

EPREUVE SPECIFIQUE MENTION
« SECTION EUROPEENNE OU DE LANGUE ORIENTALE »
Académie de Nantes

Binôme : Anglais / Histoire-Géographie

The United States and the World since 1918:
interventionism or isolationism?

Document 1 : “Ho Hum ! No chance of contagion !”



“Ho Hum ! No chance
of contagion”

Dr Seuss (1904-1991),

May 15, 1941, published in
PM Magazine.

¹Pox: vérole

²Mumps: oreillons

Ho Hum! No chance of contagion.

By Dr. Seuss

Document 2 : President Clinton's speech on Bosnia (November 27, 1995).

“From our birth, America has always been more than just a place. America has embodied an idea that has become the ideal for billions of people throughout the world. Our founders said it best : America is about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

In this century especially, America has done more than simply stand for these ideals. We have acted on them and sacrificed for them. Our people fought two world wars so that freedom could triumph over tyranny. [...]

With the Cold War over, some people now question the need for our continued active leadership in the world. They believe that, much like after World War I, America can now step back from the responsibilities of leadership. They argue that to be secure, we need only to keep our own borders safe, and that the time has come now to leave to others the hard work of leadership beyond our borders. I strongly disagree. [...]

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FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS : A FAILED INTEGRATION OF THE CONTINENT

Doc. 1:



Source: American cartoon, Kirk, 2001.

Doc. 2:

Mr. Chávez, who has tried to use the summit meeting to stage a showdown¹ with Mr. Bush, pronounced dead a free trade accord backed by Mr. Bush, the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Left-wing groups throughout Latin America have long opposed the agreement, and some governments want more generous terms from Washington, so Mr. Bush had come here with hopes of jump-starting the stalled negotiations².

President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, sporting a Cuban national baseball cap, told a stadium full of protesters that the free trade accord of the Americas was dead and urged resistance to "American imperialism."

With the two-day summit meeting scheduled to end Saturday, negotiators were still struggling to find language endorsing³ the concept of free trade that would satisfy both the United States, its chief booster, and skeptics such as Brazil and Argentina, who have complained of American agricultural subsidies⁴.

Source: Larry Rohter and Elisabeth Bumiller, *The New York Times*, "Hemisphere summit marred⁵ by violent anti-Bush protests", November 5, 2005.

1 to stage a showdown = mettre au point une épreuve de force

2 hopes of jump-starting the stalled negotiations = des espoirs de redémarrer des pourparlers dans l'impasse

3 endorsing = soutenant, promouvant

4 subsidies = des subventions

5 marred = marqué