
**A MAN OF HIS PEOPLE, A WOLF FOR THE OTHERS? TRUMP'S
ADMINISTRATION POLICY, FACTS AND UNFACTS UPON THE AFRICAN
CONTINENT**

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<https://doi.org/10.59009/ijllc.2025.0156>

Received Date: 16 September 2025 / Published Date: 27 November 2025

ABSTRACT

In a competitive world where states have no friends, only interests, America, once a land of resilience, freedom, hospitality, and opportunity for all, regardless origins, or religious grounds, has taken a new turn never before taken by its administrations with trump assumption of office. With restrictive visa policies, stopped NGOs programs, customs tariffs increased, and restrictive immigration policies enacted, the Trump administration has been embarking on a reorganization of America's political and economic system in order to "make America great again." In the perspective to correct what he regards as being unfair trade, Trump has shaped a new worldwide tariff policy, moving from minimum to double according to the imbrication and the stakes and the ongoing issues that determine the relationship with the US. In doing so, in this paper, we mean to demonstrate how emigration and customs policies are impacting and will continue to impact African economies that have, so far, been dependent on support from NGOs such as USAID and many other socio-media structures that draw their funding from the generosity of the US government.

Keywords: Administration, Policy, Trump, Taxes, NGO's, Media, Tariff.

1. INTRODUCTION

Elected as the 47th president of the USA, Donald Trump took over from a democrat president to map out a program based on the philosophies of "FIGHT." "AMERICA TO AMERICANS" and "MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN" With the ultimate goal of restoring America to its former role as the world's sheriff, in a unipolar world whose progress and vision would emanate from a single power. Donald Trump has taken it upon himself to dismantle globalist policies and conformism in international law in order to raise America above all its major rivals, such as China and Russia. Thus, from the outset of his term, he has strived to implement a hostile and uncompromising policy on immigration. Still in its quest to regain unrivaled political, economic, and military strength, Trump's America has been redefining customs tariffs with many countries around the world. From Europe to Asia, including Africa, the US is signaling a change of direction to correct what they believe to be the inherent flaws in the American economy.

In this reflection, we will therefore endeavor to address the issue of the meaning and impact of these measures on the African continent. What are the concrete effects of the Trump administration's migration policy on Africa? What are the effects of tariffs on African economies? What are the prospects for a response from the African continent to curb family and community tragedies? To do this, we will draw on the theory of *random and negative*

utilitarianism defined by R.N. Smart in 1958 as the “reduction of suffering without seeking to maximize happiness” (R. N. Smart 1958, 542). In his vision of restoring America’s greatness, Donald Trump seeks to minimize the suffering of the American people. And this must be achieved by denying happiness to foreigners who are strangely believed to be happy on American soil. We will first address the question of the thorny issue of deportations and the backflow of undocumented immigrants in the US, before turning our attention to customs tariffs and their impact on African economies.

From Immigration to Deportation

Elected on the basis of a nationalist political and economic platform, President Trump was not mistaken to make immigration one of his major assets in his bid to “Make America Great Again.” As a result, the lowly people who came to dream the American dream without legal papers now find themselves caught up in the nightmare of deportation to the countries they fled to escape poverty, conflict, stigmatization, etc. The America they cherished as a land of exile, opportunity, freedom, and justice has mistreated them and expelled them like dirt, sometimes to foreign countries such as Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, and Estewani, which for one reason or another, has agreed to welcome back those who are portrayed as migratory trash by a nationalist regime. However, it should be noted that this deportation policy is not without consequences for the US economy.

Furthermore, the fear and trauma experienced by migrants’ families remain a tragic consequence. Often with little room for maneuver in terms of their daily survival, the families of emigrants can only rely on remittances from their sons and daughters to make ends meet. As a result, their deportation of the latter from host countries such as the US not only kills one person’s dream, but also the hope of an entire family or even an entire community. In fact, deported emigrants, very often, return to their countries with a sense of failure. This leads them to wallow in negative thoughts that can have debilitating psychological effects and sometimes even suicidal tendencies. There are hundreds, even thousands, of these unfortunate deported or soon-to-be-deported emigrants waiting the deportation hallway; as shown in the table above.

