

TRUMP'S FIRST MONTHS IN OFFICE: A FACT SHEET

EXTENDED VERSION

In his first months in office, Trump and his administration have taken rapid action on a wide range of issues. His executive orders pose clear threats to our democracy, the wellbeing of many Americans, and the future of our planet. Many of us want to push back but feel powerless.

That's exactly what Trump wants.

So we made this fact sheet to distill the key issues, cut through the misinformation, and suggest steps that anyone can take to fight for our democracy. This is the extended version of our fact sheet.

EXECUTIVE POWER GRAB

The facts: President Trump's early days back in office have been profoundly shaped by "Project 2025" — the federal policy agenda authored by the Heritage Foundation and Trump allies. One of the key goals of Project 2025 is to maximize the power of the President over other checks and balances in our constitution, namely Congress, the Judicial system, and independent agencies. Although Trump attempted to distance himself from Project 2025—claiming that it would not dictate the agenda for his second term—clearly it already has.

Since taking office, Trump has made substantial advances on this destructive agenda. His key tactics are speed and volume: He issued 108 executive actions in his first month back in office, widely surpassing any president before him. In a recent executive order, he proclaims that only the President and the Attorney General "shall provide authoritative interpretations of law for the executive branch" usurping the power given to courts in the Constitution. Trump has also flirted with the idea of running for a third term, has quoted Napoleon to legitimize his lawbreaking, and referred to himself as "King." Vice-President J.D. Vance even called into question the legitimacy of the courts in stopping unlawful executive action. In a memo released on March 21st, Trump threatened to use the Justice and Homeland Security Departments to punish law firms that challenge actions taken by him and his administration.

Why it matters: These actions attempt to bypass existing checks and balances established by the Constitution, with a long-term goal of granting the President nearly unlimited power. Independent agencies have been erected by Congress for a reason—so that they can perform vital civil and government functions that fundamentally need to be shielded from partisan and political influence, such as overseeing elections. His tampering with these independent agencies serves to weaken them, eliminate independent voices, and force them to enact his directives, even if they know them to be unlawful.

What you can do: There are many pro-democracy organizations you can support that are making an impact. Examples include Indivisible and 505I which are both citizen led groups with local chapters. Together, they've organized some of the most prominent protests since Trump has taken office. Daily newsletters like Jess Craven's "Chop Wood, Carry Water" are helpful in sharing small actions you can take. Democracy Forward and the American Civil Liberties Union have also been at the forefront of legal challenges to Trump's destructive path. Common Cause is another great organization to support.

DISMANTLING THE STATE

The facts: In its early days, the Trump Administration created the unofficial “Department of Government Efficiency” (DOGE). Led by Elon Musk, DOGE has dismantled federal agencies without consultation or authority of the Congress or the Courts. One of the first victims was U.S. foreign and humanitarian aid efforts: The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), established by John F. Kennedy and authorized by Congress in 1961. Over the course of its 63 years, USAID has overseen global humanitarian efforts such as fighting hunger and poverty and improving health outcomes and access. Trump’s actions began in early February when a stop-work order was implemented, ceasing nearly all USAID programs. By March 12, a majority of the staff—7,000 workers—were put on leave or fired. By dismantling oversight and leaving a skeleton of an administrative body, lifesaving humanitarian aid has been “largely nonoperational.” These moves were justified by false claims about the extent of funding or inventing and misrepresenting programs. Slashing funding will lead to preventable deaths, hunger, conflict, destabilization of regions, and displacement. It represents only 1% of the US budget. Trump and Musk have attempted to dismantle other agencies both through orders calling for agency closure and massive layoffs. The list of agencies targeted includes the Department of Education, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Social Security Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (as well as six others targeted in the same EO) and more. More than 24,000 federal employees have lost their jobs. Thankfully, a new court order resulted in many being rehired for now, although this is not without massive chaos and confusion.

Why it matters: Gutting agencies and departments is not about cutting excess spending – most actions do not save costs. In fact, defunding USAID, the Department of Education, Social Security, and others will put Americans and American interests in serious jeopardy.

