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## Auszug aus:

*Stationenlernen America first*

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|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Titel:            | <b>Stationenlernen America first – Foreign and domestic policies under the Trump administration</b>   |
| Reihe:            | Stationenlernen Landeskunde USA   |
| Bestellnummer:    | 70992   |
| Kurzvorstellung:  | <p>Dieses komplett englischsprachige Stationenlernen zur amerikanischen Landeskunde beschäftigt sich mit der politischen Kultur in den USA während der Regierungszeit Donald Trumps. Es ist unterrichtsfertig aufgearbeitet und für den direkten und differenzierten Unterrichtseinsatz bestimmt. Die Schüler werden befähigt, die Rolle der USA in der Weltpolitik und ihre Interessen während der Regierung Donald Trumps genauer einzuordnen und zu beurteilen.</p> <p>Diese Unterrichtseinheit eignet sich hervorragend zur Vertiefung der Thematik „The role of the United States in international politics at the beginning of the 21st century“.</p> |
| Inhaltsübersicht: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Didaktisch-methodische Hinweise zum Einsatz dieses Materials</li><li>• Einführender Informationszettel für Schüler</li><li>• Stationspass</li><li>• 8 Stationen</li><li>• Ausführlicher Lösungsteil</li><li>• Abschlusstest inkl. Lösungen</li></ul>  |

## Station Pass “America First? – Foreign and Domestic Policies under the Trump Administration”

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

| Station | Priority  | Name of station   | Finished | Any questions? |
|---------|-----------|---|----------|----------------|
| 1       | mandatory | History of “America First”                              |          |                |
| 2       | mandatory | Trump’s Vision for the USA                              |          |                |
| 3       | mandatory | Opposing Policies - The Presidential Candidates of 2016 |          |                |
| 4       | mandatory | Domestic Policy: Social Issues                          |          |                |
| 5       | optional  | Foreign Affairs and Global Stability                    |          |                |
| 6       | mandatory | Foreign Policy: Immigration                             |          |                |
| 7       | mandatory | A Presidency in Trouble: Ukraine and Impeachment        |          |                |
| 8       | optional  | The Environment and the Trump Administration            |          |                |

## Station 1: History of “America First”

*Donald Trump has used to phrase “America First” to describe many of his policies, both foreign and domestic. Though Donald Trump claims that he understands the phrase as a “brand-new, very modern term”<sup>1</sup>, the phrase actually has a very long history which is rooted in nationalism.*

1. Read this article which was published by the newspaper The Guardian: “End of the American dream? The dark history of 'America first' (by Sarah Churchwell, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2018; <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/apr/21/end-of-the-american-dream-the-dark-history-of-america-first>)
  
2. Fill in the chart with the missing information.

| Year | Use of the Phrase “America First”   |
|------|---|
| 1884 |   |
| 1891 |   |
|      | Warren G. Harding runs for senator using the slogan “Prosper America First” |
|      | President Woodrow Wilson uses phrase to defend USA’s neutrality in WWI      |
| 1916 |   |
|      | Klu Klux Klan uses phrase on banners at parade in Alexandria, Louisiana     |
| 1940 |   |

3. Comment on the following question: What implications does Trump’s use of the phrase “America First” have considering the history of the phrase?

<sup>1</sup><https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/20/us/politics/trump-resurrects-dark-definition-of-america-first-vision.html>

### Station 3: Opposing Policies – The Presidential Candidates of 2016

*Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump were the Democratic and Republican parties' respective nominees for the 2016 presidential election. But what ideas did these candidates stand for?*

1. **Who are these 2016 presidential candidates? Read the following biographical profiles, which were published on the candidates' websites. Take notes in the margin of any information you consider interesting.**

#### Hillary Clinton<sup>2</sup>

*Notes*

Hillary Clinton has served as secretary of state, senator from New York, first lady of the United States, first lady of Arkansas, a practicing lawyer and law professor, activist, and volunteer—but the first thing her friends and family will tell you is that she's never forgotten where she came from or who she's been fighting for. Hillary grew up in a middle-class home in Park Ridge, a suburb of Chicago. [...] Hillary's mother, Dorothy, had a tough childhood. She was abandoned by her parents as a young child and shipped off to live with relatives who didn't want to raise her. [...] Her mother's experience inspired Hillary to fight for the needs of children everywhere. Hillary's childhood was very different from her mother's. Her parents built a stable middle-class life. [...] On a trip to Chicago with her youth ministry, Hillary got to see Martin Luther King Jr. speak—this sparked her lifelong passion for social justice. [...]

