



Research Paper

## In the framework of the release of the United States National Security Strategy (NSS) 2017, an analysis of Donald Trump's strategic policies and expectations

Celal Sakka

Girne American University

Faculty of Political Sciences, Politics and International Studies, Girne, Mersin 10, Turkey

ORCID ID - 0000-0002-7874-6035

Ersoy Önder

Asst.Prof.Dr.Girne American University

Faculty of Political Sciences, Politics and International Studies, Girne, Mersin 10, Turkey

ORCID ID - 0000-0002-2873-2700

**ABSTRACT:** All of the presidents of the United States of America (U.S.A.) who have taken chances in administering the presidential offices in Washington have always had strategic visions of their country's national security, enabling them to create their foreign affairs strategies and implemented them during their tenure. The National Security Strategy (NSS) is the result of 11 months of work and could be easily traced from the abroad visits that were conducted by the United States (U.S.) President Trump months before the publishing of the NSS document by his administration. Many international relations scholars and diplomats interested in U.S. foreign policies worldwide were waiting for the version of the NSS document to be released. There are various points, and aspects in the NSS that act as a guide or even could be inspiring, setting the bases of other countries' strategies. In contrast, some states could reshape their foreign policies and take precautions or even, in some cases, retaliate to the United States. When the U.S. emphasized 'America First,' it was to re-emphasize and state the nationalistic and patriotic sentiments claiming that the US will always be the leader prevailing on other countries, so privileging its nationals worldwide. In line with this, using such terms as 'America First' in a country's national strategic document could be adopted and applied by other countries in their own national security strategy documents. This article analyses the NSS 2017 in line with the strategic vision and approaches of Donald Trump's policies and expectations. Also, it addresses the strategies of US National Strategic Security, the transformations of U.S. diplomatic attitudes after the commencement of Trump administration, the changes in the world order system with the emergence of regional and superpowers. To outline the bases and priorities of the US foreign policy, a statistical analysis of countries, organizations, and critical term names and how many times they were mentioned in the NSS 2017 were studied. Such an analysis gives an idea of the cornerstone highlights and priorities of the released document and examines how the regional dynamics influenced the balance of power in the world, leading to significant changes in the US foreign policies; thereby several conclusions were drawn related to the published NSS 2017 document and suggestions were discussed and emphasized in details.

**KEYWORDS:** NSS, Trump's Strategies, Turkey, Jihadists, Unipolarity

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Before the release of The National Security Strategy (NSS) by six months, President Trump visited the Middle East, Italy, and then went to attend the meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and those were the steps to put the new strategy that was released in NSS 2017 (National Security & Defense, 2017). Trump was able to conclude a deal of \$110 billion dollars with Saudi Arabia (Hubbard, 2019). On the other hand, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) delegated full authority to the United States to protect the Gulf Region. Also, during the NATO visit, the members of NATO gave an assurance that they will support the U.S.

Foreign Policy. Actually, Trump took the position that he is willing to withdraw from NATO, and this caused a lot of tensions among the members (Crowther, 2017). If this withdrawal would have happened, for example, Germany would have reconstructed its national budget by withdrawing the amounts allocated to education and health and set them to build an army balancing the lack of the U.S. bases in Europe (Siebold & Emmott, 2019).

There are cornerstone highlights that are always on the agenda of the U.S. Foreign policy, and the Middle East has always been among those highlights due to the region's worldwide locations and wealth with oil and gas (Al Sarhan, 2017). It's clear that the Trump administration gives importance to maintaining the U.S. strategic investments in the Middle East and the flow of oil marine routes such as the Arabian and the Persian Gulf, Hormuz Straits, Gulf of Aden, and the Red Sea. Protecting oil fields on land or in the sea is the priority of Trump's administration. Securing, relocating, and opening new U.S. bases in the Middle East are among the significant important strategies of U.S. foreign policy. Also, fighting against terrorism and fundamentalist jihadist groups and furthermore securing Israel from Hezbollah, Iran, and any other parties attempting to threaten its existence. The U.S. foreign policy is sensitive towards countries conducting nuclear activities, and that are eager to develop their nuclear reactors for military uses. Overall the U.S. gives great importance to establishing partnerships or strategic relations with the oil-producing countries.