Let’s take USAID as an example: While US investments in USAID are humanitarian, USAID has long had bipartisan support because both parties are aware that USAID also advances American interests abroad such as reducing the spread of treatable diseases, reducing the risk of terrorism, and creating greater geopolitical stability. Gutting the Department of Education will also have severe adverse impacts on teachers, students, and the quality of education, especially in marginalized communities which were already underfunded.

While cuts to Social Security benefits have not yet been announced, decreasing the Administration’s workforce will lead to increased errors, delays in payments, and longer wait times. Over the recent weeks, it became clear that the USAID merely served as a guinea pig to probe how far Trump and Musk could go in dismantling public institutions. Once these programs are non-operational, it is very hard to reinstate them, even if court orders declare Trump’s motions illegal. All this serves to make public institutions dysfunctional, thereby further eroding Americans’ trust in them and enabling private corporations to swoop in and reap the benefits.

Some progress is being made to put The Trump Administration and Elon Musk in check. On March 18, it was revealed that Musk’s role in dismantling USAID was likely unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge of Maryland, Theodore Chuang, ordered Musk to reinstate access to the USAID’s computer systems for its employees in response to a lawsuit by USAID employees – including those who have been put on leave. Chuang agreed with the Plaintiff’s argument that Musk’s control of USAID violated the Constitution because officers must be nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate. Thus, the attempts to dismantle USAID exceeded the Executive branch’s power. This case will continue to unfold as President Trump intends on appealing it.

What you can do: First of all: Stay informed and speak out.

Regarding USAID: The Center for Global Development also compiled a list of the regions most affected by the USAID cuts. You can donate to humanitarian non-profits active in those regions.

If you are or know federal employees, encourage them not to succumb to the pressure to resign.

IMMIGRATION CRACKDOWN, ICE RAIDS, AND ILLEGAL DEPORTATIONS

The facts: Trump campaigned extensively on the promise of cracking down on illegal immigration. On his first day in office, he issued ten executive orders to challenge and reform the current immigration system, radically expanding legal authorities' ability to use force as a tactic to accomplish mass deportations. The American Immigrant Council has compiled a [detailed list](#) of those ten orders.

Trump also signed an order to [end](#) birthright citizenship and limit it only to people who have at least one parent who is a United States citizen/permanent resident. This order directly violates the Constitution's 14th Amendment, which guarantees the right to citizenship for *anyone* born in the United States--a right that was further upheld by the Supreme Court in *U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark* (1898). As of February 5th, this order has been blocked indefinitely and has also been challenged by democratic attorneys generals across the nation who have filed lawsuits. In mid-March, Trump asked the Supreme Court to [narrow](#) lower court rulings so the ban could begin to be implemented. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and deportations have continued since Trump's first day in office. So far, the [rate](#) of deportations is similar to Biden's last year in office, but Trump's tactics are [extreme](#). In early February, the Trump administration began deporting undocumented immigrants by flying them from the U.S. to [Guantanamo Bay](#), a United States detention facility in southeastern Cuba. In an executive order Trump claimed that they were preparing for this facility to hold nearly 30,000 people. [Since then](#), all of the people who were flown to Guantanamo have either been deported to their country of origin or transferred to U.S. prisons, but it's likely that the administration will use the facility again.

In an [executive order](#) released on March 15th Trump also made use of the obscure Alien Enemies Act (1798) to deport and detain Venezuelan migrants who he believed to have ties to the gang Tren de Aragua, despite [no evidence](#) of crime for many of those arrested. Those arrested were transferred to a "[mega prison](#)" in El Salvador where they will be held for at least a year.

The case of Mahmoud Khalil is particularly chilling. [Khalil](#) is a U.S. green card holder and was a student leader in Columbia University's pro-Palestine protests. Khalil was a vocal and active leader in the movement and there is no evidence that he committed any crime; yet, he was arrested by ICE agents and subsequently detained with the stated goal of deportation. He is now being held in a facility in Louisiana. This is an alarming attempt to stifle free speech and frighten people with the threat of deportation for simply expressing disagreement with Trump's agenda.

A proposed new travel ban for [43 countries](#) was circulated. The ban would be more restrictive than the one imposed during Trump's first term and would entirely ban entry from 11 countries. Most recently, Trump [revoked](#) the legal status of over half a million migrants from Haiti, Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua.

