

Free speech

The erosion of free speech in the US

During war

- During WWI, people forced of disloyalty were forced to hiss the flag in public.
 - In 1841, Roosevelt addressed the four "essential human freedoms" : freedom for want, freedom for fear, freedom of worship, freedom of speech.

Freedom of speech and culture

- 1920s, artistic works with sexual themes were censored
 - 1930s, Hays code in the film industry (no nudity, long kisses or adultery)
 - 1940s 1950s anticommunist crusade hit the movie industry, they forced public libraries to remove Robin Hood

Free speech in campuses

- In 1964, free speech movement from the Berkeley campus
 - Over the last couple of years, "trigger warning" and "safe spaces" in US colleges

The rise of the cancel culture

- JK Rowling had harry potter books removed from libraries because she was considered transphobic from one of her tweets
 - A letter published in Harper's Magazine on 2020 with 150 intellectuals who denounced this worrying trend

About latest US elections

Facts and figures

- Largest voter turnout in the past 100 years - 66 percent of eligible
 - Early votings : 102 M voted prior to the elect day
 - J.-B had 1 votes than any other president (74M 1 69M)
 - J.-B the oldest president (78 y.o)
 - Kamala Harris : the 1st female vice-president
 - DT had more vote than in 2016 (63M - 69M) so isn't a "democratic accident"
 - The blue wave : Pollsters were wrong (like 4y ago), they underestimated trumps' supports
 - Mail-in votes were many (covid) and supported by J.-B

About the campaign

- The rise of QAnon (conspiracy theory with satan-worshipping pedophiles)
 - Supreme court now : 1 liberal and 6 conservative judges - In favor of Trump who had the supreme court demand recounting of votes
 - The "October surprise" : DT was tested positive for covid and a cluster in the white house
 - For primaries, Biden was unexpected but black voters helped

The open war between DT and media

- MSNBC, ABC, CBS, CNBS, NBC chose to cut away from his speech
 - Twitter, Facebook, TikTok flagged some of his tweets or blocked hastags

Fear of an escalation in violence

- DT's tweets : "to go to total war", "it's time to clean up this mess and stop looking like a banana republic"
 - Assault of the capitol

America and media

History of America, stand for liberty

- James Madison called America "The workshop of liberty"
 - John L.O' Sullivan : "manifest destiny" refering to the USA's divine mission : "to overspread and to possess the whole of the continent"
 - Those who stood in the way were called obstacle to freedom

Pro US bias in the media during the 20st century

- After WWII, USA was acknowledged as the "savior of the world"
 - During the cold war, USA was a bearer of freedom against the tyranny of the soviet union
 - Uniformity of opinion : Rupert Murdoch newspaper's support for the USA's invasion of Iraq in 2003
 - Business interest, promoting capitalism, free entreprise, free trade, etc...
 - America's soft power via a domination in the tech industry

America and racism

- 1916 project : (1916 is the date of the arrival of the first africans on America) for the 400th anniversary, they want to reinterpret history from black people's perspective (criticized of distorting history)
 - A bit of history : the Civil War from 1861 to 1865, won by the north with lincoln as president, when they won, they abolished slavery

Jim Crow laws : segregation laws. In the supreme court ...

- 1896, Plessy vs Ferguson : "Separate but equal" it made segregation legal
 - 1954, Brown vs Board of Education of Topeka : end of segregation in schools

Film references

- Gone with the wind : A movie from 1939 that puts slavery in a better light. There's put a warning in the beginning to prevent misunderstanding.
 - Statues of old American heroes that were pro slavery wanted to be dismantled
 - BlacKkKlansman : A movie that depicts the horror in the movement of the KKK.

Social media and privacy

- Cambridge Analytica scandal in 2018 : A whistleblower (Christopher Wylie) showed proofs that Facebook used the data of 87 million users was used to do research on how to influence votes.
 - Google dismantled its ethic team in 2021 because of a paper they published to warn about the usage of bad data to feed their algorithm.

Social media and fake news

- The Facebook Files scandal in 2021 : A whistleblower (Frances Haugen) showed proof that Facebook encouraged the spread of violent contents and fake news. [link here](#)

On the working place

Surveillance of workers (worst because of the pandemic)

On the environment