

# Maktab Competitive Exams Services

## Current Affairs Workshop for CSS 2025

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### US Foreign Policy Under Trump 2.0 and Impacts on emerging World Order

#### An Overview of Trump 1.0

1. Peace through Strength Doctrine: Not Isolation but Transactional Relations
2. Trump initiated a trade war with China, imposing tariffs on billions of dollars' worth of Chinese goods to address trade imbalances, intellectual property theft, and unfair trade practices.
3. He renegotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), resulting in the **United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)**, which updated trade rules and labor standards.
4. Withdrawal from International Agreements: Paris Climate Agreement, Iran Nuclear Deal (JCPOA), Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)
5. He held unprecedented **summits with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un** in 2018 and 2019, aiming to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.
6. Middle East Peace Initiatives: Abraham Accords, Withdrawal of forces from Syria and Iraq
7. Relations with traditional allies in Europe became strained, particularly with Germany and France, due to disputes over trade, defense spending and NATO
8. Trump sought to improve relations with Russia, raising suspicions of undue leniency towards President Vladimir Putin. His reluctance to publicly confront Russia on election interference and other issues was controversial.
9. Hardline Stance on Immigration: Travel Bans
10. Military Actions and Defense: Withdrawal from Afghanistan, Soleimani Strike, Increased Military Spending
11. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Trump announced the U.S. withdrawal from the WHO, accusing it of mismanagement and bias towards China
12. Sanctions on Iran and Venezuela

#### US Foreign Policy Under Trump 2.0

1. He nominated anti globalist hawks in administration who call for the United States to exit the International Monetary Fund Pete Hegseth for defense secretary, Hegseth condemned the United Nations as "a fully globalist organization that aggressively advances an anti-American, anti-Israel, and anti-freedom agenda. Sen. Marco Rubio for Secretary of State, He is passionate about implementing hawkish policies toward China, Iran, North Korea, Venezuela, Cuba and Russia, Michael Waltz for National Security Advisor, anti Chinese hawk who boycotted China winter Olympics.

2. He claimed that in his second term, if European NATO members failed to increase their defense spending (2% of the country's GDP) he would let the Russians "do whatever they want."
3. Trump is Concerned about China's Military-Civil Fusion Program - between its businesses, the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to advance the PLA into a "world-class military" by 2049,
4. Focus on protecting U.S. technological development, especially in artificial intelligence (AI), research and development efforts, and increasing U.S. investment to enhance the U.S. semiconductor industry. Increasing technological export controls and measures targeting outbound investment
5. Trump is Planning to withdraw from WTO and going to remove China's Most Favoured Nation Status
6. Trump aims to expand Abraham accords to facilitate Israel's recognition. He is now in favour of Two State Solution.
7. Will intensify sanctions on Iran to weaken its economy. Waltz has even advocated for military strikes against Iranian energy infrastructure and nuclear facilities. Under the Trump administration, the United States will take an aggressive stance against Iran's proxy groups, most notably Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis, as well as Iraqi militia groups that have previously attacked American forces.
8. With respect to Syria, his foreign policy is not clear with respect to station forces in the country after fall of Assad's regime
9. He would entail pressuring Ukraine to potentially accept territorial losses and secure a commitment that Ukraine will not join NATO. Trump also expressed interest in pausing U.S. economic aid and military assistance to Ukraine if it does not enter negotiations with Russia to end the war. Rubio has called for a swift end to the war in Ukraine and was one of the 15 Republican senators to vote against the \$61 billion military package for Ukraine in April
10. Trump Will continue **Remain in Mexico Program and Counter Narcotics Program**. It will require asylum seekers from certain countries, primarily Central American migrants, to wait in Mexico while their claims for asylum in the United States were processed.
11. Trump has repeatedly commented that Canada should become the 51st U.S. state and highlighted how the merge would remove tariffs, reduce taxes and defend against the threat of Russia and China.
12. Reauthorization of the **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)** that was first enacted in 2000, which has been used to promote U.S. national security priorities in Africa and compete with China's presence in Africa. Trump will also inherit the U.S. Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGI), a G7 initiative that seeks to address outsized Chinese influence globally.
13. US-India Cooperation in defence and economy will Increase. Trump has announced 60% tariffs on Chinese imports. It will create an opportunity for India to fill the gap in US Economy. *US-India Defence Cooperation Act* was drafted by Marco Rubio. Continuation of LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA, Industrial Security Agreement (ISA), and Strategic Trade Authorization (STA-1)

14. No Improvements with Pakistan as Trump will be more critical against china. Pakistan being a strategic ally of china will bear the brunt of it. Moreover, given the ongoing strong Indo US partnership in defence will have huge cost for the country. Afghanistan is also no more center of cooperation between the two nations

### **Impacts on The Global Order:**

1. A question on American Credibility. Europe Decoupling from US. **Macron's European Defence Initiative**
2. Trump's hawkish stance on China, focusing on economic decoupling, tariffs, and military assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific, would exacerbate tensions.
3. Increased U.S. support for Israel and confrontational policies toward Iran would destabilize the region
4. Undermining the **United Nations** and prioritizing unilateral action over multilateral frameworks would reduce trust in global institutions.
5. Countries would likely shift toward **bilateral trade agreements** or **regional trade blocs** in case of weakening of WTO and IMF
6. Trump's pragmatic approach to authoritarian regimes and focus on transactional diplomacy would reduce U.S. advocacy for democracy and human rights (How Democracies Die)
7. Trump's potential withdrawal from international climate agreements and rollback of green policies would weaken global climate governance.

### **Way Forward:**

1. Regional powers should lead efforts to reinforce multilateral institutions like the United Nations, World Trade Organization (WTO), and World Health Organization (WHO).
2. Nations can deepen regional economic and political ties to reduce vulnerability to unilateral U.S. trade policies (RCEP, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA))
3. Countries should adopt a non-aligned strategy, maintaining diplomatic and economic relations with both the U.S. and China. Regional forums such as ASEAN and the African Union can play a mediating role to prevent the world from splitting into rival blocs
4. Strengthen global financial institutions that offer alternatives to the IMF and World Bank, like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and New Development Bank (NDB).
5. Support initiatives that reduce reliance on U.S.-controlled financial systems, such as expanding the use of regional currencies and developing non-dollar-based payment systems.
6. Strengthen collaboration in green technology, renewable energy, and sustainable development through alliances like the EU's Green Deal or China's green initiatives