The list of nationals by country

Country	Number of People to be deported	Country	Number of People to be deported	Country	Number of People to be deported
Algeria	306	Ethiopia	1713	Namibia	19
Angola	662	Gabon	60	Niger	642
Benin	102	Gambia	1035	Nigeria	3690
Botswana	12	Germany	571	Rwanda	338
Burkina Faso	303	Ghana	3228	Sao Tome and Principe	1
Burundi	462	Guinea	1897	Senegal	1689
Cameroun	1736	Guinea Bissau	48	Seychelles	4

Country	Number of People to be deported	Country	Number of People to be deported	Country	Number of People to be deported
Cap-Vert	314	Côte d'Ivoire	1224	Sierra Leone	1563
Centrafrique	82	Kenya	1282	Somalia	4090
Chad	169	Lesotho	11	South Africa	379
Comoros	3	Liberia	1563	South Sudan	136
Congo	795	Libya	89	Soudan	1012
DRC	1068	Madagascar	5	Tanzania	301
Djibouti	29	Malawi	56	Uganda	393
Egypte	1461	Mali	929	Togo	427
Equatorial Guinea	20	Mauritania	3822	Tunisia	160
Erithrea	973	Mauritius	15	Zambia	174
Eswatini	6	Marocco	495	Zimbabwe	545

Source : U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

With thousands of people targeted for repatriation, Africa will be forced to set up reception and support structures to assist these citizens of its American diaspora. This will require budgets and social programs that will unfortunately add to the already bleak and worsening picture of public spending. The financial windfalls that the continent received from its emigrants, will shrink, if not dry up altogether, resulting in a significant loss of foreign currencies for developing countries. All these people condemned to deportation will leave Africa bereft of extremely important sources of incomes. What's more, the conditions of deportation strip them of all dignity and paint them as subhuman, whose only sin is to have nurtured the dream and hope of a better life. Policies such as forced deposits and new ICE rules (requiring physical travel to reunite with minor children, etc.) have been triggering fear, delays in family reunions, and arrests during interviews (AP News). Indeed, in Texas, an atmosphere of insecurity prevails: undocumented immigrants fear checks at any time, avoid public spaces and schools, and some carry their original documents with them for fear of being deported (RFI). Studies show that parent-child separation leads to an increased risk of PTSD, toxic stress, and lasting emotional and cognitive disorders in children.

“Protecting the American People Against Invasion” (<https://www.whitehouse.gov>) gives judicial authorities the power to deport any undocumented migrants without a court hearing. With the reactivation of programs such as “*Remain in Mexico*”, asylum requests made by emigrants are processed internally before being sent to the US. Furthermore, deportations from places of worship, such as churches and mosques, and workplaces such as farms, fields, hospitals, businesses, restaurants, etc., demonstrate, if proof were needed, the disrespect and

cynicism of an exclusionary and inhumane policy. As a result, “between January 20 and April 29, 2025, more than 140,000 people were deported” from US territory. (UN News <https://news.un.org › story › 2025/05>) accessed on September 12, 2025. The speed of deportation of migrants, which does not take into account socio-professional status, age, race, gender, or origin, is draining the United States of a certain active part of the country’s economic fabric. It goes without saying that, through such social policies, the US is isolating itself, closing in on itself, and shifting from *American Dream* for everyone” to American nightmare for undocumented foreigners.

The land of Miss Liberty, with a torch that illuminates and welcomes the world’s misery, granting dreams of greatness and success to those who seek them, is straying into a logic of every man for himself and America for Americans. Freedom is losing its fertile ground and turning into freedom-killing, ignoring the cries and distress of exiles, undocumented migrants who have set foot on American soil with the hope of building better lives and futures. The America of all becomes the America without all. Uncle Sam’s world is collapsing at the feet of protectionism and nationalism. It is no longer the land of impossible dreams, but the land of widespread deportations, sometimes with a heavy dose of racism and ruthless humanity.

America, the land of immigrants’ *par excellence*, is seeing walls erected along its borders with countries such as Mexico. Its gateways, once places of relief and new beginnings for broken, disoriented men and women, are becoming places of deprivation, family separations, and temporary resettlements. These are exclusive spaces where the “I” prevails over the “WE” in the name of singularity and state individualism. Human rights are transformed into *rights* to dehumanization and despair. They become the untouchables, the damned of misery and destitution. In fact, the displaced persons are no longer seen as “individuals who choose the best option for themselves from among the alternatives available, even if constraints and structures limit their choices (Haug, 2008),” but as foreigners whose presence in the US is detrimental to the tranquility of Americans and the development of America. Their cheerfulness and blandness disappear in the dishonor of captivity and repression. The “*economic differential*” enjoyed by America translates into a macabre lure for migrant peoples, particularly for Africans who are in constant search of social salvation. This isolationist policy is most evident in the tax measures applied to American trade with other Asian, African, European, and South American nations.