Trump officially revealed the 68-page report during a speech, telling an audience that the new strategy document is based on realism and that it will pave the way for America to remain a leader in global affairs and lays out a world in global economic competition with both partners and potential adversaries (White House, 2017). The NSS 2017 presents a generally coherent vision of the threats and challenges confronting the United States today and, as a whole, and a good set of policy recommendations for dealing with those threats and challenges. The drafting of the document largely reflects a mainstream Republican approach to the problems confronting American foreign policy, being clear as it was supervised by the National Security Advisor McMaster and some other bureaucrats (Pifer, 2019).

The National Security Strategy document is classified into four key categories: Protecting the homeland, promoting American prosperity, preserving peace through strength, and advancing the United States influence developing relations with current allies, and finding new partners (White House, 2017).

## **II. PROFOUND AND STRONG USA STRATEGIES**

The strategies in the United States are very profound and strong. However, tactical change happens according to political conjecture. The whole world was waiting for the strategic document to be released to analyze and to compare with the latest Obama NSS document and the previous ones. Many sides wanted to understand if this strategy will contribute to Obama's path and strategies and reinforce what has been built or will differentiate itself from it completely. Obama's doctrine was to initiate and envisage better international relations of the U.S.A. with the international world countries.

On the contrary, it was known that the Bush administration was interested in military interventions in politically disputed regions. Nevertheless, Obama's doctrine came with different understating and strategies that some scholars referred to as "strategic patience" and started with the withdrawal from some areas putting emphasis on negotiations with parties having conflicts, and he applied and implemented his strategy with the Iranian Nuclear issue and North Korean relations. Also, human rights issues were among the priorities during Obama's administration. However, the NSS 2017 completely took a different path from Obama's strategies, and Trump put an end to the U.S. policy of "strategic patience" towards North Korea making the document different from all the other NSS documentation that had been published so far (Knight, 2018).

## **III. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE U.S. WITH THE NOTION OF "AMERICA FIRST."**

Trump's NSS 2017 was the start of building a new influence of the USA foreign policy in international relations giving importance to the hegemonic power and leadership of the USA. This was clear in the NSS 2017 with the "America First" statement (Stelzenmüller, 2018). The document wanted to draw the attention of the world that although it had been seen that the U.S.A. had lost its leadership among Russia and China, now it's back to take the lead in leadership, especially in the regions where there were disputes and that it was a sign that the U.S.A. will have its influence evident and that Trump's doctrine will be progressing and flowing with some military interventions. In fact, with the NSS 2017, Trump wanted to fulfill his promise and assure what he was saying during his electoral campaign that America's moves will be to regain its power and will stay as a superpower as it used to be (Encina, 2018).

The new National Security Strategy (NSS) reinforced the interests of the USA, and dealt with Russia and China as powerful competitor countries, and referred to other countries as adversaries supporting terrorism in various fields and areas (Deni, 2018). On the other hand, Trump's doctrine applied and labeled some countries as allies and others as enemies. It referred to some countries like the GCC members, Japan and South Korea as traditional allies and talked about the cost of protecting such allies and countries that deemed themselves friends and wanted U.S. protection should pay the price for that (Cordesman, 2017).

With the commencement of the Trump administration, diplomatic attitudes started to transform dramatically by sending messages domestically and internationally. Internally, the Trump doctrine put weight on the protection of American citizens' cultures and values, securing the boundaries of U.S.A. from illegal immigrants and enacted reforms that enabled economic growth. Internationally, Trump was emphasizing the importance of following up and observing the regions of the enemies such as Iran and North Korea.

