

The article discusses the first year of Donald Trump's second term as U.S. President and how it has been a notably disruptive period, although some developments were predictable due to his intentions during the election campaign.

One unexpected development is Trump's deployment of the military within U.S. borders, such as sending National Guard troops to major cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, Memphis, Portland, and Washington D.C., often over the objections of local authorities. This has raised concerns about the apolitical military being used in political matters.

Another surprise is Trump's pivot from focusing on China to the Western Hemisphere, with plans to expand U.S. territory, threats of military action against Mexico and drug gangs, and aggressive actions against Nicolás Maduro's regime in Venezuela. This shift could have global implications, potentially reducing U.S. influence and increasing the risk of geopolitical fracture and great-power war.

The article also notes Trump's control over his base and party, as well as his ability to assert dominance over Congress, bypassing traditional legislative prerogatives such as control of the purse strings and oversight of executive actions. This could lead to a shift in the balance of power within the U.S. constitutional system.

The long-term impact of these developments is uncertain, but they are likely to be significant and have far-reaching consequences for both domestic and international politics.