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"Broken Trust"

Purpose: This brief presents a multilevel analysis covering: Concepts and methods employed in ongoing US geopolitical and global economic operations; the most important actors with which the US is engaged; the related “whys” of US strategic actions; how the entire affair represents broken trust between President Trump, his MAGA Movement, and other supporters; and what all this means for Black Americans.

Introduction

The heart of the current geopolitical violent morass is less confusing than you might believe. This analysis brief explains the previous statement and shows that we are experiencing a well-planned strategic attempt “to do the right thing;” i.e., satisfy as much of the global population as possible that is addicted to economic growth—at all costs. Also, the seeming chaos is designed to sustain the current leadership structure of the developed Western World. The US has long been, and is now, the lynchpin for Western World developed economies and is now ensuring the stability of its partners by generating Schumpeterian-styled economic growth opportunities by destabilizing carefully selected underdeveloped nations. All this amidst a possible third presidential term for Pres. Trump to ensure that the US remains the global hegemon. Important details underlay these developments, and we delineate them beginning with a fundamental BlackEconomics.org setup.

Set Ups

The following three statements constitute our **philosophical “setup:”** (i) Knowledge is the most important “thing” in the universe; (ii) the “mind” is the most powerful instrument known to humans; and (iii) under uncertainty the most *apropos* question is “Why?”ⁱ Our **economic setup** involves recognition that Pres. Trump (unlike Pres. Obama who interpreted his role as leader of all Americans), has sought to ensure that he remain true to his mainly White American constituents by undertaking the following most salient geopolitical and global economic strategic actions (in reverse temporal order) since taking office:

- Joined Israel in attacking Iran and its subordinated and surrounding Client Groups (especially Hezbollah in Lebanon) in response to Iran’s failure to meet US requirements for the former’s nuclear research program.
- Operationalized efforts to achieve regime change in Venezuela and Cuba.
- Conducted military operations in multiple Afrikan nations to “sustain peace.”
- Supported Israel in its war with Hamas mainly in Gaza.

- Continued supporting Ukraine’s war with Russia.
- Implemented a sweeping tariff program after entering office in January 2025 that subsequently raised over \$200 billion; SCOTUS determined that the program was largely illegal.

As already indicated, these strategic actions were designed to fulfill Pres. Trump’s stated or implicit goals properly summarized by the M-A-G-A acronym, evidenced by a vibrant and growing economy, and partially characterized by low inflation and “affordability.”ⁱⁱⁱ Let us not forget, however, that even US presidents operate at the behest of global oligarchs and plutocrats. These potent forces serve as an interconnected body that provides oversight and direction for the global economy. Most importantly and logically, they desire to achieve two primary aims: (i) Worldwide stability of the global political economy; and (2) to maintain the *status quo*. The first because stability is evidence that all is under control, and the second because sustainment of the *status quo* signals firm control and acceptance of extant conditions by the global population, which is a highly welcomed and prized outcome.

Unfortunately, although Pres. Trump’s 2026 State of the Union Address on February 24th was quite blustery, the following conditions actually prevailed:

- The administration confronted SCOTUS’s adverse decision concerning its tariff program, was forced to inaugurate a new program, but realized that about \$200 billion in newly collected revenue would likely have to be refunded to taxpayers.
- There is no clear route to a resolution of the Ukraine-Russian War.
- The Israeli-Hamas War produced tremendous loss of lives, unparalleled destruction for such a skirmish between two relatively small opponents, and the related prospective opportunity for sizeable Schumpeterian-styled economic growth. However, an ominous and outstanding question is: Who will finance the reconstruction of Gaza and ignite the anticipated economic growth.
- Renewed and seemingly favorable interventions in African nations, coupled with the recognition that the US faces stiff competition in Africa from many competitors; including China, India, Russia, Japan, etc. Even Black Americans are engaging on the Continent.
- Success from a (US) bully’s display of power imposed on small and weak nations with large and voluminous resources, accompanied by intense ill-feelings from citizens of Venezuela and Cuba at home and abroad.
- Ditto the previous bullet, plus the world’s recognition that the US is certainly imperfect in its planning as Iran counterpunched with unexpected precision and might. This is clear from the evolution of the US’s initial statements concerning the expected brevity of the war to recent statements expressing uncertainty about the war’s duration. Moreover, Pres. Trump has painted the US definitively into a full Israeli support corner, which is being met with nearly daily attacks on US positions (embassies, installations, etc.) and on Israelis all around the world.