Paradoxically, being an ally during Trump's administration will be at a cost to be paid by the countries demanding such protection. On the other hand, many international scholars have seen many aspects of the NSS based on Henry Kissinger's approaches (Keiswetter, 2018). Henry Kissinger believed in the sustainability and the coexistence of the rival superpowers through *modus vivendi* arrangements (Noorani, 2019). He was a strategic person obsessed with power and maintaining order by influence at the cost of humanity (Lewis, 1975). His doctrine focused on U.S. interests regardless of any values to be considered (Cohen, 2011), significantly pursuing "American Interest" (Galant, 2017). Moreover, making decisions with Trump's administration is sometimes based on his mode and opinion and not based on constructive strategy or collective administrative decision. This was evident with the worldwide fame he gained of his constant tweeting and utilizing the social media tools as tactics of expressing whatever ideas he had, and in some cases Trump's presidential tweets were clashing with governmental policies (Laine, 2019).

#### **IV. SHIFTING TOWARDS A UNIPOLAR SYSTEM**

With the release of the document, many significant aspects have become clear that the Trump doctrine will be distant from the European Union (EU) and NATO issues and moving more towards the unipolar system. Due to such aspirations, China declared that Trump wants to go back to the Cold War era and maintain the old bipolar system (White House, 2017). With the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.), during the years 1991 to 2001, the world order experienced the unipolar hot peace period, and the political, economic, and cultural globalization was spread all around the world, resulting in the one hand, in the prosperity of the wealthy people, on the other hand, through the introduction of the internet, and the mobile phones developing nations learned more about the western rich countries (Önder, 2020).

During the Bush administration period, the US was heading towards the unipolar system. Then suddenly, the September 11 attacks happened, and the world international relations and order changed unifying on one objective in combating terrorism and decisions were taken multilaterally by many concerned countries in various issues: disputes, conflicts and security problems throughout the world (Gordon, 2001). However, regardless of Trump's intentions to move the world towards the unipolar system, the world is no longer only supervised and directed by the US. There are other emerging superpowers, such as Russia and China.

Russia and China rejected any attempts of unipolar order and enforced their strength and influence by interfering in geographic areas that they deemed were within their own pace of impact and influence. During the Cold War and the years after, the United States was dominant as a world power (Önder, 2020). However, that changed after the September 11 attacks destroying the ability to sustain such an international order and replacing it with a tri-polar system that has been the objective of China and Russia (Klare, 2018). With the Arab Spring, the Syrian conflict escalation, the fight against terrorism, and fundamentalist jihadists resulted in the U.S. losing its supremacy as the only power and leading to the emergence of regional powers such as Turkey and Iran, who are enforcing their influences in their regions and shifting the world from the bipolar system into a cold peace multipolar period (Önder, 2019).

#### **V. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE INSTANCES**

To outline the bases and priorities of the US foreign policy, a statistical analysis of countries, organizations, and key terms or names on how many times they were mentioned in the NSS 2017 were studied. Such analysis gives an idea of the cornerstone highlights and priorities of the released document.

It is significant to note that President Trump has issued his first NSS during his first year in the presidential office. On the contrary, President Obama and President George W. Bush, who did not, and the former only issued two NSS in eight years in the office, and the latter issued a total of one. Also, it is considered to be the longest NSS being released so far and that Trump himself has introduced the document by a speech given. Comparative analysis of the released documents sizes would be as follows: Bush's 2010 NSS was 35 pages, Obama's 2010 NSS 58 pages – 2015 NSS 32 pages, and Trump's 2017 NSS 68 pages.

##### **5.1 Mentioned names of the world continents and regions in the NSS 2017**

**Table 1 – Instances of continents and regions in the NSS**

CONTINENTS & REGIONS	INSTANCES	CONTINENTS & REGIONS	INSTANCES	CONTINENTS & REGIONS	INSTANCES
Europe	35	Indo-Pacific	5	North America	0
Asia	18	Australia	3	South America	0
Africa	16	Latin America	1	Balkan	0
Middle East	12	Eurasia	1	Caucasus	0

In reference to the above figures in (table 1), the Trump administration presents a list of U.S. regional priorities focusing primarily on Europe as it was mentioned in the NSS 35 times, followed by Asia 18 times, Africa 16 times, the Middle East 12 times, Indo-Pacific 5 times, and Australia 3 times. Although the NSS shows that Europe is mentioned 35 times and has prevailed on all the other continents, the document didn't explicitly explain the ways to proceed on shared grounds with Europe. The Trump administration has reservations regarding NATO, which is the leading alliance and the protective shield towards the Russian progression. Also, the figures were reinforced by a substantial rise in Russian and Chinese power. Accordingly, a shift in the U.S. foreign policy happened to play a more prominent global role in the international arena and specifically in the Asian, Middle East, and African continent (Raik et al., 2018).

