest producer of oil and gas. This production is accelerating faster than any country in the world and has left a huge impact. Currently, the United States is responsible for 40% of the climate breakdown the world is experiencing today. Not only has fossil fuel corporations harmed the planet, they also harm communities (especially those of color and poverty). These fossil fuel companies endanger the future, though these companies continue to benefit from billions of dollars in U.S. government giveaways and subsidies. The US has a plan for "100% Clean Energy for America". This is where the United States will set strong rules to achieve 100% clean electricity, new cars and buildings, and retire/replace all coal-fired power plants.

The US understands and sees that countries are impacted by climate change, the US helps these impacted countries as much as they can but they strictly keep their relations business with other countries. So there is no debt owed to the most impacted countries on climate change. The US has helped the most impacted countries by giving them supplies to help them out. The Global North is responsible for 92% of excess global carbon emissions. With that percent in mind, the US is responsible for 27% of the carbon admissions. The US recognizes how much effect they've had on climate change and are trying to fix what they have caused. The US is

making plans for the future to reduce carbon emissions to stop the spread of global warming and doing their part.

The United States has seen its effect on climate change and what's to change, but has done very little to try and find solutions. When president Trump was in office, he stepped out of the Paris climate agreement in 2018 but when president Biden became president, he rejoined. This shows the inconsistency of the US in trying to help decrease the effects on climate change and how different people in power might affect how much the US does about their climate change. Even during the Coronavirus pandemic, the US has failed to show how they can reduce the effects of climate change. The United States refused to join 164 other countries in signing a global migration treaty in 2018, the first such agreement to recognize climate as a cause of future displacement. But with a new president, how the US deals with climate change might shift especially because that was one of Joe Biden's plans when he joined office.

The United States has been helping some small southern countries that live in vulnerable areas and have funeral populations. They have been funding development that modernizes agriculture and water infrastructure . This does help the countries to an extent but other than that, the US has done very little.

The United States recognizes that when there are more vulnerable areas that are affected by climate change, there will be climate refugees. Currently, 1% of the world is a barely livable “hot zone” . By 2070 it will increase to 19% of the world. This means that many people in vulnerable countries have fled to the US to get away from these hot zones. Hundreds of millions of people from Central America to Sudan to the Mekong Delta will be forced to choose between flight or death. The result will almost certainly be the greatest wave of global migration the world has seen. There have already been more than eight million people who have moved toward

the Middle East, Europe and North America just to try and stay safe from the effects of climate change.

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