Why it matters: We should care about the basic rights of all people. Immigrants are a vital part of our society and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect as well as given the legal protections they are entitled to. Trump's crackdown on immigration is chaotic, disorganized, and dangerous. [Reports](#) of ICE raids where American citizens were detained simply for speaking Spanish emphasize that no one is safe. These racist attacks extend are widespread, as seen, for example, in ICE detaining [Native Americans](#). Trump's attempt to end birthright citizenship as well as the cases of Khalil, [Fabian Schmidt](#), and others emphasize that [legal immigrants](#) are at risk too. The majority of the American [public disapproves](#) of Trump's birthright citizenship order which stands to eliminate a right foundational to our constitution and national identity. Attacks on [legal immigrants](#) working and studying in the US on Green Cards and Visas will discourage tourism and dissuade foreigners from visiting or working in the U.S. Travel warnings to the U.S. have been put in place by [UK](#), with other countries likely to follow.

To speak more broadly, historically, the scapegoating of immigrants and othering of marginalized groups is a hallmark of fascism. We must do all we can to keep immigrants and all members of our communities safe.

What you can do: As a migrant, stay up to date on your rights and the system, and be prepared to seek legal council. [The National Immigrant Justice Center](#), the [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#), the [National Immigration Law Center](#), and the [Immigrant Defense Project](#) are good places to start.

As an ally, look for local groups that are fighting to keep your community safe for immigrants and see what resources they need or how you can help. Report ICE sightings in your community [here](#) or look for other similar local websites or community boards. Call or write to Congress, write letters to the editor of news outlets, host community conversations, and go to town meetings. Get involved with local political movements to make or keep your city or state a sanctuary. This [map](#) is a helpful starting point but these issues are constantly being renegotiated, especially in light of Trump's policies and threats to revoke funding. Massachusetts, for example, is widely considered to be a [sanctuary state](#) but governor Maura Healy has publicly argued otherwise recently, prompting [grassroots efforts](#) to solidify protections for immigrants. Similar movements and conversations are happening around the country.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has also several lawsuits to push back on this destructive agenda. To get involved in helping prevent this order from being enacted, call and write letters to your state attorneys general and consider donating and volunteering with your [local ACLU Chapter](#).

END TO GENDER AFFIRMING CARE

The facts: On January 28, Trump signed an executive order to prohibit gender-affirming care for minors. It includes inhibiting access to puberty blockers, the use of estrogen and testosterone, and gender-affirming surgical procedures. The order also means that federally sponsored insurance programs (Medicaid and Tricare) can also exclude coverage for such care.

This harmful effort was coupled with an executive order stating that the government would only recognize two sexes—male and female—as they are assigned at birth. This means that identification documents like passports now only have two options for gender (M or F as opposed to M, F, or X) and that those designations will be made on the basis of one's assigned sex at birth as opposed to their gender identity. Trump also signed executive orders to ban transgender girls and women from competing in women's sports teams and serving in the military. Most recently, Trump sought to end student loan relief for those working at nonprofits who work with transgender youth and migrants.

Trump's order to remove "gender ideology guidance" from federal government has also led important information about the LGBTQ+ community to be purged from official websites.

Why it matters: Nearly one in 10 Americans identify as LGBTQ+, and if you do not personally identify, you most likely have friends, family, neighbors, or colleagues affected by these rulings and their ideological fallout. These are purposeful steps to deny a significant portion of our society their elemental rights and freedoms. Removing access to therapies and even basic information undermines their struggles for self-determination, which will also threaten mental health in these populations.

What you can do:

As transgender or gender non-confirming adult: Stay up to date with resources like the Trans Resistance Network's Pink Unicorn Guide. Exercise extreme caution when asked to submit paperwork to the Federal Government, and when visiting Federal Offices. Protect your citizenship papers if you have officially changed your gender.

As the parent or guardian of a transgender child, seek out community support groups like Mama Dragons, for Moms. And prepare to get litigious: parents of trans minors, together with their kids and healthcare providers, have already filed a federal lawsuit.

As a healthcare provider: Stay connected to your networks of providers facing these challenges, and work together to advocate for gender-affirming surgery (Alex Sheldon, director of the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association).

