

We the undersigned scholars of international relations and foreign policy view the Trump foreign policy record largely as a failure. This administration has emboldened US rivals and alienated many vital US allies. Crises at every level have been mishandled, from the global Covid19 pandemic and climate change to slowing or containing national nuclear programs in Iran and North Korea. The United States, once a world leader, is seen as weak and disengaged by many leaders and in many [populations](#) across the world. The result is greater instability, insecurity, and human suffering. We need new leadership.

- 1) The US trade war with China increased tariffs, additional taxes [paid](#) by US consumers for imported Chinese goods. Meanwhile, the US trade agreement with China has [fallen](#) far short in raising US exports to China. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The trade war badly hurt US farmers, with the Trump government then [spending](#) tens of billions of dollars to subsidize them. When the United States badly needed PPE to fight Covid19, Trump's trade restrictions [hindered](#) its acquisition.
- 2) Authoritarian Russia [continues](#) to [meddle](#) in and undermine the legitimacy of US democratic elections while President Donald J. Trump denies it is a problem. The Trump administration seems to feel closer to Putin's Russia than our NATO allies.
- 3) North Korea has [continued](#) its nuclear weapons program despite the exchange of fawning [letters](#) between Trump and Kim Jong-Un, the North Korean leader.
- 4) In response to Trump's policy, Iran now [attacks](#) the United States in Iraq with greater frequency and has a more [robust](#) nuclear program. In addition, the United States is talking about [closing](#) its embassy in Baghdad as a result. This embassy closure – in Iraq of all places – would be an apt illustration of the weakening of the Department of State under this president.
- 5) US policy toward Venezuela has overpromised and [underdelivered](#), leaving Venezuelans even more desperate, the opposition divided, the Maduro government emboldened, and US credibility weakened.
- 6) The US Director of National Intelligence has dangerously [limited](#) bipartisan intelligence sharing. This latest example of frequent partisan manipulation of intelligence leaves fewer US officials to evaluate potential crisis and threats, damages relations between the Executive Branch agencies and Congress, and could create dangerous gaps for US rivals to exploit.
- 7) Rather than focusing the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on meeting external threats to US national security and on rising domestic white supremacist terrorism, the Trump administration has used DHS as a hyper-partisan weapon against immigrants and US antiracism protestors. This diversion of resources could well leave the United States ill-prepared should a foreign adversary seek to do harm to the United States and its citizens.
- 8) As deadly [wildfires](#) and [hurricanes](#) tragically remind the United States of the climate crisis and the increasing number and intensity of extreme [weather](#) events, the Trump administration pulled [out](#) of the major international climate agreement (the Paris Accords), [often questions](#) the scientific consensus that the crisis is human-induced, and offers no substantive alternative remedy.

- 9) In the midst of a global pandemic, the United States announced it was pulling out of the World Health Organization and failed to provide almost any global leadership to meet Covid19. The US domestic failure to get Covid19 under control is a model of what not to do but sadly one consistent with several other countries with authoritarian-style leaders.
- 10) The administration has separated thousands of children from their parents, detaining or deporting them and often failing to reunite them with their parent(s). They have been held in inhumane conditions lacking adequate medical care; this abuse and trauma is detrimental to child development. More generally, the Trump administration has physically prevented hundreds of thousands of people from making asylum claims on the southern US border in violation of international law. The administration deported individuals with positive Covid19 diagnoses, further spreading the disease. Meanwhile, the administration has nearly eliminated the US refugee resettlement program, a symbol of US humanitarianism and a welcome pathway for oppressed people to start a new life and enrich US society.
- 11) Racist and discriminatory policies at home, anti-democratic crackdowns on US protestors, and direct insults of Latin American and African countries embolden racists in other countries and further weaken the US ability to persuade other countries to respect democratic rights, such as [REDACTED]
- 12) In two key battles, the Trump administration has done no better than its predecessors. The forces of the Islamic State are rebuilding. Nineteen years later, despite diplomatic talks, the War in Afghanistan continues.
- 13) While the administration has some policies that did not fail, their impact was greatly exaggerated. The new trade agreement with Canada and Mexico was more an updating of the North American Free Trade Agreement than a whole new policy. The Bahrain-Israel-United Arab Emirates agreements were a modest diplomatic achievement but completely failed to address Trump's promise to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and may deepen a regional arms race.

President Donald J. Trump's foreign policy has already caused major harm. The United States can rebuild in positive ways, but a second Trump term would do even deeper damage to US institutions, diplomacy, leadership, and international norms. Countries such as China would continue to fill the vacuum. Instead, to increase US security and reduce human suffering, we need new leadership now.

Institutions are mentioned below for the purpose of identification only.
No institution listed below has endorsed this statement.

Karen J. Alter	Northwestern University
Ivan Michael Arreguín-Toft	Brown University
Robert J. Art	Brandeis University (Emeritus)
Victor Asal	University at Albany, SUNY

Severine Autesserre	Barnard College, Columbia University
Deborah Avant	University of Denver
Alexander D. Bader	Florida International University
Naazneen H. Barma	University of Denver
Michael Barnett	George Washington University
Marie E. Berry	University of Denver
Mia Bloom	Georgia State University
Joshua Busby	University of Texas-Austin
Charli Carpenter	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Erica Chenoweth	Harvard University
Anjali Dayal	Fordham University
V. Page Fortna	Columbia University
M. Taylor Fravel	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Charles Glaser	George Washington University
James Goldgeier	American University
Elizabeth Hanson	University of Connecticut
Elizabeth Shakman Hurd	Northwestern University
Ian Hurd	Northwestern University
Patrick Thaddeus Jackson	School of International Service, American University
Bruce W. Jentleson	Duke University
Robert Jervis	Columbia University
Sabrina Karim	Cornell University
Sean Kay	Ohio Wesleyan University
Jonathan Kirshner	Boston College
Gregory D. Koblentz	Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University
Raymond Kuo	Independent political scientist
Brett Ashley Leeds	Rice University
Sarah K. Lischer	Wake Forest University
Jeremy Menchik	Boston University
Barak Mendelsohn	Haverford College
Nicholas Miller	Dartmouth College
Jennifer Mitzen	
Sara Bjerg Moller	Seton Hall University
T. Clifton Morgan	Rice University
Vipin Narang	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Jeremy Pressman	University of Connecticut
Brian Rathbun	University of Southern California
Elizabeth N. Saunders	Georgetown University
Paul Staniland	University of Chicago
Jelena Subotic	Georgia State University
Caitlin Talmadge	Georgetown University
Zak Taylor	Georgia Institute of Technology
Monica Duffy Toft	Fletcher School, Tufts University
Dov Waxman	University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)
Sharon K. Weiner	American University

Institutions are mentioned above for the purpose of identification only.

No institution listed above has endorsed this statement.