

US GEOSTRATEGIC CONTROL OF SEAS AND OCEANS

To play a decisive role, trade, geostrategic/ geostrategy, a prominent part, to take control of, to tighten someone's grip on, asset, military deployment, **80% of the world's population lives within 100 miles of the coast, 70% of the world surface is water, 90% of global trade VOLUME travels through water.**

I/ US GLOBAL PRESENCE IN SEAS AND OCEANS

A-Importance of seas and oceans

Since the 1982 Montego Bay convention, to share, legitimate, illegitimate, legal, illegal, a strait, a canal, seas, oceans.
UN decision

B-US naval presence

Military bases in the Pacific for example, some fleets stationed near geostrategic places like the 5th fleet near Hormuz and the 7th fleet near Malacca. **Overseas facilities utilized by U.S in allied countries : Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, South Korea, Saudi Arabia....**

C- US PRESENCE IN THE GULF

1- The key role of the Hormuz strait

Key role, oil trade, **Hydrocarbons**, natural gas, Iran, Iranian threat, to threaten, **to blockade, to blackmail**, mine, dissuasive, to deter from, **a means of dissuasion or a deterrent. To put pressure on, to have control over**, narrow, maritime routes, tankers, **to deter someone from+ING**,

ABOUT THE ARTICLE STUDIED IN CLASS : Trump's USA wondered if it was still worth maintaining US presence in the Gulf as the Cold War is over. It is costly. But it ended saying it was worth it to keep control of oil trade, avoid **an OIL CRISIS**- to maintain power, hard power, hegemony, to secure

2-US PRESENCE IN ASIA

The key role of the Malacca strait

Official military alliances : Japan, Philippines, South Korea
Some partnerships : India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia
64 ships present in the region

Tensions in South China sea :

The Spratly Islands dispute:

A reef, a dispute over something, to settle a dispute. Oil and natural gas off-shore deposits, artificial, a busy route, maritime traffic, military infrastructure, artificial reefs, military purpose.

The OBOR or BRI program: the article explained:

- It could be seen as a **threat** by the USA but such a view **underestimates** the **Hard and Soft US** power
- It brings opportunities to countries **hosting** Chinese infrastructure as it is based on 4 trillion\$ investment (many countries could never afford this!)
- For OBOR China takes **advantage of** bad relations the USA has with Iran and Russia and plans to associate these countries into OBOR.
- The article suggested a **more pragmatic** and less aggressive strategy from the USA: there is a risk to push many countries into China's arms. It says it should focus more on economy and not so much on geostrategy and diplomacy, especially as OBOR encourages cooperation between states.

3-US PRESENCE IN AFRICA

a- THE AFRICOM PROGRAM : **it is headquartered** in Germany, started in 2006 and 53 nations cooperate to **strengthen** US security and cooperation in Africa, bring peace, **promote** common goals of development, health, education, democracy, and economic growth in Africa.

It is also to :

-stop violent extremist organizations like AQMI

-contain and degrade [Boko Haram](#)

-Stop illicit activities in the [Gulf of Guinea](#)

The article studied in class explained :

Trump plans to **withdraw from it** : his priorities are relations with Russia, China and Iran.

The USA now prefers **putting the stress on** business and trade as well as the fight against **overfishing** and protection of the resources ;

b- OBANGAME EXPRESS

Part of the Africom program to develop regional cooperation in Africa It's a partnership between American, European and African forces started in 2012. **To take action against, a trafficker, narcotics, drug-trafficking, piracy, Guinea Gulf.**

4-US AND THE PANAMA CANAL

A **shortcut**, a quicker route, Panama has full jurisdiction on the canal (1999)

Panama cooperates with the USA by:

-combating illegal drug trafficking and other criminal activity

-**promoting** economic, democratic, and social development

5- FUTURE KEY ISSUES

a-Routes to the Arctic :

melt, melting, icecap, to tighten someone's grip on, Russian presence, to grab an opportunity to take advantage of

The article about the USA in the Arctic said :

-The USA has started a **Freedom of Navigation Operation (FONOP)** against Russia

-Russia has **5 chokepoints** on the main route so it could block the traffic so It is a threat

b-seaborn/ maritime cables

PRISM, spying program, to spy on someone, the NSA, to collect information, the Internet, a tool, to investigate something, to track someone down, underwater cables

THE OBOR PROGRAM : China Belt and Road Initiative: One Belt One Road

It's a global development strategy adopted by China in 2013 involving infrastructure development and investments in nearly 70 countries and international organizations.

It is considered a centerpiece of Xi Jinping's foreign policy

Some observers see it as a plan for Chinese world domination for a China-centered global trading network

It built on the old Silk Routes.

IS OBOR OR BRI ONLY A THREAT TO US POWER IN SOUTH CHINA SEA?

WHY IS OBOR ALSO A MEANS TO COUNTER US HEGEMONY?

3-US PRESENCE IN AFRICA

a- THE AFRICOM PROGRAM

The United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM OR AFRICOM) is a [unified combatant commands](#) of the [United States Department of Defense](#), headquartered in [Stuttgart, Germany](#) and started in 2006.

It is responsible for U.S. military operations, including fighting regional conflicts and maintaining military relations with 53 African nations.

It aims to :

-

-

-

-

-

WHAT IS D-TRUMP'S POLICY TOWARDS AFRICOM?

Obangame express in the AFRICOM program

4-US AND THE PANAMA CANAL

It's the quickest route to the Indian Ocean : 30 days instead of 42. The United States established diplomatic relations with Panama in 1903 following its declaration of independence from Colombia.

The Panama Canal opened in 1914.

Since December 31, 1999, Panama assumed full jurisdiction and operational control over the Canal

U.S. assistance to Panama aims to ensure Panama remains a **secure, prosperous, and democratic country** that continues to work with the United States as its principal partner in the region.

They cooperate in many ways: combating illegal drug trafficking and other criminal activity, as well as promoting economic, democratic, and social development

5- FUTURE KEY ISSUES

a-Routes to the Arctic

The melting of the arctic leads to the creation of new sea routes as well as opportunities of exploitation

-for oil

-for fishing

The USA plans to grab the opportunity to tighten its grip on this region but it faces long-lasting Russian presence. (see article)

b-seaborn cables

The USA was recently accused in the news of spying on citizens through a program called PRISM

PRISM is a code name for a program under which the United States National Security Agency (NSA)

collects internet communications from various U.S. internet companies

This system uses maritime cables as well through the Atlantic and the Pacific.

Edward Snowden a NSA technologist revealed many classified files from 2007 and it was published on Wikileaks site.

Recently the US government vetoed the PACIFIC LIGHT CABLE NETWORK between LA and Hong Kong ! (fear of being spied)