As an ally: Educate yourself on the specifics of gender dysphoria, hormone replacement therapy (HRT), gender-affirming surgery (GAS), and other basic facts of trans and gender non-conforming (GNC) lives. Look to organizations like the Transgender Law Center, Advocates for Trans Equality and the Human Rights Campaign for up-to-date information, and support their work through donations. Make your voice heard politically, at the local, state, and national levels. Organize local affinity and mutual aid groups.

WAR ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)

The facts: In his first two days, Trump issued multiple executive orders to end all government Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs. In a memo released on January 21st, agency heads were directed to cancel any DEI training and close DEI offices. They were also told to place all DEI staff on administrative leave effective immediately. The Justice Department also ordered the end to all Civil Rights work. Over 8,000 government websites across agencies were removed, including an estimated 3,000 from the Centers for Disease Control. Some of these websites have since been restored but many remain offline. The focus on messaging has led agencies to remove anything they considered DEI related: Painting over a wall at the FBI which showcased core values like diversity, fairness, compassion, and integrity, firing multiple military officers for either being "too DEI focused" or for being falsely accused of being DEI hires, and inciting the NSA to cover displays honoring women and people of color in its museum to name a few. On February 14th, the Department of Education released a letter to schools warning that they could lose federal funding if they considered race in virtually any aspect of student life. The administration has sent similar letters to major law firms with regards to their hiring processes. More recently, the Trump administration has targeted a small program that seeks to diversify the faculty at business schools.

Why it matters: Trump has fictitiously blamed wildfires, a plane crash, and a swath of other government issues on DEI: scapegoating and distracting from the actual discourse needed to identify the real causes and solutions. This attempt to discredit DEI and twist its intent is meant to provide a rationale for Trump to remove qualified minorities from positions of authority which will continue to perpetuate racist and misogynistic sentiments.

What you can do: A number of large corporations have followed Trump's lead in purging their DEI programs, you can protest their decision by boycotting them – listed here.

In light of the widespread information purges on federal websites on issues like DEI, climate, or L.G.B.T.Q, you can join efforts to secure and archive information on digital platforms like Wayback Machine. Fight for DEI programs in your workplaces, local schools, and communities.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION & “GOING WILD ON HEALTH”

The facts: An executive order signed early into Trump’s term announced the U.S.’s withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO plays a vital role in responding to crises related health emergencies around the globe, tracking and treating the spread of infectious diseases, improving access to medical care and more. This exit would be of serious concern if there were to be another global pandemic, as the WHO coordinates international responses to disease outbreaks, for example, containing Ebola and polio. In a similar vein, the newly appointed head of Health & Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., has also been given license by Trump to “go wild” on health, food, and medicines, which is deeply concerning given his anti-vaccine rhetoric.

Why it matters: The U.S. is currently the largest funder of the WHO, so our withdrawal has serious implications for the future of the organization. Given the global nature of infectious diseases, its demise will not only be felt abroad but also domestically. The U.S. will also lose crucial access to public health data. We are already beginning to see the ramifications of vaccine skepticism and under-utilization. Diseases like measles, that were nearly eradicated, have resurged due to the vast amount of unvaccinated children. On February 26, the first death due to measles of an unvaccinated child in Texas occurred, after the disease was declared eradicated in 2000. As of March 14, a total of 301 confirmed cases across 15 jurisdictions, in Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma were reported, making it a national threat to those who cannot get vaccinated.

What you can do: Talk to your healthcare provider about future access to vaccines for yourself and your loved ones, all while staying up to date on vaccines during seasonal outbreaks of the Flu and COVID-19. Share information about the effectiveness of vaccines.

