

**BB 2****Trump's foreign policy is still 'America First' - what does that mean, exactly?**

At the Republican National Convention, supporters of President Trump's reelection have celebrated his attempts to build a Mexico border wall, his promise to "bring our troops home" and his pledge to end U.S. "reliance on China."

All these components of the "America First" agenda Trump ran on in 2016. Four years later, it's clearer what this looks like in practice. As a foreign policy analyst, I find Trump's "America First" vision has had three primary features: disengaging the U.S. from global politics, disdaining allies and befriending autocratic leaders.

Early in Trump's administration, the U.S. exited the 2015 Paris climate accord. In May 2020, with the United States leading the world in COVID-19 infections, Trump cut funding for the World Health Organization.

It's clear that Trump prefers bilateral deals, in which the U.S. usually is the stronger partner, to multilateral agreements in which its power is offset by many other nations. But Trump has not yet come up with a "tougher" agreement to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, nor followed up on his pledge to "negotiate a far better" international climate deal. As a result, the U.S. has sat on the sidelines of major world crises and international collaborations for the past three years.

Back in 2016, "America First" seemed to promise a clear defense of U.S. primacy in a changing world order. That appealed to many voters. Today, the U.S. has all but abdicated its position as the world's most globally engaged power. China and Russia are busily working to fill the vacuum.