At first, Trump's doctrine wanted to keep a lower profile with Africa and that it wasn't among its priorities as the U.S. troops in Niger will follow-up the events and political escalations in Libya and Africa as overall. Perhaps because France has a strong presence in Africa, the Trump administration didn't want to provoke the French government. However, this changed in 2019 after Trump warned Khalifa Haftar troops from approaching the Capital Tripoli and the reveal of the Russian security organization Wagner Group working with Khalifa Haftar army along with the presence of Russian soldiers in Africa (Wintour, 2019).

## 5.2 Mentioned Country Names in the NSS 2017

**Table 2 – Instances of Countries**

Countries	Instances	Countries	Instances
China	32	Palestinian	2
Russia	25	Indonesia	2
Iran	17	Vietnam	2
North Korea	16	New Zealand	2
Pakistan	8	Egypt	1
India	8	Georgia	1
Iraq	7	Canada	1
Syria	7	France	1
Afghanistan	5	United Kingdom	1
Israel	5	Spain	1
Cuba	4	Germany	1
Soviet	3	Belgium	1
South Korea	3	Ukraine	1
Australia	3	Honduras	1
Taiwan	3	El Salvador	1
Venezuela	3	Guatemala	1
Malaysia	2	Thailand	1
Singapore	2	Japan	1
Philippines	2		

Referring to table 2, it's clear that the Trump administration focused on specific countries such as China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. The NSS 2017 emphasized that those countries are posing worldwide challenges to amend the world order by increasing social, economic, political, and military competition among sovereign states.

The National Security Strategy called Russia and China revisionist powers posing challenges to U.S. and Western security. On the other hand, it referred to North Korea and Iran as the rogue states. (Dobbins et al., 2018). The strategy noted as well the Russian military build-up, including modernization of its nuclear capabilities, and the cyberspace developments in interfering in the domestic politics of other countries and undermining the legitimacy of democratic states. Moscow has the desire to undo the post-Cold War security order that has developed in Europe and sees itself in an ongoing competition with the United States and the West. Trump's strategy noted with concern the destabilizing Russian behavior around the world, including its violations of the sovereignty of the states of Ukraine and Georgia. (USAID, 2019). The U.S. was unable to conduct deterrent policies towards Russia regarding the Ukraine conflict and failed to describe an overarching framework for dealing with this issue. Unfortunately, the NSS was too vague on what the U.S.A administration needed to implement in concrete terms to confront Russia on various topics.

Before releasing the NSS 2017, there were high tensions with Iran such as withdrawing from the nuclear treaty, forcing the UN Security to accuse Iran of supporting terrorist organizations and faction groups like the Houthis in Yemen. Thereby, this resulted in the Iranians losing the cooperative and communicative era that they have achieved and gained with the Obama administration. Instead, Trump has canceled all means of cooperation and declared Iran as an enemy supporting fundamentalist terrorist organizations.

In reference to (table 2) statistics, seven times Syria and Iraq were mentioned in the NSS 2017 document, and this emphasizes that during the writing of the strategic document, there were miscalculations related to the geographic importance of Syria. Unfortunately, The NSS document miscalculated and

misevaluated the Syrian domestic clashes and the atrocities committed by the Assad regime, air force strikes by Russia and Hezbollah fighters supported by Iran and the millions of immigrants fleeing to other countries due to the civil wars happening in their countries. When the war started in Syria it was assumed that it was the continuation of the Arab spring and that eventually at the end the president of Syria will be overthrown; however, the war continued nonstop with the interference of various regional powers turning the Syrian land a field where global and regional forces and their military proxies struggle for power (Önder, 2019).

