

Chapter 20: Culture and Community in the Global Age: 20-4a The Future of International Cooperation  
Book Title: The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History 7th Edition Update, AP® Edition  
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## 20-4a The Future of International Cooperation

Trump's promise to "Make America Great Again" meant a turn away from international cooperation and an alienation of alliances that had made up the institutions of global governance since World War II (see [Chapter 17](#)). In short order, the Trump administration withdrew from the Paris Climate Accords, the Iran Nuclear Deal—a plan to prevent nuclear proliferation in that nation—and the Trans-Pacific Partnership. During his one term in office, Trump also cut funding to the United Nations, obstructed the World Trade Organization, threatened NATO allies with the dissolution of the strategic defense treaty, and withdrew the United States from the World Health Organization over his disagreement with the organization's public health measures against the COVID-19 pandemic (see [Chapter 19](#)). In November 2020, the presidential election of Joe Biden—a former vice president with over a quarter century of experience in the Senate—signaled a return to national and international institutions of governance, and a turn away from the nationalist and anti-immigrant politics of Trump, who tried in vain to challenge the presidential election results both in court of law and public opinion. On January 6th, 2021, when Congress was scheduled to count the electoral college votes submitted by the states, a large group of Trump supporters who had gathered at the request of the president overpowered police and broke into the U.S. Capitol with the intent of preventing the final vote count, forcing lawmakers to flee for safe shelter. This insurrection marked the first time the Capitol had been breached since the War of 1812 and is what prompted the second impeachment of Donald Trump. Trump was acquitted in the second impeachment trial, but the insurrection raised troubling questions about the willingness of the outgoing president and his congressional allies to end democracy.

The rising unilateralism during Trump's presidency was not the only challenge to the institutions governing a globalized world since World War II. Even before the 2016 election, the United States had to wrestle with their diminished ability to drive the international agenda against the growing influences of China and a third global political center—the European Union. Along with the economic recovery after the global financial crisis, nationalism resurged across Europe, Asia, and Latin America, combining the promises of cultural traditionalism with the mischaracterizations of international collaboration as "globalist" conspiracies against ordinary people. The Brexit movement in the United Kingdom (seeking that nation's withdrawal from the European Union), the authoritarian regime of Victor Orban in Hungary, the right-wing populism of Narendra Modi's government in India, and the aggressive deforestation of the Amazon under Jair Bolsonaro's government in Brazil are just the most glaring examples of the new worldwide popularity of unilateralism.

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