PARDONING JANUARY 6TH RIOTERS

The facts: On January 20th, one of Trump’s first orders was to pardon and commute the sentences of over 1,500 criminal defendants charged in the Jan. 6th 2020 attack on the Capitol. The now infamous insurrection attempt aimed to prevent the certification of duly elected Joe Biden while resulting in \$2.9 million in damages and 140 injured law enforcement officers. Offenders who made Nazi salutes, threatened lawmakers, committed unlawful entry, disorderly conduct, seditious conspiracy, and assaulted police officers, were quickly released back on the streets. Some found themselves immediately back in court over previous charges, while one was killed by an Indiana policeman in an altercation shortly after. Several Republicans gave weak condemnations of the pardons, with Lindsey Graham calling it a “mistake” on CNN and stating that pardoning those who assault police sends “a wrong signal to the public.” The Fraternal Order of Police and International Association of Chiefs of Police released a joint statement that they were “deeply discouraged” by the pardons, while D.C. Police expressed “dismay” over them. The public also disapproved, per a Reuters/Ipsos poll with 58% in opposition.

Why it matters: A shared belief in the legitimacy of our elections, and the historical norm and willingness for all parties to accept legally sanctified election results are the crucial pillars of our democracy. Trump’s break from this norm, and his continued unsubstantiated attacks on the result of the 2016 election, brought forth a severe stress test of our democratic institutions. Pardoning convicted felons--who have demonstrated blatant disregard for democratic norms-- based on political loyalty alone sets a dangerous precedent for our nation’s commitment to an independent and fair judicial system for all, not just those who support a particular candidate or public official.

What you can do: Be vigilant if any of these offenders were released into your community and report any suspicious activity. To stay up to date, The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has an interactive map of Oath Keeper members, and the Khalifa Ihlér Institute has an interactive map of Proud Boys and allied organizations’ activity. Inform yourself and organize local protests and campaigns to resist to expose their ideology. Work with your neighbors and like-minded community members to help create local safety networks.

SLASHING CLIMATE REGULATIONS

The facts: The “[Climate Backtracker](#)” by the Columbia Climate School has tracked 65 efforts to scale back or eliminate mitigation or adaptation measures. In his very first days, Trump delivered on his promise to “drill, baby, drill” by inventing a “[national energy emergency](#)” to justify increasing oil and gas production, while [eliminating support](#) for [expanding electric vehicle](#) and [renewable energy infrastructure](#). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also been one of the first victims of DOGE’s onslaught at federal agencies. Finally, along with cuts for [environmental justice](#) efforts, [climate-related research](#) at the “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration” (NOAA) is also under threat. On March 12th the EPA announced it was cutting [\\$20 billion](#) in grants for clean energy and climate programs. Trump appointed EPA head Lee Zeldin has also [said](#) the agency’s mission is to “lower the cost of buying a car, heating a home, and running a business.” The administration has now moved to [repeal](#) many landmark EPA regulations, such as wetlands protections, the implementation of the Clean Water Act, and pollution standards.

Why it matters: The climate crisis is already here and many Americans will be [severely](#) impacted as it progresses, which could cost the U.S. up to [\\$2 trillion](#) a year! Beyond the very real human and environmental toll of the climate crisis, Trump’s attempts to roll back the clock regarding the energy transition is doomed from the very start. Overwhelmingly, renewable energies are already more [cost-competitive](#) compared to fossil fuels. His moves will lead to rising costs for Americans, however, and open the door for other world players, such as China or Europe, to gain dominance over the industries of the future. All this will harm U.S.’s international power and economic power long-term, while causing devastating blows to efforts for addressing the global climate crisis.

What you can do: Join local climate activist groups like the Sunrise Movement and 350.org; citizen groups can be highly [effective](#), but always need more people power. If you’d like to donate to help research-based and data-centric organizations that are not giving up the fight against climate change, consider the World Resource Institute, Environmental Defense Fund, Climate Central, and Greenpeace, to name a few. Consider switching to a fully renewable energy plan, or even better, join projects like [community solar](#), where citizens take the energy transition into their own hands. Community garden or food forest initiatives are also fantastic ways to create strong local networks.

WITHDRAWAL FROM PARIS CLIMATE ACCORDS

The facts: Included in Trump’s onslaught of day one executive orders was the “Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements”. For a second time, Trump will withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, established in 2016 to mobilize a global effort to mitigate climate change. The move puts the U.S. in the company of Iran, Libya, and Yemen as the only countries outside of the agreement.

