

In many aspects of society, the United States seems to be in crisis.

Firstly, America seems to be experiencing a democratic crisis, accompanied by a great distrust of the elites and the American deep state by a part of the population. This democratic crisis was highlighted by the invasion of the capitol last January, following Trump's defeat and the claim that the election had been "stolen" from the people. This distrust is also crystalized by the conspiracy theory Qanon, popular with the far right, which asserts that there is a war between Donald Trump and the elites implanted by the government, the financial community and the media, who would practice pedophile, satanic and cannibal rituals.

Secondly, America is in a deep political crisis, with opinions increasingly polarized towards the extremes. Republicans and Democrats no longer speak from the same page. The two parties occupy different worlds, leading to increasing paralysis in government. The growing polarisation of American politics is both the embodiment of the flaws of the political system and the product of the growing social issues. Indeed, the United States is notable for the level of both territorial and social inequality. Poverty is more prevalent in the state of Mississippi than in New York, and African-Americans are more affected by unemployment. At the same time, households at the top of the ladder have seen their incomes soar. The richest 1 percent of the population has 25 percent of the income.

Finally, it is experiencing a major identity crisis and is divided over its history, education and cultural heritage. Indeed, the arrival of cancel culture has made it possible to debate the historical heritage that American society wanted to promote, notably with the debate on the status of the Confederates. This debate is once again indicative of political polarisation, as the tragic events in Charlottesville demonstrated. Right-wing supporters demonstrating against the removal of a statue of the Confederate slave general Robert Lee clashed with left-wing activists, resulting in one death and multiple fatalities. Another indicator of this identity crisis is the debates around critical race theory, taught at many universities and banned at others. The United States seems to be suffering the consequences of its slave-owning and segregationist history.

To conclude, it seems clear that the United States is in a period of crisis. However, it is a crisis shared by many Western democracies, in a climate of ecological emergency and economic tension.

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