“The United States after 1945”
Week 6: “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington: Barack Obama and Donald Trump”
Today:

A Return to the Traditional

The United States Can, Must and Will Lead

We Stand at a Crossroads

Offshore Balancing
The bulldozer Hillary?
Barack Hussein Obama

change

Hillary Clinton

unknown

turning the page, 52 % (64 %)

history
Great statements

Cairo

Prague

Guantanamo, torture

International relations

Snowden
Denúncia de espionagem por agência de inteligência canadense

07/10/2013 - O Ministro das Relações Exteriores, Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, convocou hoje, 7 de outubro de 2013, o Embaixador do Canadá em Brasília para transmitir a indignação do Governo brasileiro e requerer explicações sobre a notícia de que as comunicações eletrônicas e telefônicas do Ministério de Minas e Energia e de alto funcionário do Ministério das Relações Exteriores estariam sendo objeto de espionagem por órgão de inteligência canadense.

Durante o encontro, o Chanceler brasileiro manifestou ao Embaixador canadense o repúdio do Governo a essa grave e inaceitável violação da soberania nacional e dos direitos de pessoas e de empresas.

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Report on espionage by Canadian intelligence agency

The Minister of External Relations, Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, summoned the Canadian Ambassador in Brasilia today, October 7, 2013, to convey the indignation of the Brazilian government and request explanations on the news that electronic and telephone communications of the Ministry of Mines and Energy as well as of a senior official of the Ministry of External Relations would be the subject of espionage by Canadian intelligence agency.

At the meeting, the Minister expressed to the Canadian Ambassador the Brazilian Government’s repudiation of this grave and unacceptable violation of national sovereignty and the rights of individuals and companies.
The crisis

recovery plan

Afghanistan

healthcare reform

great files

short moment
Decline
waves
“this time it’s different”
Chinamerica (G2?)
BRICs
world “G-zero”
Russia
the reset
Ukraine
Syria
NATO
I told you earlier all the talk of America's economic decline is political hot air. Well, so is all the rhetoric you hear about our enemies getting stronger and America getting weaker. Let me tell you something. The United States of America is the most powerful nation on Earth. Period. (Applause.) Period. It's not even close. It's not even close. (Applause.) It's not even close. We spend more on our military than the next eight nations combined. Our troops are the finest fighting force in the history of the world. (Applause.) No nation attacks us directly, or our allies, because they know that’s the path to ruin. Surveys show our standing around the world is higher than when I was elected to this office, and when it comes to every important international issue, people of the world do not look to Beijing or Moscow to lead -- they call us. (Applause.)
The Difference Between Trump And Clinton Summed Up In One Cartoon

"It's getting worse so don't try to convince me that the future is bright in America. Because, when you take a closer look, there's anger + hate even if it's not who we are as a nation but you should be scared crime, terrorists, illegals we need to do something believe me, fear is greater than hope because we can't be optimistic and you'll never hear me say America needs bridges not walls" (for Hillary, read it from bottom to top)

If you missed Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton's speeches at their respective conventions, cartoonist Joe Heller has you covered – he summed everything up in one cartoon.
Donald J. Trump
(2016 - )

Russia

the Middle-East

China

“grand strategy”
America First
United Nations
G-7/8
NATO
Europe
America First

Trade and tariffs

World order

Alliances

Rearmament
Share of world military expenditure of the 15 states with the highest spending in 2016

- USA, 36%
- China, 13%
- Russia, 4.1%
- Saudi Arabia, 3.8%
- India, 3.3%
- France, 3.3%
- UK, 2.9%
- Japan, 2.7%
- Germany, 2.4%
- South Korea, 2.2%
- Italy, 1.7%
- Australia, 1.5%
- Brazil, 1.4%
- UAE, 1.3%
- Israel, 1.1%
- Others, 19%

Data: SIPRI Military Expenditure Database (24 April 2017)
Quo vadis?

After the empire?

“liberal hegemony”

“Offshore balancing”

Asian century
Regards critiques et historiques sur la politique étrangère états-unienne
What if Donald Trump is what America is all about?

There is a widely accepted idea among some Americans that Trump does not reflect American values. They are wrong.

This widely accepted idea of the benign essence of the "American soul", however, has never been questioned and the opposite assumption - that it is not intrinsically good - has never been critically examined.

So might it be that exactly the opposite proposition is true: That this "American soul" might, in fact, be precisely what we now see in Trump and Trumpism, institutionalised not just in the heinous history of slavery but even earlier than that - in the genocidal history of American conquest and slaughter of native peoples?

And that the whole sustained history of US thuggish militarism on almost every continent on planet earth, waging wars, toppling regimes, instigating military coups is its natural manifestation?

We may, in fact, be hard pressed to find a single moment in American history when hateful racism, sexism, militarism, and xenophobia have not been entirely definitive to this "American soul".

Could this "American soul" perhaps be something entirely diabolical, perturbed, vicious, vindictive, monstrously greedy from the get-go?

With far less historical erudition and far more political rhetoric liberal politicians ranging from Barack Obama to Hillary Clinton to Bernie Sanders keep telling Americans what Trump is doing "is not what America is all about."
What if Donald Trump is what America is all about?

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Campaigning against Donald Trump during the midterm elections, Obama went out and loudly declared: "We helped spread a commitment to certain values and principles like the rule of law and human rights and democracy and the notion of the inherent dignity and worth of every individual."

Really? Is that what the US has done around the globe? Who exactly is this "We"? Would that "We" include the US president who gave billions of dollars to Israel to slaughter Palestinians with ease and to the Saudis to commit war crimes in Yemen; and would it include the president before him who left Iraq and Afghanistan in ruins?

We seriously need to examine this American soul business and wonder what makes it so murderously detrimental to world peace, and while we are at it rediscover what is this "America really about".

Not just Democrats and former and current officials but human rights organisations also believe Trump is antithetical to American values. "Trump Abandons American Values at UN," this according to Human Rights First's Senior Vice President for Policy Rob Berschinski.

But Trump and Trumpism are as American as mom and apple pie - and an entire racist and xenophobic history of the US is there to verify it. And if the structurally corrupt Democratic Party under the leadership of Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi, and Chuck Schumer are supposed to be the alternative to that truth, then the Afghans, Iraqis, Palestinians, and Yemenis brutalised identically under both Republicans and Democrats may have something to say about the matter.