

II.C.5.7

Landeskunde – Political Life in the USA

U.S. politics and religion: Evangelicals and the struggle for the American soul – Der Einfluss der Evangelikalen in der Politik der USA

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Die Schülerinnen und Schüler untersuchen anhand der Themen *American exceptionalism*, *LGBTQ*, *racism*, *immigration* und *QAnon* die Rolle der Evangelikalen in der amerikanischen Politik. Sie erkennen, dass die Evangelikalen ein einflussreiches, aber keineswegs monolithische religiös-kulturelle Gruppierung sind. Sie ziehen Vergleiche zur Situation anderswo in der Welt.

KOMPETENZEN

Klassenstufe/Lernjahr: Klassenstufe 11–13; 7.–9. Lernjahr

Dauer: 2 Unterrichtsstunden + LEK

Kompetenzen: 1. Die Rolle der Evangelikalen in den kulturellen und politischen Auseinandersetzungen in den USA differenziert darlegen und diskutieren; 2. Aussagen mithilfe von Statistiken empirisch absichern; 3. in einer simulierten Begegnungssituation ein Rollenspiel zu einem kultursensiblen Thema durchführen; 4. Medienkompetenz: analysieren, interpretieren und reflektieren

Thematische Bereiche: *identity, cultural diversity, religion and beliefs, values and norms in society, LGBTQ, racism, immigration, USA, politics*

Materialien: Tweets, Reden, Videoclips, Audiomaterial

Auf einen Blick

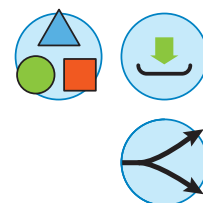
1./2. Stunde

Thema:	Introduction: Prayers and politics
M 1	A moment of prayer in the White House – Electing a Supreme Court Justice for life / die Rolle des Supreme Courts verstehen und ein Foto hinsichtlich seiner Funktion interpretieren (EA, UG)
M 2	Paula White: “We are a blessed nation” – The invocation prayer at President Trump’s inauguration 2017 / Zusammenhang von Politik und Religion in der Rede analysieren (EA, GA)
M 3	Rick Warren: “We are so grateful to live in this land” – The invocation prayer at President Obama’s inauguration 2009 / Zusammenhang Politik und Religion in der Rede analysieren (EA, GA)

Hausaufgabe: Im Vorfeld Aufgabenauswahl aus der Lerntheke treffen

Benötigt

- ZM 2 zu M 2
- Ggf. ZM 1 (Erweiterung/Alternative Einsparung)



3./4. Stunde

Thema/Lerntheke:	Evangelical voices on political and social issues
M 4	Anne Graham Lotz – Of wokeness, wickedness, and the end of the world / Vorstellungen einer Autorin der <i>White Evangelicals</i> bezüglich der Zukunft der Welt analysieren (EA, UG)
M 5	Jerushah Duford – “Where is the love we were taught to show others?” / Kritik einer Christin an Erklärungen innerhalb ihrer Glaubensgemeinschaft erkennen und analysieren (EA)
M 6	Kristin Kobel Du Mez – Defense, not hospitality or “welcoming the stranger”? / <i>Evangelical Immigration Table</i> informieren (EA, PA/UG)
M 7	Tony Evans – Not a skin problem, but a sin problem / einen Text zu <i>racism</i> dekonstruieren (EA, PA)
M 8	Emmanuel Acho – “Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man” / Kritik eines schwarzen Evangelikalen an Rassismus und sozialer Ungerechtigkeit analysieren (EA, PA)
M 9	Evangelicals and Trump – Just “not perfect” or “a human being morally lost”? / sich im Anschluss an ein Video über die Möglichkeiten eines konstruktiven Dialogs mit Andersdenkenden austauschen (EA, PA)
M 10	Evangelical pastors and QAnon – “Not what the Bible tells us to do” / die Sicht verschiedener Gruppen auf QAnon erkennen und sich über den Begriff der Verschwörung im Klaren werden (EA, PA, GA)

Hausaufgabe: Die Präsentation des Materials vorbereiten



- Benötigt:**
- Digitales Endgerät mit Internetzugang
 - **ZM 2 zu M 3 und M 9**
 - **ZM 3 zu M 4**

5./6. Stunde

Thema: Sharing and discussing the findings
M 11 Findings – Summing it up the “evangelical voices” / Ergebnisse der Lerntheke vorstellen und diskutieren (EA)