After graduating high school, Hillary attended Wellesley College, where she became more involved with social justice activism. [...] After college, Hillary enrolled in Yale Law School, where she was one of just 27 women in her graduating class. While attending Yale, Hillary began dating one of her classmates, Bill Clinton. After law school, Hillary didn't join a big law firm in Washington or New York. Instead, she went to work for the Children's Defense Fund [...] This commitment to public service and fighting for others—especially children and families—has stayed with her throughout her life.

[...] On October 11, 1975, she married Bill in a small ceremony in Fayetteville, Arkansas. As first lady of Arkansas, she was a forceful champion for improving educational standards and health care access. And she and Bill started their own family when their daughter, Chelsea, was born in 1980. Bill was first elected president in 1992 and re-elected in 1996. As first lady, Hillary tenaciously led the fight to reform our health care system [...] In 2000, Hillary was elected to the U.S. Senate. [...] When President Obama asked Hillary to serve as his secretary of state, she put aside their hard-fought campaign and answered the call to public service once again. [...]

In 2014, Hillary took on a new role: grandmother to Chelsea's daughter, Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky. And this June, she welcomed her grandson, Aidan Clinton Mezvinsky, to the family too. Nothing makes her prouder or happier than spending time with them.

<sup>2</sup>Hillary Clinton. Hillary for America. Web. 22 Aug 2016. <<https://www.hillaryclinton.com/page/bio/>>.

## Station 6: Foreign Affairs and Global Stability

### *“LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD”*

The President of the United States has often been called “leader of the free world”. This term came into use during World War II and gained popularity during the Cold War. But what does the term mean? And why is it so controversial?



<http://www.freestockphotos.biz>

Do the following tasks to find out.

1. Use the Internet to find more information about the term “leader of the free world”. Then answer the questions below.

What is the origin of the phrase “leader of the free world”?

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What does the phrase mean?

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Why is the phrase often criticized?

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## Solutions

### STATION 1

1. Read this article which was published by the newspaper The Guardian: “End of the American dream? The dark history of ‘America first’ (by Sarah Churchwell, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2018; <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/apr/21/end-of-the-american-dream-the-dark-history-of-america-first> )
2. Fill in the chart with the missing information.

| Year | Use of the Phrase “America First”  |
|------|--|
| 1884 | California newspaper uses “America First and Always” to describe trade wars with the British |
| 1891 | “America first; the rest of the world afterward” is used as a slogan of the Republican party |
| 1914 | Warren G. Harding runs for senator using the slogan “Prosper America First”                  |
| 1915 | President Woodrow Wilson uses phrase to defend USA’s neutrality in WWI                       |
| 1916 | Candidates of both parties use “America First” as their slogans                              |
| 1922 | Ku Klux Klan uses phrase on banners at parade in Alexandria, Louisiana                       |
| 1940 | America First Committee is formed, which opposes USA entering into WWII                      |

3. Comment on the following question: What implications does Trump’s use of the phrase “America First” have considering the history of the phrase?

Some possible answers may include:

- Implicates that Trump takes on nationalist, anti-interventionist political positions
- Implicates that Trump has ties to racism, anti-Semitism → phrase used by the Ku Klux Klan, as well as other groups, phrase historically associated with racism and anti-Semitism
- Implicates that Trump does not believe in humanitarian aid
- Implicates that Trump has ties to extreme nationalism → phrase used by America First Committee

### STATION 2

1. Read the following speech. Highlight passages where Trump outlines his vision of “America First”.
2. Analyze how Trump tries to convince the audience of his message of “America First”. Take the structure of the speech as well as his use of language into account.

Donald Trump gave the speech at hand at his inauguration on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016. During this speech, he addresses his vision for the United States, which is that America should always come first in matters of politics. Trump tries to persuade his audience of this message by using provocative imagery and by presenting his vision as a simple solution to all of America’s problems.



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