

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Continent: North America

Population: 331,893,745

Life Expectancy (at Birth): 77.2 (UN, 2021)

Governance System: Federal Republic
and Representative Democracy,
Presidential/Single Executive Government

Capital: Washington D.C.

Area: 9,833,520 km²

Major Languages: English, Spanish

GDP (2021): \$25.035 Trillion USD

Select Global Rankings

Human Development Index: 21

Fragile States Index (Inverted): 40

Soft Power 30 rank: 5

Human Freedom Index: 15

World Happiness Ranking: 19

Good Country Index: 46

Elite Sport System Rankings

Global Cup Ranking: 1

Per Capita Cup Ranking: 34

Olympic Medals – Summer '20: 113 (1st)

Olympic Medals – Winter '22: 25 (5th)

Football/World Cup Profile

FIFA Region: CONCACAF

FIFA Ranking: 16

World Cup Appearances: 10

Best World Cup Performance(s): 3rd (1930)

Qualification: 3rd CONCACAF

World Cup Group: B

Last World Cup Appearance: 2014

UNITED STATES in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (by Jacob Benjamin)

Albeit a mediocre force in soccer, this is the world's unipolar power. The world's highest GDP, with the world's first and second largest stock exchanges. The strongest military. The home of the world's technological capital (Silicon Valley). The world's most prestigious academic institutions reside here, and a large portion of the world's population view this country as the epicentre of popular culture.

Despite its indisputable overall strength, internally, the U.S. is a constitutional democracy riddled with socio-political divisions. These divisions exist over electoral legitimacy, race relations, the right to bear arms, *Roe v. Wade*, the separation of church and state, COVID-19, and everything in between. Misinformation runs rampant within both the political right and left wings of U.S. civil society; it exacerbates fissures that have existed amongst Americans for generations, and creates new ones. Populist factions dually thrive on and create this climate of misinformation. The strength of U.S. political institutions—even the most resilient, functional, and important of them—are

still being tested as an aftereffect of the Trump years. Internationally, these internal challenges are sometimes perceived as a sign of democratic weakness.

On foreign policy, the U.S. is turning a new page after roughly two decades of involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. The controversial and messy withdrawal from Afghanistan led to the fall of Kabul, with a brutal and backward Taliban regime now back in power.

The U.S. is adjusting to a rapidly changing world. The People's Republic of China (PRC) has burgeoned economically, lifting millions out of poverty; but the PRC has also acted aggressively toward weaker states in its locale, meddled in foreign elections, and is increasingly bellicose over Taiwan as its military capabilities enhance. *Vis-à-vis* the PRC, the U.S. now competes with its most formidable challenger since the Soviet Union. While the U.S. has been the preeminent Pacific power since the defeat of Imperial Japan, the Biden administration has elevated U.S. valuation of the Indo-Pacific's strategic importance--an initiative that the Obama administration priorly hoped to execute. It is crucial to clarify that the U.S. valuation of the Indo-Pacific is *not* one-dimensionally a containment strategy directed at the PRC (Beijing seems to believe this falsity). In fact, the upped U.S. interest across the Pacific is about employing U.S. human and material resources to promote economic development in emerging markets. And it is about strengthening regional arrangements, such as the QUAD. It is about bolstering relations with bilateral treaty allies in Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Australia. Overall, U.S. foreign policy is oriented on upholding the rules-based international order.

Post-24 February, the Indo-Pacific is not Washington's foremost concern *vis-à-vis* the rules-based international order. Russia's unjustified, irredentist, and illegal war against Ukraine has created a humanitarian catastrophe and shocked the international order. In the face of Russian aggression, the U.S. has shown leadership within NATO—a stark contrast from Trump's anti-alliance rhetoric. Washington also calculates that an unwavering response to Russian aggression is necessary to deter other potential aggressors, such as the PRC over the Taiwan issue.

The U.S. remains the world's unipolar power. Russia has exposed its own weakness, and the PRC trails economically, militarily, and in terms of “soft” influence. While the U.S. certainly faces exogenous challenges, domestic challenges may prove as problematic.

UNITED STATES in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (by Matt Olsen)

The United States of America is considered by many to be the foremost global power in international affairs. The USA's long and active history as a global power saw it rise from relative isolation in the early 20th century to becoming a main architect of the liberal international order following the Second World War.

Upon the rise of the USSR, the United States served as the face of the capitalist, democratic coalition of countries making up the Western Bloc in opposing communism during the Cold War. Eventually, the United States evolved into a single unipolar global hegemon after the dissolution of the USSR in the 1990s, and, while not quite holding on to the same sphere of influence as it did in the 90s, continues to host the world's strongest economy and military, and is a leading cultural, diplomatic, and scientific power.

The United States is a founding member of the United Nations, holds a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, and hosts the UN Headquarters in New York City. It is a member of the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (the latter two are based in Washington, D.C.), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the G7, G20, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and more.

Additionally, the United States spends more on international development aid than any other country, spending more than \$30 billion annually.

Furthermore, though the United States is an important democratic world power, its size, strength, and global ambitions have led it into numerous international conflicts and challenges that have shaped its history and the world's.

The United States played significant roles in both World Wars, including undertaking the first and only nuclear weapons attacks in history, against Japan in 1945. It also played a main role in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953, and the Vietnam War from 1954 to 1975, and took part in and initiated conflicts in Cambodia, Lebanon, Grenada, Kuwait, Libya, Iran, Panama, Iraq, Somalia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, among others.

Due to these conflicts, the United States has a mixed perception in the international affairs community, with many commending its commitments to individual human rights and freedom, while others equate its global activities with imperialism and aggression.

Even so, the United States maintains a foothold as a bastion of freedom and opportunity, as demonstrated by its 50.8 million foreign-born residents, and its continued attraction of international students, hosting about 1 million in 2019-2020.

Today, the United States holds on to significant global power but faces domestic threats from growing a growing political divide between the country's right-wing and left-wing politicians and their respective policies, and continues to face issues surrounding high levels of economic inequality and racial tension.

Matt Olsen