Hausaufgabe: Notizen zum Image-Video der *National Association of Evangelicals*

- Benötigt:**
- **ZM 5**

7./8. Stunde

Thema: Diversity and change – Evangelicals around the world

M 12 An umbrella for Protestant Christians – Evangelical unity and diversity / Auslegungen von „evangelical unity“ und diskutieren (EA, UG)

M 13 Role play: One nation under God with justice for all – Comparing inaugurations in the USA and in Germany / Ansichten von Ausschnitten aus einer Inaugurationsfeier und Rollenspiel in einer simulierten interkulturellen Begegnung mit Mitspracherecht durchspielen (EA, PA)

- Benötigt:**
- Ggf. **ZM 4** / **M 13**

Lernerfolgskontrolle

LEK Class test - Interpreting the lyrics of the song “Jesus and John Wayne”

Minimalplan

Je nach Unterrichtsstand kann die Zahl der Materialien reduziert werden. Wichtig ist, dass unterschiedliche evangelikale Stimmen zu den ausgewählten Themen zur Sprache kommen.

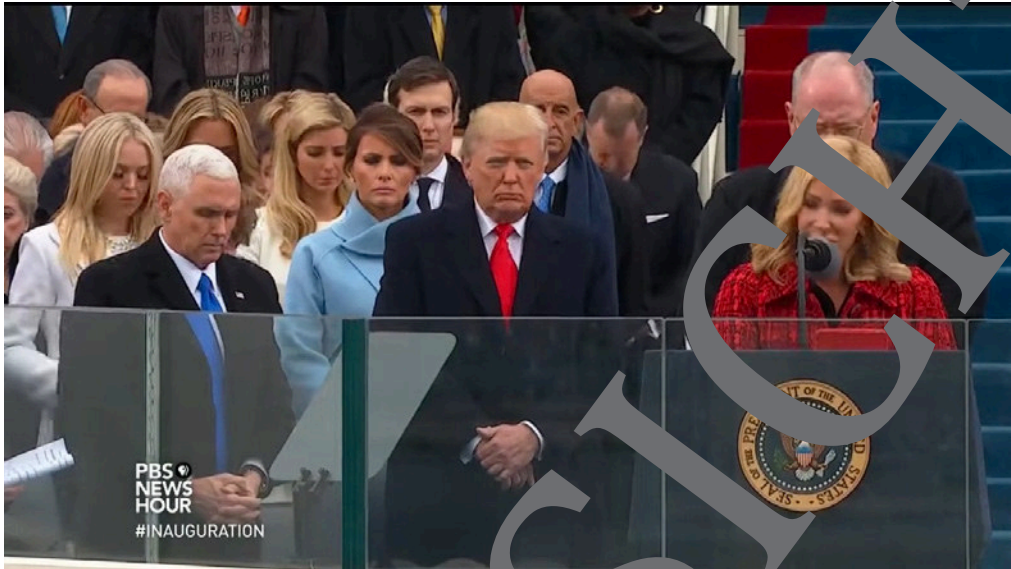
Zusatzmaterialien im Online-Archiv bzw. in der ZIP-Datei

Alle Materialien des Beitrags finden Sie im Online-Archiv als Word-Dokumente. So können Sie die Materialien am Computer gezielt bearbeiten und sie auf Ihre Lerngruppe abstimmen.

ZM1_ReligiousLandscape	Grafiken zum Wandel der religiösen Landkarte
ZM2_M2_M3_M9_Transcripts	Hilfestellung für Analysen der Videos in M 2 , M 3 und M 9
ZM3_M4_ReligiousLanguage	Hintergrundinformation für M 4
ZM4_M13_BuildingBridges	Basis für M 13 : Tipps für Dialoge in interkulturellen Kontexten
ZM5_NotesPresentation	Vorlage für Notizen der Präsentation

M 2

Paula White: “We are a blessed nation” – The invocation prayer at Donald Trump’s inauguration 2017



Source: PBS News Hour, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...> [Last access: 11/07/2024]

Since 1937, presidential inaugurations in the USA have included invocations (opening prayers) and benedictions (concluding blessings). Here is the invocation given by televangelist Paula White, the chair of Donald Trump’s Evangelical Alliance, at his inauguration on 20 January 2017. At the time, she was pastor of the New Destiny Christian Center in Apopka, Florida. She is an advocate of the prosperity gospel which sees material success as a sign of God’s favour.

Tasks

1. Watch the video of Paula White’s invocation prayer. To do so, scan the QR code or follow the link: <https://raabe.click/pw-invocationprayer/> [Last access: 11/07/2024]. List the things ...
 - a) that she gives thanks for
 - b) that she prays for.