Most importantly, on Friday (March 13, 2026) the US Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released estimates of fourth quarter 2025 gross domestic product (GDP) real growth (adjusted for price change) of just 0.7 percent (annual rate); this followed an estimate of 4.4 percent (annual rate) real growth for the third quarter of 2025. Also, this month the US

Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announced what will likely be viewed as two unfavorable statistics. First, consumer prices rose 0.3 percent during February at a monthly rate (~3.6 percent at an annual rate): The Federal Reserve Board's (FRB's) inflation target is 2.0 percent).ⁱⁱⁱ Second, BLS reported that the US economy shed 92 thousand jobs last month.

Taken together, these results are not overwhelmingly favorable from a Trump Administration perspective, and they hint that the master minds of *Project 2025* may not be so masterful after all. Consequently, Americans and interested parties abroad are beginning to vacillate in their support for Pres. Trump and the US. If overwhelmingly favorable outcomes are not produced when nearly all means of support (political, fiscal, and otherwise) are placed at the disposal of leadership to implement its well-crafted geopolitical strategies, then an important question to pose is: What should be expected when opposition to that leadership arises.

Missing Information and Broken Trust

This Analysis Brief illustrates current and recent geopolitical and global economic actions from the US's and Pres. Donald Trump's perspectives. Unfortunately, certain additional and important information has not been examined, but that information is also contributing to observed outcomes. For example, US Government (USG) fiscal and debt statistics show that:

- The USG operates at an unsustainable debt level. At the end of 2025 total USG debt stood at \$37.6 trillion, which is nearly 20 percent larger than the level of US GDP for the fourth quarter of 2025 of \$31.4 billion.^{iv}
- Using Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports, we estimated that considerable sums (at least \$300 billion in 2023) continue to depart USG coffers in the form of "fraudulent" and/or "unintended payments."^v

Another important and lightening quick economic development during the new Trump Administration was the rapid increase in artificial intelligence (AI) as a factor of production that often reduces employment, and the heightened fear that it engendered concerning jobs that disappear as AI swallows up jobs in the most vulnerable industries. We already mentioned BLS's report of 92 thousand jobs being lost during February 2026. The following statistics concern lost jobs in industries where AI is likely replacing labor: *Couriers and messengers* (-17,000) within the *Transportation and warehousing* industry; *Information* (-11,000); and *Federal Government* (-10,000) within the *Public Administration* industry.^{vi}

An absence of transparency concerning the unsustainability of the USG debt, the fact that the USG cannot halt fraudulent and unintended payments from its coffers immediately using AI, and because AI continues to advance as a major concern of the US labor force without much transparency concerning how the USG plans to address this issue combine to create a breach of trust between Pres. Trump and an undetermined number of his formerly avid supporters. This **broken trust** may weigh heavily on mid-term election results in November 2026.

Conclusions for Black America

While the above subtitle is relevant, Black Americans (Afrodescendants) should begin to inquire about the nature of our relevance to the Trump Administration and to the US broadly. Whether admitted or not, it is common knowledge that Black Americans are overrepresented as icons in what the world recognizes as popular American Culture. Also, scholars of the political economy have good reason to conclude that Black Americans' provision of labor and our expenditures using the incomes earned or received as transfer payments contribute in significant ways to US businesses' profitability. Moreover, after accounting for votes from other racial/ethnic groups, Black Americans serve as the median (deciding) voters in many elections—irrespective of the level of government (local, state, and national) and especially where we experience “representativeness” (i.e., we constitute between 10-to-15 percent of the population).