Why it matters: The renewed exit of the historically largest polluter is a severe blow to coordinated climate efforts. On the other hand, not being at the table, the U.S. will likely lose touch with the rest of the world that will continue to transition their economies toward a carbon-free future. Billionaire, Michael Bloomberg, announced shortly after his foundation (Bloomberg Philanthropies) will honor the financial commitments made by the U.S. as well as adhere to reporting requirements. Also, during the first Trump administration, a coalition of 22 willing U.S. states formed the ‘[U.S. Climate Alliance](#)’, who are now committed to upholding their pledges to the Paris Agreement and sending delegations to climate conferences.

What you can do: If you live in a state or territory that hasn’t joined the [U.S. Climate Alliance](#), write to your representatives to urge them to join the Alliance; this has the potential to especially effective in states with Democratic governors, i.e., Kentucky, Kansas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Finally, now is a great time to organize and to pressure leaders and representatives to fight against further climate policy dismantling.

TRADE WAR BLUFFS WITH CANADA AND MEXICO

The facts: On February 1st, Trump imposed 25% tariffs on products from Canada (10% on Canadian energy) and Mexico, as well as 10% tariffs on goods from China. The justification was to force our trade partners to better address undocumented migration and drug trafficking, despite the fact that Canada only accounts for approximately 1% of the fentanyl seizures and undocumented immigrant inflow. Both Canada and Mexico announced they would retaliate with their own tariffs.

On February 3rd, Trump ultimately agreed to delay the tariffs on Mexico and Canada for one month after widespread pushback. Trump claimed that he had won concessions, such as the appointment of a Canadian fentanyl czar, even though many measures were already in place. Meanwhile, tariffs on China went into effect on February 4th.

Since then, there has been on-off tariff chaos. Tariffs on Mexico and Canada that were delayed in February went into effect on March 4th. But when U.S. stocks declined heavily, Trump suspended many of the tariffs again on the 6th, before threatening to follow up with new ones on Canadian lumber and dairy, electricity, and cars. He has since announced global tariffs on steel and aluminum and started a trade war with the European Union, triggering a spiral of escalation. He has also announced plans for additional tariffs to go into effect on April 2nd. These plans remain relatively unspecified but include cars and agricultural products.

Why it matters: Threatening our partners with tariffs destroys long-built trust in economic and political partnership, bridges formed over centuries that could take as long to re-build. Europeans and Canadians began boycotting U.S. goods and technology, are refraining from spending their vacations in the U.S., and are vowing to “buy Canadian/European instead.” Other countries will also take note of these tariffs—and the volatility in Trump’s approach—and could shift trade to Canada and the EU. The current decline in the stock market signals great market insecurities produced by Trump’s tariff wars, and it is certain that Americans will suffer economically, already with higher costs at the supermarket, a projected rise in inflation, as well as the potential for a recession.

What you can do: Shield yourself and your communities from tariff-related inflation by strengthening local economies. Buy local and support local production to the extent that you’re able. You can also participate in The People’s Union USA’s economic blackout weeks targeting large cooperations that are complicit with the Trump Administration like Amazon, Walmart, or Target.

DEMANDING TO SEIZE CONTROL OF GREENLAND AND CANADA

The facts: Trump kicked off his presidency by disrespecting Canada’s sovereignty, suggesting they should become America’s 51st state, which Canada strongly rebuffed. Though written off as a joke by many at first, the Trump administration seems adamant that they want to seize control over Canada and Greenland. This rhetoric mirrors the imperialism of past, dark ages. His remarks on Canada follow the exact rhetorical playbook that Vladimir Putin has used to justify this attack on Ukraine: Trump has called the border an “artificial line”, denouncing Canada’s own national identity and falsely claimed that the majority of Canadians would like their country to become a U.S.-state. Even if Trump does not act upon this rhetoric, it emboldens countries like Russia to perpetuate their imperialism in Eastern Europe, further destabilizing the region. Trump has threatened Denmark with tariffs over Greenland, as he did with Canada over becoming a state.

Why it matters: These actions have led to Europeans and Canadians to boycott U.S. products and refrain from tourism to the U.S. All will severely weaken the U.S. economy, making everyday life more expensive for Americans.

