



THE POLITICAL AND GEOSTRATEGIC OBSERVATORY OF THE UNITED STATES



Having just celebrated their 250th anniversary, the United States obviously still occupies a central position on the global chessboard. Yet this position is increasingly being challenged by China, while its historic allies, battered by Washington's aggressive policies, are now readily turning to other partners. Domestically, the country has never appeared so divided and vulnerable since the years preceding the Civil War. Political polarization has reached a peak, ethnic, cultural and religious tensions are multiplying, while movements advocating greater autonomy are emerging in several territories or states. Added to this are unprecedented frictions between certain major Democratic-led cities and an increasingly authoritarian federal government.

In response to these upheavals, the IRIS Political and Geostrategic Observatory of the United States, as it has done since its creation in 2023, provides in-depth analyses of the economic, social, political, diplomatic and military transformations under way on the other side of the Atlantic. These developments will be examined through policy briefs, conferences and videos by leading North American and French experts, in order to shed light both on the internal dynamics at work in the United States and on their repercussions for France, the European Union and the rest of the world.

A FRANCO-AMERICAN THINK TANK

With a permanent presence on the East Coast of the United States, the Observatory brings together a **wide network of U.S. and North American contributors from diverse backgrounds** (politicians, decision makers, teachers, researchers, journalists, and others), with the aim of offering a cross-analysis and an original perspective on the issues addressed, in full complementarity with their French and European counterparts.

FEEDING PUBLIC AND INTELLECTUAL DEBATE

The Political and Geostrategic Observatory of the United States aims to enrich public debate and intellectual reflection by providing new insights to public institutions, professionals in the private and academic sectors, as well as to the media and the general public, on the evolution of contemporary America and its impact on Franco-American cooperation, the European Union, and the rest of the world. Its work revolves around the publication of **analyses**, the **co-publication of books**, the **production of videos**, and the **organization of events** (conferences, roundtables, symposia) in France, the United States and Canada.



OBJECTIVES AND AREAS OF WORK

- Societal and cultural dynamics in the United States
- Internal political dynamics
- U.S. Economic policy
- U.S. Foreign policy
- The evolution of the United States' role on the international stage
- The future of U.S.-European Union relations

OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR



Romuald SCIORA

Romuald Sciora is Director of the Political and Geostrategic Observatory of the United States at IRIS. As a Franco-American essayist specialising in the United States and the United Nations, he is the author of numerous books, articles and documentaries, and regularly appears in the international media. He lives in New York.

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BRZEZINSKI BY BRZEZINSKI

As part of the observatory, IRIS is offering a series of previously unpublished interviews realized by Romuald Sciora with Zbigniew Brzezinski, political scientist and former national security adviser to US President Jimmy Carter. The series will be available from October 2023 on the IRIS website, with one episode per month.



IRIS

IRIS, a public utility association founded in 1991, is one of the main French think tank specialized on geopolitical and strategic issues. It distinguishes itself by its unique ability to bring together a research center and a school (IRIS Sup') which delivers diplomas. This model contributes to its national and international attractiveness. IRIS is organized around four activities : research, publication, organization of events and teaching.

The Institute covers a wide range of topics relating to geostrategic issues. It provides services such as studies, analysis notes, consultancy notes and training, for national public and private clients and for international organisations.

IRIS combines an ability to influence debates on international and strategic issues with key stakeholders, with the capacity to help the general public analyse and decipher geopolitical events through its media coverage, presence on digital and social platforms and the numerous events it organizes.

PARTNERS

The Academy of Political Science founded by Columbia University, the **Columbia-SIPA Urban and Social Policy Program** and the **Raoul-Dandurand Chair in Strategic and Diplomatic Studies** at the **Université du Québec à Montréal** are the Observatory's main academic partners.



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CHAIRE RAOUL-DANDURAND
EN ÉTUDES STRATÉGIQUES ET DIPLOMATIQUES