But Black Americans should admit that, unless we accelerate our recognition of, and preparation for, a rapidly and ever evolving economy, then our relevance for the nation will wane. Specifically, it is prudent to inquire: “What was Black America’s role in the six geopolitical and global economic policy actions considered in this Analysis Brief?” As a response to the just-posed question, we pose the following second simple, but sweeping question for consideration that will yield an answer—your answer—to the initial question:

“Besides Black Americans’ (Afrodescendants’) role as a labor source for US corporations, as consumers (who like other consumers are the ultimate payers of all taxes (including tariffs)), and as members of US military services (who help prosecute Trump Administrations military actions), where does the media account for Black Americans’ notable and important contributions to geopolitical and global economic actions that have captured the attention of the American People and the world since President Trump’s January 2025 inauguration?”

The reasoning that underlies the foregoing question should not be misconstrued to mean that Black Americans are irrelevant or completely excluded from important and ongoing US domestic and international strategic actions. Also, such reasoning about the question should not be viewed as the only perspective worth considering by Black Americans or any other US racial/ethnic group. Rather, Black Americans should approach such questions objectively and then formulate answers in a broader context that acknowledges an urgent need for Black Americans to consider alternatives to serving as the abused party in a long-standing abusive relationship and paused to continue to meet the other party’s needs. We should never forget that choices remain even in our seemingly disadvantaged position. We should never forget the past, but we should devote most of our attention to the present and to our future. Our strategy should be to seek a renewal of our minds, develop plans for the future using our renewed minds, gather required resources to implement our plans, and then to execute our plans successfully to fulfill objectives and achieve goals well established in our plans.

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Endnotes

ⁱ BlackEconomics.org has entertained the significance and importance of knowledge, the mind, and the question “why” in several submissions. Two such submissions that summarize well our perspectives are: (i) Brooks Robinson (2025). “The Brain and Economics.” BlackEconomics.org.

[https://www.BlackEconomics.org/BELit/bw\(060625\).pdf](https://www.BlackEconomics.org/BELit/bw(060625).pdf); and (ii) Brooks Robinson (2023). “Asking Why.” BlackEconomics.org. <https://www.BlackEconomics.org/BELit/awhy072123.pdf>. (Both Sources Ret. 031526).

ⁱⁱ Brooks Robinson (2025). “Uncountenancing Uncertainty.” BlackEconomics.org.

<https://www.BlackEconomics.org/BELit/uu103125.pdf> (Ret. 031516).

ⁱⁱⁱ It is common knowledge that the Federal Reserve Board’s metric for assessing its “target rate of inflation” (~2.0 percent at an annual rate) is not BLS’s Consumer Price Index, but BEA’s Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index which stood at 0.3 percent in January 2026 at a monthly rate (~ 3.6 percent at annual rate) when it was released on March 13, 2026.

^{iv} According to the US Treasury Department, the level of Total US Government Debt as of December 31, 2025 was \$37.6 trillion (<https://fiscaldata.treasury.gov/datasets/debt-to-the-penny/debt-to-the-penny>). BEA reports that nominal US GDP reached \$31.4 trillion during the fourth quarter of 2025 (Find the link to “Tables Only” and to “Table 3. Gross Domestic Product: Level and Change from Preceding Period” at

<https://www.bea.gov/news/2026/gdp-second-estimate-4th-quarter-and-year-2025>). (Both Sources Ret. 031526). A straightforward explanation for unsustainable government debt is when the real interest rate (the nominal interest rate less the inflation rate) exceeds the related economy’s real growth rate (the nominal GDP growth rate adjusted for price change/inflation). This condition implies that, even if governments reduce borrowing to zero (i.e., no borrowing occurs because spending equals revenue), interest payments will continue to rise because interest payments required to finance existing debt will exceed new revenue likely to accrue because, all else equal, revenue increases when economic growth occurs, but the real economic growth rate is less than growth in the real interest rate.

^v Brooks Robinson (2024), “Can Crime Pay the Black American (Afrodescendant) Reparations Bill?” BlackEconomics.org. <https://www.blackeconomics.org/BELit/ccptbarb042624.pdf> (Ret. 031526).?”

^{vi} Bureau of Labor Statistics (2026). “Employment Situation Summary.” US Department of Labor. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm>. (Ret. 031526).