

The Economic and Social Effects of Globalization on the Nation

Technology, multinational corporations, population growth, and the environment have both positive and negative affects on American society and the President of the United States is responsible for dealing with the many issues that are seen in American society today.

The Presidential Election of 2016

The **Democratic Party** had two candidates in the presidential race, **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, the former Senator from New York and **Bernie Sanders**, the Senator from Vermont. Despite Sander's campaign for a "**Movement**" that called for changes in the government which in turn attracted many young and first-time voters, Clinton won the party nomination.

The **Republican Party** had seventeen potential nominees in February 2016 and after a long series of debates, **Donald J. Trump**, a New York self-proclaimed billionaire, businessman, and television personality won the party nomination.

Trump was known for his **outspoken and negative opinions** towards Mexicans, immigration, women, the handicapped, some veterans, and Muslims. Many conservative Republicans expressed concerns that Trump should not be the voice of the party.

Democrats: Hillary R. Clinton and Vice-President Tim Kaine from Virginia
Republicans: Donald J. Trump and Vice-President Mike Pence from Indiana



Clinton won the Popular Vote (48.5% and 65,853,516 votes)

Trump won the Electoral Vote (56.9% or 306 to 232 votes)

Donald J. Trump became the 45th President of the United States.

During his campaign, Donald Trump made several pledges to voters and in his first weeks in office he tried to fulfill some of them.

Domestic Issues

- Repeal the **Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)**. It has not been successful as of today
- Have Mexico pay for a **border wall** , Mexico refused and the issue is still controversial today
- An Executive Order **banning Muslims** from six Middle East nations was signed. The Lower Courts halted this travel-ban but the Supreme Court upheld partial limitation in June 2018
- **Russian interference** in the 2016 election was suspected. Former FBI Director, **Robert Mueller** was appointed as Special Counsel to lead an investigation. Within a year, some close associates of the president were indicted, but the president repeatedly claimed that he had no involvement with the Russians. The report was released to Attorney General **William Barr** who stated that the president was found not guilty of collusion with the Russians. When the 400-page **Mueller report** was released publicly, large sections had been deleted. **Nancy Pelosi**, (D), Speaker of the House of Representatives demanded a complete report, the inquiries are continuing and the Trump White House did not cooperate with the legislative branch.

Foreign Issues

Donald Trump supported a policy of placing the interests of the United States before anything else. This often undermined the decisions of previous presidents.

- Trump's **first overseas trip** was to Saudi Arabia, Israel, the Vatican City and then to Brussels for a **NATO** meeting followed by a **G7 meeting** in Sicily. In early June 2017, Trump announced that the United States would **withdraw from the Paris Agreement of 2016**, an international agreement on climate change.
- An **airstrike on a Syrian air base** believed to have been used to store chemical weapons used against civilians was made, and a second strike took place in 2018
- From 2013 to 2018, **North Korean leader Kim Jong Un** continued to use the threat of nuclear weapons against American and South Korea. North Korea claimed that it had exploded a hydrogen bomb, immediately condemned by the United Nations. In April 2018, President Trump met with Kim Jong Un, North and South Korea made an agreement to end hostilities. A second meeting between the two took place in Saigon but ended abruptly with little accomplished
- **China** was a major target for Trump and his administration. He began to economically attack China by placing tariffs on Chinese goods. In response, China levied high tariffs on American goods. Trump was forced to lower some of these tariffs and Chinese officials began to negotiate.
- The goal of these talks with China was to attempt to reduce the **trade deficit**. Talks were held in both China and in Florida with the **Chinese Premier Xi Jinping**. The discussions continue.



Donald Trump and Kim John Un



Donald Trump and Xi Jinping

Globalization - The process of interaction and integration among peoples, companies, and governments on a worldwide basis. In economic terms it is the diffusion of products, technological information, and jobs across national borders and cultures that creates an interdependence of nations through free trade.

Since World War II, **multinational corporations** have emerged. This trend has helped spread American influence but can also be bad for the American worker who needs and expects higher wages than workers of less developed nations.

Other problems faced have been **federal prosecutions of corporations** such as Standard Oil, AT&T, and Microsoft for violations of **antitrust laws** and reduced competition in the airline industry, cuts that directly hurt the consumer.



The United States is trying to address a variety of issues affecting the nation in the 21st century.