Medium help: Use the annotated transcript.

2. Examine how Paula White sees the United States and Americans.
3. Examine to what extent Paula White reaches out to non-Christians.
4. Form a group with students who have studied the invocation at President Obama’s 2009 inauguration and compare how religion and politics are interconnected in the two prayers.

Emmanuel Acho – “Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man”

M 8

Nigerian American Emmanuel Acho (born 1990) is a former NFL linebacker who has also made a name as a sports analyst, YouTuber, and best-selling author. Following the killing of George Floyd by a white policeman in 2020, Acho started a YouTube series about racism and social injustice, called “Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man”. When he won an Emmy for his series, he tweeted photos of the suit he had worn to the award ceremony and wrote: “Zoom in on different areas of the suit, you’ll notice the different names of victims of police brutality in America. I wore a red pocket square and red socks to signify the tragic blood that was shed by several of these victims.”



Photo: Facebook/Emmanuel Acho
[Last access: 11/07/2024]

Tasks

- Sum up Acho’s reasons for launching “Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man”.
- Show how Acho tries to alert his white audience to racism.
 - Explain his comparison of racism with murder/manslaughter (ll. 24–33).
 - Explain his view on racism as sin. What is sin, according to Acho?
 - Write down a follow-up question that you would ask Acho.
- Examine how religion and politics are interconnected in Acho’s Emmy acceptance speech. To do so, scan the QR code or follow the link: <https://raabe.click/ea-acceptance-speech> [Last access: 11/07/2024]
- Find a student who has studied M 7 and compare Evens’ and Acho’s views on racism.



Photo: IMAGO/USA TODAY Network, © xMarkxJ.xRebilasx 8171109
[Last access: 11/07/2024]



Background information and defined words in the text

Oprah: Oprah Winfrey (born 1954) well-known U.S. American media personality – **Esther moment:** moment of conviction when one is called to speak up for one’s people. Esther used her position as a Jewish queen at the Persian court to protect her people from a pogrom (Esther 4:14–16) – **college preparatory school:** private school – **grace:** reference to the belief that sinners are saved by God’s free love and mercy

Evangelicals and Trump – Just “not perfect” or “a human being morally lost”?

M 9



Source: © picture alliance/Capital Pictures/MPI04
[Last access: 11/07/2024]

launched his Evangelicals for Trump coalition in Miami, Florida. At the start of the event, evangelical leaders prayed over the president on stage.

In December 2019, an editorial in Christianity Today, an evangelical magazine, called for President Trump’s removal from office, criticising his “generally disreputable moral behavior” and calling him “a near perfect example of a human being who is morally lost and confused” (see: <https://raabe.click/ct-removaltrump> [Last access: 11/07/2024]).

In a tweet, Trump attacked Christianity Today, which is generally seen as a moderate and centrist Christian publication, as a “far left magazine”. In early January 2020, he



Tasks

1. Watch the video: <https://raabe.click/launchevangelicals> [Last access: 11/07/2024]. Note down your first impressions. Pay attention to the composition of the group, the staging of the event, the delivery of the prayers, the body language of those on the stage, and audience involvement.



More help: Use the annotated transcript.



2. Examine how the Evangelicals for Trump use prayer for political purposes. Make sure you also comment on these quotations.

Jentezen Franklin (1:19–1:49): “Lord, I thank you that America didn’t need a preacher in the Oval Office. It did not need a professional politician in the Oval Office but it needed a fighter and a champion for freedom, and that is exactly what we have. I thank you, Lord, that he doesn’t claim to be perfect, but he is passionate. He is passionate to [...] for justice for all.”

Guillermo Maldonado (4:35): “And we ask you, Father, that he can be the Cyrus¹ to bring reformation, to bring change into this nation, and all the nations of the Earth will say, America is the greatest nation of the world.” For comparison see Isaiah 2:2–4.

Paula White (5:36): “We declare that no weapon formed against him will be able to prosper and every demonic altar that has been erected against him will be torn down. We declare he will rise high and he is seated in heavenly places.”

3. Find a student who has studied **M 10**. Share your findings and discuss what chances there are for constructive dialogue between people with diametrically opposed political or religious views.

Vocabulary

Cyrus: According to Ezra 1:1–4, God “stirred the spirit” of the Persian King Cyrus (c. 600–530 BC) so that he allowed the Jews to return from their exile in Babylon to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. – 2 **(to) declare:** here: (to) announce authoritatively. According to some Evangelicals, prayer has the power to make happen what is declared or decreed (commanded or ordered).

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