Moreover, it's clear from (table 2) that the perpetual Pakistani – Indian conflict is still among the issues on the agenda of Trump s foreign policy. On the contrary, the most eye-catching is the complete diminishing of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict issues on Trump's priority list due to the unilateral approach he is following and giving utmost protection and support to the Israeli views. The U.S. reinforced such unilateral decisions by declaring Jerusalem the capital of Israel, disregarding the Palestinian consent and United Nations resolutions. Also, another move happened regarding the occupied Golan Heights territories (belonging to Syria) and with a prompt Presidential proclamation on March 25, 2019 it was recognized it as part of Israel.

### 5.3 Countries with “Zero” instances and not mentioned in the NSS 2017

**Table 3 – Countries with Zero instances in the NSS**

Countries	Instances	Countries	Instances	Countries	Instances	Countries	Instances
Turkey	0	Greece	0	Ethiopia	0	Bolivia	0
Palestine	0	Italy	0	Djibouti	0	Panama	0
Lebanon	0	Poland	0	Tajikistan	0	Brazil	0
Kuwait	0	Bulgaria	0	Kyrgyzstan	0	Chili	0
Bahrain	0	Romania	0	Uzbekistan	0	Argentina	0
Saudi Arabia	0	Tunisia	0	Armenia	0	Peru	0
Qatar	0	Algeria	0	Timor-Leste	0	Costa Rica	0
UAE	0	Somalia	0	Mongolia	0	Columbia	0
Oman	0	Sudan	0	Myanmar	0	Paraguay	0
Yemen	0	Turkmenistan	0	Cambodia	0	Mexico	0
Libya	0	Azerbaijan	0	Laos	0	Uruguay	0
Cyprus	0	Kazakhstan	0	Maldives	0	Holy See	0
Morocco	0	Bangladesh	0				
South Africa	0	Nepal	0				
Nigeria	0	Sri Lanka	0				

Although there are 193 countries listed in the United Nations, countries with the most influence in their regions have been chosen for the purpose of this article's statistical analysis. Table 3, gives a clear and statistical example of countries that haven't been mentioned in the NSS 2017.

Before the release of the NSS, Turkey was on the foreign affairs agenda due to its involvement in the Syrian conflict, escalations in the Mediterranean, and the Gulf Region conflict between Qatar and the neighboring countries. In line with this, and just before the release of the NSS, it was clear through the speeches and comments given by the national security key players in the Trump administration such as the general advisor McMaster, who delivered a speech stimulating polemic in Turkey, that Qatar and Turkey are giving support to radical ideologies Islamism. Accordingly, the Turkish Foreign Ministry condemned McMaster and forced him to issue a statement reaffirming the strong relations with Turkey. However, all these show that there were significant conflicts with the U.S. interests on various global issues. With all the problematic issues on the regional and global agenda that Turkey is involved in still, it is a big surprise to the international relations schools that the NSS didn't mention Turkey at all (Nesi, 2017). Turkey has always complained about Trump's insensitivity to its problems in the Middle East, and the priorities, as indicated in the NSS 2017 document, proved the Turkish views that the relations with the U.S. are passing through a difficult period that needs fixing.

On the one hand, although Trump favored some GCC country leaders such as Saudi Arabia and UAE to lead with the U.S. in the Arabian Peninsula, on the other hand, Qatar-US relations were damaged, accusing Qatar of maintaining strong connections with the Muslim Brotherhood in the Middle East. Yet, Qatar's name wasn't mentioned in the NSS document. On the other hand, the Trump administration expected the NSS to be the roadmap for harsher actions against Qatar and any other country that showed the support to such illegal organizations (Sakka & Akyar, 2021).

