
Geopolitics: The End of Pax Americana and the Failure of Tariffs

By: Mauricio Escuela
11/06/2025



What world remains after the Republican Party came to power and its attempts to restore the old order through tariffs? Reality is giving Trumpists a dose of pragmatism, as their promises, for the most part, are falling on deaf ears. There had been talk of peace in Ukraine in less than 24 hours, but the negotiations drag on and are unlikely to yield results.

When assessing Trumpism in international politics, we must assess the permissiveness of what is happening in Gaza, which is taking its toll on the United States as Israel's guarantor; also the failure with Russia, which they have tried to treat as a second-rate power; the inability to do anything about the Houthis and their power in the Gulf of Hormuz; As well as the ridiculousness of the tariff war against China, which is leading nowhere. They've lost that game, and what we hear is the mumble of a superpower that has tried to reclaim its place as the leader, but that name is increasingly outgrowing itself and is gradually retreating from the international arena in the face of China's push onward. On the domestic front, there's talk of Elon Musk, who was initially intended to be almost the other head of the Trump administration, opting for a low profile and fewer appearances in the Oval Office, amid questions about his status as an unelected official and because, in his own statements, the tariffs have caused him millions in losses. The clash of interests and the impossibility of a coherent policy moving in a single direction have paralyzed the Trump supporters' actions in the highest office. If we assess domestic goals, it must be said that the life of the average American is more difficult, since, in addition to the previous crisis, we must add rising essential prices, the high cost of labor for manufacturers and agricultural producers (due to the departure of millions of cheap workers of Latin American origin), the effects of global inflation resulting from ongoing wars, as well as Trump's inability to reconcile forces, since his nature is to divide and seize power. But once there, what to do?

In the midst of these turmoil, the United States either relies on exceptionalism and isolation or it will sink even faster. And perhaps that explains Trump's urgency to cancel wars or not wage them at all. They are simply too expensive and affect the debt, a barrier to getting out of the crisis that continues to threaten the power of the dollar and puts Americans at existential risk. How serious is this problem? If the debt expands further, it will be impossible to close the trade deficit the United States has with China, something that already seems impossible to solve, at least in the short term. The Asian power supplies the United States with almost everything, thereby displacing local

manufacturing, rendering it inefficient and uncompetitive. China is the other side of the American reality, and thanks to Asians, the level of American consumption can be kept. But, in terms of dominance, at what cost?

The United States is saved by the fact that China's at least visible policy in the world is expansionary only economically, with very conciliatory policies that respect the sovereignty of countries. Beijing is committed to exponential growth and has not recently gotten involved in any wars, although it has several conflicts surrounding it. The clash with Taiwan, while it could be a latent risk, has been neutralized, as it's a proxy war by the United States on the border of its Chinese enemy to divert it, wear it down, and force it into a position of weakness. This has failed. Beijing has its own strategy, which seems like political jujitsu, that is, using the adversary's force and avoiding a direct clash. But what the United States is losing is the economy, and the definitive transition to Chinese power is expected to occur in this century, when Washington's children face the reality that they either produce what they consume or they will not have a high standard of living. Perhaps only territories like Texas or California, with the capacity to be independent nations, will escape this debacle and be able to create their own network of international influence. The other states of the union will have a harsh time surviving.

The coming months foretell a confrontation between the supporters of the Maguist (tariff) movement, the industrialists who have been affected by Trump's absurd anti-trade measures, and the speculative financial globalists who are united around the Democratic Party. The worst thing that could do the current president was to create trade barriers that harmed a portion of the Trump campaign's big-business allies, creating yet another rift within the American state power structure. What was intended to be a conservative government program, protectionist in the positive sense, has translated into the absurdity of a person making concessions to Middle Eastern countries in exchange for flattery and high-sounding phrases that make Trump appear as a "great statesman." Everyone is seeing how ridiculous US foreign policy has become, when its leader doesn't know the rules, violates them, and then shows no interest in the actual outcome of negotiations. Politics revolves around one person's ego, completely detached from the truth.

While all this is going on, what's happening within the United States? Social divisions persist, now deepened by the issue of cuts. The lower middle class that voted for Trump is seeing their savings vanish and sink into underemployment, promises of lower prices are forgotten, and everything is concentrated in a huge marketing operation that constantly whitewashes the government. The Democratic opposition, for its part, is failing to take full advantage of the circumstances and is also divided into several warring factions. The one that has had the greatest visibility so far is the "Fight the Oligarchy" project of Alexandra Ocasio and Bernie Sanders, two representatives of globalist cultural thinking who, however, this time have focused on a discourse tending toward the interests of workers, distancing themselves from the gender identity politics that proved a failure in the past. That does not mean that, if they come to power, they will not resume the divisive neoliberal agenda between men and women that their party previously championed. A point of view that led them to sell out voters to the Magoism and that, in the blindness of the Biden/Harris duo, was never rectified.

When this legislative term ends and the midterm elections begin again, many issues within American politics will be decided. A return to the Democrats' majority in both chambers is expected, following a pendulum-like logic, transforming the executive branch into a paper tiger. This can have several interpretations given the changing landscape of domestic politics in the United States. On the one hand, it could be a basis for the Democratic Party to return to ideological hegemony in the country, transforming the Maguistas once again into a movement of the social margins; but the effect this has could backfire. The Trumpist right thrives on resistance and is, in fact, a marginal phenomenon that can fight from the political sidelines. One of the things that brought Trump to power was this: the notion that permeated a segment of poor, white American youth that this was a conservative revolution that would rescue the country from the absurdity and satanism of the Democrats.

When midterm elections are over, we will have a new United States, both domestically and abroad, that could move closer to Obamaism and further away from the woke Democrats. That doesn't mean it will be better for the people of the world, including Americans. The power elites are relentless in their efforts to build a system in which ordinary people have little or no say, and where the darkest and most exclusive interests prevail. Both woke Democrats and maguistas know what they want, and both sides, as variables in the recycling of the United States, are failing. These are extreme ideologies that don't address the core of the structural crisis of a nation that is destined to leave its position as the world's economic and military leader.

Translated by Amilkal Labañino / CubaSi Translation Staff

