**The United States today**

The economy in the United States is the largest in the world. It represents a quarter of the world’s economy. Today there are financial crises in the United States, which has an enormous debt, large budget deficits, large trade deficits and a lot of money spent on military commitments.

The president of The United States, Barack Obama, says that the most important things to invest in are innovation, educating and building of infrastructure. This will create more jobs for now. In the future he means that this will contribute to maintaining America’s role as the leading country within power and prosperity, in competition with China and other economies.

The United States is self-sufficient in most raw materials, but not when it comes to oil. American industries have struggled for a while, and many workers have lost their jobs. The last decade the middle class has seen a decline in their income, while the very richest have become even richer. Education and health have become more expensive. There are huge health reforms going on just now, to make the system take better care of the poorest Americans.

The United States has since World War 2 been a dominant super power. Many times it has acted as a world police. Some people have thought that this role was good for the world and that it made the world a safer place, while others have not liked it at all. They mean that no one has the right to act as a dominating force above all others.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been very expensive for the Americans. Nothing has been done to propose a way to pay for the wars, like raising taxes or cutting expenditures. So the United States accumulated more and more debt. This has contributed very much to the financial crises we see today. Because of the great debt and the cost of the military actions , the government in the United States have decided to raise the taxes, which has been very unpopular in a country that is used with very low taxes, where everyone take care of their own economy. But more and more Americans see that with the financial crises it is impossible for the United States to continue spending more money than what comes in.

There is no reason to believe that the United States will stop to send military forces to conflicts that they are influenced by. After the attack on the World Trade Center in New York, September 11, 2001, the most important war the Americans fight is the war against terror, and it is nearly impossible to say where that war will be fought in the future. The invasion of Afghanistan happened because of the terrorist-attack in New York, which was made by the Al-Qaeda, which is a terrorist organization with roots in the Middle East, and with training groups in Afghanistan.

Because the United States are depending on oil from the Middle East, it is important for them to “control” and be “friends” with certain countries in the area which has oil. The United States role as a super power is depending on the fact that they need enough oil for military use, like weapon systems and military and civil production in a conflict situation.

With the many conflicts going on in the Middle East these days, it is hard for the United States to know if states they have been relying on still will have US-friendly leaders when the conflict is over. On the other hand, states that have not had a good relationship with the US, just might get leaders with an opposite view after the conflict is over.

The United States is the most powerful member of NATO. It also plays a great role in FN, but is criticized by other countries because it doesn’t contribute with enough money compared to the size of the country and the influence they have.

The United States also gets criticized because they don’t do enough for the environment case. Most of American politicians put economy far ahead of environment. When George W. Bush was president, he pulled the United States out of the Kyoto Protocol. Since that the federal environmental policy has been in hibernation. Some states have however enacted environmental laws, but far from all.

When it comes to music, movies and fast food America still has a great influence in all the world. In most countries you travel to you can buy Coca Cola or find McDonalds restaurants. Turn on the radio and you will hear American music. Turn on the television or go the cinema, and you can see American movies.

All in all the United States has an important role in the world. They are still “Big Brother” to the rest of us.

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