What you can do: Boycott major corporations and big-tech firms that are colluding with the Trump administration, as well as products from Republican-led states. Support local producers and products by Canadian and European producers, instead. You can also show your disaffection by protesting this ill-conceived notion of American patriotism, like many Americans did during the Vietnam war or the Black Lives Matters protests.

CONTROL OF GAZA

The facts: Donald Trump has recently proposed the United States assuming control over a slew of territories ranging from Greenland over Canada to the Panama Canal, but most strikingly is his plan to take control of the Gaza Strip. In a White House press conference with Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, he claimed that the United States will turn Gaza into the “Riviera of the Middle East”. To come to fruition, Gaza’s entire population would have to relocate. Though there is no concrete plan in place, he has suggested that Jordan and Egypt should be held responsible for housing displaced Gazans, threatening to withhold aid to either nation if they do not comply. Egyptian and Jordanian officials are working diligently to reach a peaceful agreement, but Trump holds steadfast in his proposal.

Why it matters: Trumps propositions raise concerns not only of ethnic cleansing, which is a violation of international law. It will also likely destabilize the region for a long-time to come, strengthen terrorist and Islamist groups like Hamas, and put an end to decade-long international efforts to bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

What you can do: Although the President has the authority in foreign policy, we can still raise our voices to protest these outrageous plans and call our representative to put pressure on the Administration to stop these plans. You can support humanitarian aid in Gaza directly by donating to organizations like [Save the Children](#) or the [American Friends Service Committee](#).

UKRAINE AND EUROPEAN DISSENT

The facts: Trump capitulated to Putin during negotiations between the two without consulting Ukraine President Zelenskyy. Even before negotiations began, Trump discussed key concessions including Ukrainian territory, Ukraine being unable to join NATO, withdrawal of US forces from Europe, sanctions lifted off Russia, and for an election to be held in Ukraine. A few weeks later, he and J.D. Vance escalated a [White House meeting](#), wildly accusing Zelenskyy of “gambling with World War 3” and not being grateful enough, after which he temporarily [withdrew military](#) support for Ukraine.

Trump also falsely proclaimed that Ukraine was at fault and “[should have never started](#)” the current invasion of their country and expressed that the land that Russia has seized thus far is now theirs, asserting he could have made a deal giving Ukraine “almost all of the land.” He also falsely claimed President Zelenskyy to be a “dictator” with only 4% public approval, when in [reality](#), it is 57%. Moreover, the Ukrainian constitution rejects elections in times of war. Since, he has coerced Ukraine to provide the U.S. with the rights to extract critical minerals worth \$500 billion as compensation for previous U.S. military support, or else access to Musk’s Starlink satellite system will be shut off. The numbers are a lie, too: only [\\$183 billion](#) was given to Ukraine, much of which was spent in the U.S. domestically to produce weapons. As of March 17, the US Justice Department announced to European officials that the [US would be withdrawing from](#) the International Center for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. Europe has been appalled by the verbiage and action coming from Trump and his administration. The US voted against the [UN resolution](#) condemning Russia for Ukraine invasion, joining only Belarus, Sudan, North Korea, and other failed states. EU countries, specifically leading nations Germany and France, now seeks to gain economic and military independence from the U.S., and are contemplating alternatives to NATO if the U.S. further withdrew from international leadership.

Why it matters: If Trump hands Putin a win in Ukraine, it will destabilize the global world and motivate other authoritarian leaders to engage in imperialist attacks on what they consider their ‘zones of influence.’ Defending democracies prevents humanitarian crises and strengthens the alliance of developed democracies from an economic, defense, and philanthropic standpoints. By empowering democracies elsewhere, they prevent mass migration and contribute to maintaining world order. Trump is pursuing democratic destruction elsewhere, with J.D. Vance and Elon Musk vocally meddling in a democratic election by supporting the pro-Russian far-right AfD-party in Germany and pushing them on [X](#). With Germany now poised to form a centrist government, the U.S. will face though opposition to our confrontational foreign and economic policies.

What you can do: Share the truth about Russia’s War on Ukraine and do not let Trump and Musk turn fiction into fact. Boycott all businesses and products related to Elon Musk. Show your solidarity with Ukraine symbolically or [financially](#) by donating to one of the many supportive humanitarian groups or local resettlement initiatives.