#### 5.4 International Organisation mentioned in the NSS 2017

**Table 4 – Instances of International Organizations**

International Organizations		
Abbreviations	Organization Name	Instances
NATO	The North Atlantic Treaty Organization	7
UN	United Nations	3
EU	European Union	2
ERP	European Recovery Program* Marshall Plan	2
ICANN	Internet Corporation For Assigned Names And Numbers	1
IGF	The Internet Governance Forum	1
ITU	The International Telecommunication Union	1
ASEAN	The Association Of Southeast Asian Nations	1
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	1
IMF	International Monetary Fund	1
WB	World Bank	1
WTO	World Trade Organization	1
GCC	The Gulf Cooperation Council	0
NAFTA	The North American Free Trade Agreement	0
AU	African Union	0
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe	0
TTIP	Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership	0
TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership	0
OPEC	The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries	0
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	0
UNHRC	The United Nations Human Rights Council	0
UNRWA	The United Nations Relief and Works Agency	0

From the above detailed statistical figures in (table 4), it's clear that Trump wasn't not giving the proper weight and importance to international organizations such as the United Nations, European Union, and NATO. However, NATO was mentioned seven times in the NSS 2017. The NSS stated that the U.S. would continue its support to improve the defense systems and cyber-security of the NATO members to encounter any threats coming mainly from Iran. In reference to President Trump's statements, he only and grudgingly expressed support for Article 5 of the NATO Treaty. Especially after the 2nd World War, the U.S. played a crucial role in maintaining European security and reshaping the international order. Although Russia is in a continuous urge and moves to create influence and pressure on other U.S. affiliates and partners to keep them distant from the U.S., its strategies to weaken the European Union and NATO are progressing in a nonstop way (Dempsey, 2017).

Ironically, in line with all of the moves of Russia, the NSS 2017 downgrades the contribution of such organizations, and Trump's administration would like to keep a distance from such organizations and follow its unilateral path disregarding collectivity in most of the cases. Trump has, for many years, expressed high suspicions about multilateral trade agreements, U.S. alliance relationships, and the United Nations. Due to such motives, he abandoned the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and Trans-Pacific Partnership (Kempe, 2019). Also a U.S.-Russian nuclear arms control policies at risk, particularly given the uncertain future of the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

Unquestionably, due to Trump's nationalist sentiments and unilateralist approaches in foreign affairs, many NATO members and allies were disturbed primarily due to the global threats that demanded constructive cooperation and partnerships among partners.

Trump's strategy acted as if the institutional alliances were deceiving America. Accordingly, he abandoned the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), got out from North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), withdrawn from the : Paris Accords, the Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), pulled out from the UN human rights council (UNHRC) and, halted the financial contributions given to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency- UNRWA (Dudar & Shesgreen,2018). This led many observers to worry that the administration was committed to a narrow, materialistic, short-term-transactional understanding of the American interests and failed to understand the needs to be cooperating with the global order. If these unilateral policies continue in the same attitude, then it is evident that there will be consequences, and the ties with allies and partners will be harmed.

## 5.5 Names of the terrorist group mentioned in the NSS 2017

**Table 5 – Instances of terrorist groups and organizations**

Groups	Instances	Groups	Instances
Terrorists	36	Hamas	0
Jihadist	30	People's Protection Units (YPG)	0
Islamic State Of Iraq And Syria (Isis)	15	Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)	0
Al-Qa'ida (al-Qaeda)	9	The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)	0
Islamist	7	Muslim Brothers	0
Hizbollah	1	Al-Shabaab	0
Houthis	0		

In reference to (table 5), the NSS mentioned terrorists 36times, Jihadists 30times and ISIS 15times which is an explicit message that terrorism was the priority of Trump's U.S. foreign policy in the global issues agenda. Apart from the challenges coming from countries such as China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea, the U.S. is confronting transnational organizations' threats that were disturbing the entire stability of the world order, especially jihadist terrorist groups, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and al-Qaeda terrorist organization (Sexton, 2017).

The document indicated that North Korean nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles had become a concern for U.S. national security, and Iran's support for terrorist groups and its efforts to expand its influence in the Middle East is a significant concern of the administration. To counter the threat of "jihadi terrorism," the Trump administration's strategy calls for continued U.S. military actions against terrorist groups such as ISIS, and countering extremism and uses. The term "jihadist" was used widely among the U.S. governments since the 9/11 event.