Taxes Policies and NGOs Deletion, a Bottleneck for African Economies

Tax is defined by *Britannica* as an “imposition of compulsory levies on individuals or entities by governments.” Such a definition is full enacted by the Trump Second Administration who has embarked on a tariff war with Western countries, and the Africa continent, which is clearly disadvantaged and handicapped by such a policy in every respect. Actually, according to ITUC/CIS Africa, the Trump administration imposed a 31% tax on South Africa after ending the AGOA program. And as if that weren’t enough, the automotive sector is now facing an additional 25% tax. This led to a drastic 85% drop in South African exports to the United States in May 2025. (Financeinafrica.com). As a result, Africa’s second-largest economy finds itself into troubled waters with the world’s leading economic power. This represents a loss of revenue for both South Africa and the United States. Indeed, a tax policy like the one pursued by the Trump administration cannot but weaken the economic growth of African countries namely South Africa, whose exports of vehicles, precious metals such as gold and diamonds, and fruit products will be seriously affected, resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs.

Indeed, the economic consequences are becoming apparent in the citrus fruit industry, which employs 35,000 workers according to Apnews.com. An increase in the price of citrus

fruits would lead to a loss of competitiveness for this industry and a significant loss of market share to countries such as Mexico and Chile. Next to South Africa is Lesotho, which has imposed 50% taxes on textiles, which remain a mainstay of the economy of Africa's smallest country. Thus, the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which until now has offered the above-mentioned countries preferential exports without customs duties, is being neutralized by the fury of new taxes that are stifling developing countries. Indeed, "the capacity of the state (USA) to collect higher levels of taxes from direct levies versus taxes on trade, and so on" (Ashley J. Tellis *et al.*, 2000, p10) may stifle wealth-producing sectors such as mining, textiles, precious stones, etc. in Africa. It is clearly noticeable that Trump's Administration is not blurred by an "emphasized [...] necessity of alliances, partnerships, and institutions", (September 2002), but much more by "pursuing American interests within cooperative relationships" (Hillary Clinton, 2007)

Continuing with its policy of moving away from a bilateral trade system with the US as the main partner for many countries, the Trump administration is targeting Madagascar with 47%, Angola with 32%, Morocco with 10%, Botswana with 37%, and Nigeria with 14%, according to Aljazeera.com. The undeniable consequences that automatically derive from such a policy are wrapped around the decrease in exports, employment, and job losses in the mining, textile, and agriculture sectors in many African countries.

The macroeconomic situation of some African countries has been profoundly affected by the unsustainable taxes imposed by the Trump administration's orientation which "is based on a form of political-economic management" (Alexander T. J. Lennon and Amanda Kozlowski, 2008, 290), that aims to rebalance the US economic relations with the rest of the world. Actually, the current administration is becoming increasingly cautious and demanding in their dealings with the African continent, which finds itself under serious threat to the sustainability of its trade balances. This trade situation must, in fact, prompt African leaders to step up their efforts to bring about the African Continental Free Trade Area. The ZELECAF a market of more than 1.3 billion consumers, would facilitate Africa's economic integration and, at the same time, boost its economic development by strengthening inter-African trade.

Indeed, with its mineral and energy resources, arable land, and forestry potential, Africa could reduce its trade deficits by strengthening its internal trade and removing customs barriers, pooling raw materials and technological advances.

The imbalance caused by the Trump administration's tariffs can only be resolved in the long term through unity and cooperation among Africans of all stripes. Trading between African states and meeting each other's needs and demands before opening up to the outside world seems to be a winning strategy for the African continent in both time and space.

The job losses caused by the decline in exports from African countries to America can be partially offset by the opening of a market that is as large as, if not larger than, China's. The desired and reinforced diversification of trading partners would enable Africa to shake off the West's tragic stranglehold on countries that are individually weak in every respect. Africa's strength lies not in negotiating with America for lower tariffs, but in its ability to unite for a common market and a single currency that would make its economies stable, strong, and competitive.

