

Will Trump's attacks on science disrupt the whole world?

In his war against wokeness, universities seem to be Donald Trump's favourite target. The sheer scale of the attacks will have extensive/multifarious consequences, these four recent documents argue. While an *Economist* editorial (Document2) and a *New York Times* column (Document3) lament the damage for the USA, an article from *Monocle* (Document1) wonders how European research could benefit from a reshuffled world order. The set is illustrated by two bar charts issued by *Studyportals* (Document4), highlighting the falling attractiveness of American PhD programmes worldwide. After an overview of Trump's attacks, this presentation will study the foreseeable global consequences, for both science and America's stature.

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Donald Trump has attacked US universities on ideological and efficiency grounds, *NYT* and *The Economist* argue. The administration withdrew/withheld funding from/to entire swathes of university research, the editorial explains, for merely using an « unacceptable/banned » word. This has even hurt/undermined prestigious scientific institutions, *Monocle* adds, notably in the climate and health sectors, with short-term consequences for professions that need the knowledge. It will also have long-term consequences, namely, depriving the world of the potential breakthroughs by the USA, a century-old scientific powerhouse.

The ripple effect will also be felt by researchers worldwide. All four documents expect a US brain drain as US-based scientists see/have their research threatened/jeopardized and consider leaving the country. On cue, western countries, as Documents1 and 3 inform us, have invited them to pursue their research overseas. Indeed, the world is eager to seize the opportunity of catching up with America, starting with China, which, according to Documents 2 and 3, could take the lead. Judging from the first chart, the outlook is grim for the USA as even American students are turning away in droves from American PhD programmes.

Indeed, the attractiveness of the USA could decrease. Firstly, as documented by the second chart, the appeal of US universities for foreign students may keep declining. Secondly, the US reputation as the land of liberty may be dented. Indeed, one driver of scientists' exile is the risk of self-censorship (doc 2), a point taken up by a French scientist (doc 1) ready to grant his colleagues « scientific asylum ». For her part, the German *NYT* correspondent insists on the flipside for the world. Nostalgic for the beacon of democracy that attracted scientists fleeing the Nazis, she fears a benighted America and, chiming in with *The Economist*, the growing influence of « authoritarian China ».

The set of documents provides a comprehensive picture of the potential knock-on effects of MAGA attacks on scientific research for America and for the world. **441 /438 words**