## 5.6 “Key words” mentioned in the NSS 2017

**Table 6 – Instances of Key words**

KEY WORDS	INSTANCES	KEY WORDS	INSTANCES	KEY WORDS	INSTANCES
Security	102	Weapon Of Mass Destruction (WMD)	9	Communism	2
Military	76	Missiles	9	Militants	2
Nuclear	57	Violence	8	Bio-threats	2
Cyber	46	Democracy	6	Counterinsurgency	1
Law	45	Terrorism	6	Gangs	1
Weapons	30	Counterterrorism	6	Leftist	1
Peace	27	Authoritarian	6	Pacific Island	1
War	22	Dictatorship	5	(NSIB) National Security Innovation Base.	1
Freedom	21	Constitution	4	Human Rights	1
Corrupt	21	Crimes	4	Environmental	1
Regime	11	Cartels	4	Pollution	1
Radical	11	Trafficking	4	Pandemics	1
Aggression	10	Legitimate	2	Climate change	0
Criminals	9	Sanctions	2	Coup	0

From the above-detailed figures in (table 6) , it is significant to note that specific issues were mentioned more frequently, such as security 102 times, military 76 times, nuclear 57 times, and cyber 76 times, explicitly proving that the said issues maintain the priority strategies among the Trump’s principled realism. These figures are reinforced, as the document draws attention to the Russian attempts to interfere in Western democracies, stressing that the United States will not remain watchful to the Russian expansion, which appears to be a new position by the president who questioned Russia's interference in the U.S. 2016 (McCuin, 2017). In this regard, the NSS document stated that Russia uses Cyberspace technology to enhance its influence through secret intelligence operations, false personal accounts on the Internet social media, and state-funded media such as the RT channels.

The NSS stresses the importance of digital security and notes the efforts by China and some other countries to steal U.S. intellectual property, and it was as an economic problem but also as a national security

threat. Thus, the NSS advanced a new idea 'The National Security Innovation Base (NSIB)'; emphasizing knowledge, capabilities, academia, laboratories, and the private sector turning ideas into innovations and protecting and enhancing the American way of life. By conducting these priority actions, it will result in a safer and stronger America (Morgan, 2018). The discussion about the human rights issue in the NSS is controversial. From one point, the NSS assures that it will not impose U.S. values on others. On the other hand, it continues to champion the American values and offer encouragement to those struggling for human dignity in their societies. A country without safe borders is not a country. Trump's administration has taken severe decisions and implemented regulative policies against illegal immigrant trafficking across its borders. Amending immigration laws and building a wall along the border between the United States and Mexico were among the priority projects and actions taken.

In the NSS 2017 document, Trump's administration referred to the issue of the bio-threats and the worldwide pandemics, roughly stating the importance of detecting and containing the disease sources. Also, the document emphasized that the attention needed to be given to pandemics as they could have a significant impact on human lives attributing high economic losses on the national and international bases (White House, 2017). On the other hand, the rapid spread of COVID-19 coronavirus has dominated the world news, especially after the first case appearing in Wuhan, China on November 2019, bringing tragic stories from China and all the other affected countries such as Iran, Italy, Spain, UK and many other countries around the world racing to implement decisive measures to combat the pandemic (The Guardian, 2020). The National Security Council (NSC) playbook that was published in 2016 was not part of the latest Trump administration coronavirus strategy that could have laid out diversified plans for U.S. policymakers to manage the pandemic crisis (Diamond & Toosi, 2020). Trump's administration reaction to the coronavirus pandemic was weak, resulting in 400,000 death tolls from the disease (Worldmeter.info, 2021). Despite the recommendations given to Trump's administration by the public health advisors and the increasing daily coronavirus cases across the U.S., they carried on with their discussions to commence economic activities by Easter 2020 and their intentions loosening the lockdown imposed in the various states of the United States (Karni & McNeil Jr, 2020).