Likewise, considered a power in its own right, the press plays a key role in the political and economic life of a country. America, in its policy of spreading and imposing its dominance internationally, had put in place a number of media outlets to make its voice heard around the world. It was in this context that international media outlets such as Fox News, CNN, and VOA, etc. were born. The latter effectively conveyed the image and voice of America,

especially in Africa, but was shut down by the Trump administration, which considered it more expedient to cut back on the soft power of American foreign policy than to play the card of America's geostrategic presence. us 1. Removal of VOA (Voice of America) in Africa

Indeed, VOA, which had long been the sound of America on the move in Africa and around the world, had built an image, reputation, and status in the continent's media environment. Its linguistic diversity, broadcasting news in a multitude of local languages, and its focus on key areas such as education, politics, economics, and health had made this media outlet a model of integrity and reliability in the African media landscape. As one of the most reliable media outlets in Africa, VOA was meant to provide information that was perceived as more objective, particularly on Human Rights, democracy, and governance. It was a tool of influence for promoting democratic values and American cultural features.

The removal of such a media voice in Africa, not only appeared as a sign of "hard-headed internationalism" (Clinton, 2007), but rang as deafening sound that has led to a heavy silence in the dissemination of news and the loss of a reliable source of political, economic, and social information for ordinary African citizens seeking accurate and truthful information. What's more, many African journalists who worked in partnership with VOA found themselves unemployed overnight. Furthermore, the removal of VOA leaves a rather interesting media void that could undoubtedly be coveted by other foreign powers such as China, Russia, Turkey, etc. in Africa.

Like VOA, USAID, another arm of American soft power in Africa and the rest of the world, has been shut down by the Trump administration. As an NGO working on development issues by promoting areas of sovereignty such as training, education, energy, and others, USAID had flown the flag for the fight against AIDS and STDs with tangible results in countries such as South Africa. Its impact on the struggle against tropical diseases and health crises in Africa is well established. Its interventions to curb famine in countries suchlike Chad, Burkina Faso, and South Sudan are noteworthy. For this reason, the Trump administration's closing down of USAID may lead to a resurgence of diseases such as Malaria, Tuberculosis, etc.

The disappearance of USAID from the global socio-political scene may indirectly strengthen the influence and soft power of military and economic powers such as China, Russia, and Turkey, countries that could fill the void with less attention to good governance and Human Rights. The presence of these economic powers could divert Africa away from the West and bring it closer to economic partners, thereby upsetting the balance of international strategic relations.

The Trump administration's fiscal policy may have serious consequences that can disrupt global trade, with an increase in the prices of manufactured goods and the relocation of highly profitable companies. In African countries, the situation might be even more difficult. Exports of raw materials, textiles, and maritime goods will decline, leading to job losses, price volatility, and a threat to Africa's full integration into the international trade network.

2. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it must be said that Trump's exclusionary policy has taken America from "America first" to "Americans only." "Such a U.S. go-it-alone approach" (Lennon &

Kozlowski, 2008, 290) has turned the American dream into a kind of disillusionment for all those who believed in the values of freedom and equality coined into the American democracy. The deportation of undocumented migrants in the most inhumane and degrading manners ever seen or implemented in American history, gives the Trump's administration the status of an extremist right-wing actor with racist and xenophobic overtones. The consequences of such a policy affect the African continent in many ways. Indeed, the mass repatriation of Africans will dry up an important source of foreign currencies revenue for the continent, given that the annual flow of remittances from the diaspora is often greater than official development assistance in countries such as Senegal.

Customs tariffs, which have doubled or even more for some African states, will certainly lead to job losses and slow down the recruitment process in most affected sectors in countries such as South Africa in the automotive sector, Lesotho in the cotton industry, Nigeria in oil resources and derivatives, and Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in the coffee and cocoa sectors. Furthermore, the disappearance of certain NGOs like USAID has led to the cessation of many socio-educational programs in countries such as Senegal, including health programs, with tragic consequences for the fight against AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis in South Africa, etc

The silence of media outlets such as VOA deprives the continent of an unambiguous voice in the media landscape; a voice that made audible the complicit silence of certain media outlets that focus more on the advantages of colluding with political powers than on providing true and accurate information. Ultimately, Trump's America is distancing itself from everything that constituted the foundation of its soft power, thereby inflicting political, economic, and social blows that are highly damaging to the African continent, which definitely needs to find or rediscover its salvation in a common policy of union and unity in order to further its dream of greatness and development.

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