

TO: Mr. Woods, Chief of Staff

FROM: Mariah Hart

DATE: March 2, 2021

SUBJECT: The majority of constituents want to see America first in foreign policy

I am writing this memo to summarize the differing views on foreign policy, as labeled by Walter Mead. I will provide brief descriptions of the four historic schools of thought in American foreign policy and how President Trump's foreign policy helped him win the Oval Office. At the end of this memo, you will be able to explain to the Representative where her constituents are coming from and, according to historical trends, what they may want from her in foreign policy.

The first is the Hamiltonian school of thought. Those who identify with this ideology believe that American foreign policy should center around the country's economic interests. This means making policy decisions that protect free trade and freedom of the seas. Today this translates into the desire for America to act as a global power to assure the country maintains the best trade opportunities.

Wilsonianism is based on the strong belief that America has the right and duty to spread democratic values around the world. American involvement in a global society is an essential part of their foreign policy. The main focus of modern Wilsonians is to prevent war and further American values.

Jeffersonians value liberty above everything else. They believe that America has a long way to go before the goals and ideals of the American Revolution are fulfilled and therefore

seek to defend values and traditions at home. Jeffersonians want a minimal government and that foreign policy is a necessary evil but will seek to be isolationist wherever possible.

Jacksonians make up most of America. They are focused mostly on domestic policy and greatly distrust the political elite. Their priority is the middle class and will do whatever it takes to preserve it. In modern politics, they feel very marginalized and fear feeling like outsiders in their own country. In foreign policy, Jacksonians are realists and believe that countries act in their own self-interest. This makes them wary of getting overly involved abroad and value domestic politics over foreign.

Former President Donald Trump used the fourth and most school of thought to win the White House – Jacksonians. Appealing to their general distrust of career politicians, he positioned himself as an outsider and vowed to put America first in all things. Promises to "drain the swamp" as well as his 2016 campaign slogan "Make America Great Again" resonated deeply with them. Trump was the candidate who was finally going to fight to bring America back from the brink of destruction.

In office, Donald Trump maintained a Jacksonian attitude towards foreign politics. He increased tariffs on foreign goods with the goal of supporting American businesses. President Trump also pulled the country out of multiple treaties, therefore further limiting U.S. involvement abroad. His general attitude towards foreign policy has been that other nations will bend to the United States' will, something that is very Jacksonian in nature.

While Jacksonians were Trump's most passionate base in 2016, his loss in the 2020 election shows some weakening of his support. The election was a close one, indicating that American Jacksonians are not losing power. They remain loyal and passionate even with the

loss of the Oval Office. Their voice and impact in politics will only continue to grow, with or without Donald Trump. When looking to appeal to her constituents, the Representative should take into consideration that the majority of America is Jacksonian.

In this memo I have summarized Mead's four schools of thought in foreign policy - Hamiltonian, Wilsonian, Jeffersonian, and Jacksonian. I then described how Donald Trump's foreign policy helped him win election in 2016. This information will allow you to advise the Representative about what her constituents may want in foreign policy.