**EN210412-26\_The US‘ place in the world**

**Part A**

When learning about the American Dream and its roots, you’ve heard about the US belief in their superiority, regarding themselves as God’s chosen country as well as their role of being a global “policeman”. But is this image really and still true?

1 Study the figures (cf. C1) on p. 114 in your textbook. Then outline the most important findings mainly focusing on the US (in comparison with the other states).

2 What influence could the facts (from the table) have on the balance of power in the world?

**Part B**

Let’s find out what people outside the US say about the USA as a leading world power.

3 Listen to the podcast “**The German view”** in which historian Michael Hochgeschwender is interviewed about the USA’s status in the world.

Take notes on the following aspects:

a) what the historian says about the status of the USA

b) his reasons for his opinion

c) his views on the future development of the US’ role.

*(Don’t forget to download the file before listening to it.)*

4 How do you perceive the role of the USA? Would you agree with Mr. Hochgeschwender? Explain why / why not? Is there something the historian forgot about or you want to add?

**Part C**

A lot changed when Trump was elected POTUS. Although his mottos *MAGA* (= Make America Great

Again) and *America First* seemed to attract and satisfy lots of supporters, opponents believed that with

Trump’s reign the end of the American era was about to begin.

Read the text on pp. 115-6 and do the following tasks. (*This also serves as exam preparation*.)

Content

1 Outline the writer’s argumentation. (**written**)

Analysis

2 What is the author’s general standpoint regarding Trump and his politics? (*notes*)

Mark up a few examples in the text where this becomes obvious.

3 Moreover, how does the writer’s position show in the choice of words / diction (p. 371) and the means he employs?

List examples for each category.

> All this helps an author / speaker to influence and / or to persuade the readers / listeners.

4 In conclusion, how persuasive do you find the text? Do you accept and agree with the writer’s views? (*notes*)

Text production

5 The USA has regarded itself as the “guarantor of world order” (cf. l.38).

Discuss whether the global community needs a ‘world policeman’ and whether America is the country that should accomplish this function. (**written**)

**Part D**

Dealing with political and social issues it’s evident that there is a type of text that each of us comes across

in the media on a daily basis – **speech**es.

1 First of all, study the materials (Selbständiges Lernen, 6.7 and SF 25 in your book) carefully.

2 It’s your assignment now to write a speech. You are expected to select your topic from the list below:

1 Living together in our multicultural school

2 The world is changing – let’s change with it!

3 The challenge of freedom in a diverse society

> Your speech shall take up at least **3 minutes**.

> Make use of a few rhetorical devices.

> Practice/rehearse delivering your speech.

In lessons or in a video conference (with the camera on !) you are supposed to deliver your speech according to common standards. Study the evaluation form to get more advice on the criteria that will be assessed.

Not only will you & your speech be evaluated, but there might be a chance of being graded.