## **VI. CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION**

The new NSS overlays a worldview that is more nineteenth than twentieth-century onto policies that look a lot like what the United States has been doing since 1940, but with more emphasis on issues such as health, economy, competition, and military power than the previous administrations. In announcing the NSS 2017 document, the main highlights were that President Trump blamed his predecessors vehemently, and specifically President Barack Obama. He emphasized that the nuclear threat from North Korea was neglected, and a weak deal was made with Iran, and the terrorists like ISIS were allowed to take control of large parts of the territories throughout the Middle East.

It is significant to emphasize that the Trump administration dismisses the Bush democratic transformation and Obama disengagement approaches while only promises to be "realistic" about the United States' expectations for world issues. Also, the document lacks emphasis on the "soft power" values of democracy, which is among the main bases of U.S. influence. On the other hand, Trump has been trying to draw a different picture of his administration's policies by abandoning such values and instead of replacing them with populism.

The NSS enlists four main pillars: "Protect the American People, the Homeland, and the American Way of Life,"; "Promote American Prosperity,"; "Preserve Peace through Strength," and "Advance American Influence." There are many actions stated to reinforce the pillars focusing on military and economic sides as well as more mentions of emerging threats like cyber technologies.

President Trump has tasked specific strategy studies, reassuring strategic partners and explaining intentions of the U.S. about continuing military and national security commitments, and highlighting key areas where deterrence and containment are being strengthened or needed. However, there are still uncertainties in finding remedies to the Iranian expansionism in the Middle East, jihadist ideology, socio-economic stagnation, and regional rivalries as generators of instability, without offering a specific remedy.

The NSS document conspicuously puts interests before values and presents a roadmap for re-establishing U.S. military and economic preponderance. The U.S. should be maintaining and restoring strong deterrence and defense and military capabilities with particular emphasis on modernizing nuclear forces because of Russian nuclear force developments.

Trump's administration needed to upgrade diplomatic training and capabilities to resolve the uncertainty and demoralization within the ranks of the U.S. Department of State as they have not been accustomed to Trump's tactics and approaches. As a superpower, the USA should continue utilizing economic tools, including sanctions, anti-money-laundering efforts, and anti-corruption measures, as a means to deter, coerce and constrain adversaries.



To counter the effects of cyber and information operations steps must be taken to halt their influence on domestic and international public opinion. The American participation in the multilateral trade agreements and its contribution to the international organizations are essential for the sustainability of the balance of influence among the super and regional powers.

Climate change is a common issue that is on the daily agenda of international relations, but the NSS merely mentioned the importance of environmental problems, so Trump's administration must plan strategies and get involved in this issue. Without the U.S. participation and contribution, progress can't be effective in the world's environmental issues.

The U.S. must approach the Middle East region with careful steps, especially when dealing with Iran and Turkey axis. Whatever actions are thought to be imposed on Iran must be studied carefully, and a balance needs to be sustained as Turkey maintains strategic relations and partnership with Iran due to the geographic proximity and the common issues in the Arabian Peninsula, which each claim to have interests.

A country that can't progress in its internal economy or development can't protect its foreign interests abroad. If a nation can't convince its national investments internally, it won't be able to attract other investments from abroad. The political turmoil and internal weaknesses of a country can't generate external strength. Besides, a country that can't win a war will not be sufficient to deter and avoid future conflicts itself.

With the vast spread of Covid19 around the world and the U.S., Trump's "America First" strategy could be seen as one of the main problems in the changes of the U.S. role towards its allies and multinational organizations resulting in the U.S. fighting Coronavirus alone which will have its implications domestically and internationally. Also, Trump's persistence and loosen approach towards the coronavirus agenda in the U.S. lead to higher death toll rates and will have its effects on the American health system for many years to come.

The Trump administration's National Security Strategy has shortcomings, but it does refer to critical issues and challenges in this unstable and threatening world that is confronting the U.S., and it is not easy to set national security goals at a time the U.S. was facing a growing deficit crisis and having hardship in managing its national budgets. Nevertheless, although some actions were being taken, the NSS 2017 lacks the reliability and final framework for the U.S.A. domestic and international issues.

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