Continued Acts of Mass Violence, Gun Control and Urban Violence

- January 2011, Arizona Congressional Representative **Gabby Giffords** was seriously injured in an assassination attempt. Six people died from gunshot wounds
- December 2012, an attack on an elementary school in **Newtown, Connecticut** killed 20 children and six educators. Since this event there have been efforts to end the sale of assault rifles.
- April 2013, a terrorist bomb killed three people and injured more than 170 at the **Boston Marathon**.
- December 2015, in **San Bernadino, California**, two domestic terrorists caused 14 deaths and 22 injuries when they attacked a holiday party at a government building. The terrorists were killed by police when they resisted arrest
- In 2016, over 100 people were shot, and 49 died in a gay bar in **Orlando, Florida**. The assassin was a native-born American with self-proclaimed ties to ISIS
- November 2017, 26 people were killed while attending a church service in **rural Texas**
- February 2018 was the **Parkland, Florida** shooting. 17 students and teachers died during the attack by a teenage former student. The shooting inspired a national youth movement aimed at ending school violence. **(March for Our Lives, #neveragain)**
- In 2019, a bill limiting the power of certain rifles was passed in Congress but the **NRA – National Rifle Association** remains committed to the rights of gun owners.
- **Random gun violence** in workplaces, malls, universities, and healthcare facilities remains a problem today



International Terrorism is also a major threat to the United States today. After the attack on **September 11, 2001**, there have been many other such attacks in places such as Spain, France, Great Britain, Germany, and the Netherlands. Due to globalization, international terrorist groups now have the ability to share information, money, weapons, and personnel.

Because of these terrorist attacks, **security concerns** have become a safety issue for the general public. Security at airports, bridges, tunnels, nuclear power plants, courthouses and other “target” buildings has been drastically increased.

Alternative Energy, such as solar and wind power has been increased dramatically due to scarce oil supplies and environmental issues. The issue of **fracking** (drilling with millions of gallons of pressurized water for natural gas) has become a major concern. **Nuclear Power** is still being used but the problems of nuclear waste and hazards at the power plants remains a key issue.

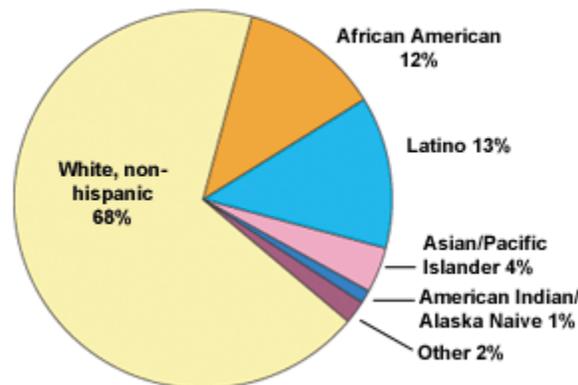
Computer Usage and the Internet is also a problem faced today, especially with privacy issues and “hacking” of personal information. In addition, automation and computers are considered a cause for job losses in industry.

Social Attitudes have changed since the 1950’s especially with the **size of a family** and the **increasing divorce rates**. The average family size has declined leading to a decrease in school enrollments. Divorce rates still remain high, creating the largest number of **single-parent households** in the nation’s history. Improvements in healthcare have increased average life spans, increasing the number of older Americans. Social scientists use the term “**the graying of America**” to describe the nation’s aging population.

The **Expansion of Public Education** in America has helped improve the nation’s **standard of living**. More young people are completing higher levels of education in the hope of securing better paying jobs and housing. In turn, this has created more **social mobility** in America as people are now willing to move to other areas of the country to find high-paying jobs.

An **Increasingly Diverse Population** is an integral part of today’s America. More of the newest immigrants come from **Asian and Latin American** countries.

Percent Distribution of U. S. Population, by Race/Ethnicity



Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000 Redistricting Data

Homelessness still remains a major concern today. Cuts in government and state social programs combined with high unemployment have caused a significant rise in the number of Americans living below the **poverty line**. Charitable organizations try their best but it still remains a key issue.

Environmental Concerns around the world have led to an increase in **Environmental Activism**. Organizations have been formed to promote a reduction and clean-up of air, land and water pollution, save endangered species, and recycling reusable materials. Since the first **Earth Day** in 1970, more and more Americans are trying to “**go green**”. In 2017, some members of Congress began **the Green Revolution (Green New Deal)** to focus on issues such as climate change and global warming.

The Paris Agreement of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change was signed by 150 countries in November 2016. The goal is to limit greenhouse gas emissions and halt the global temperature rises. In 2017, President Trump withdrew the United States from the agreement but since he left office, United States membership has been renewed.



Natural Disasters are both a global and domestic concern in the world today. Tsunamis, typhoons, cyclones, hurricanes, earthquakes and forest fires cause billions of dollars in damage every year.

In 2005, **Hurricane Katrina** made landfall on the Gulf Coast and caused 2,000 deaths, thousands of people were evacuated as their homes were destroyed. George W. Bush was president at this time and he had to defend a slow response from **FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency**. In November 2007 Congress passed the \$ 23 billion **Water Resource Bill**, with \$ 3.5 billion specifically allocated for areas destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

In April 2010, an explosion on an **oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico** created the worst oil spill in American history impacting the coastline and wildlife in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and parts of Florida. The environmental damage to wetlands, beaches, and wildlife was catastrophic.

Superstorm Sandy in 2012 caused 285 deaths in seven countries from the Caribbean to Canada. Damages were estimated over \$ 50 billion. Over 7,500,000 people were without power, especially hard-hit was New Jersey and New York where thousands of homes were damaged, many washed into the ocean.

After the storm, Congress was severely criticized for taking weeks to provide federal assistance.

