

# Climate policy in the Trump era: a European perspective

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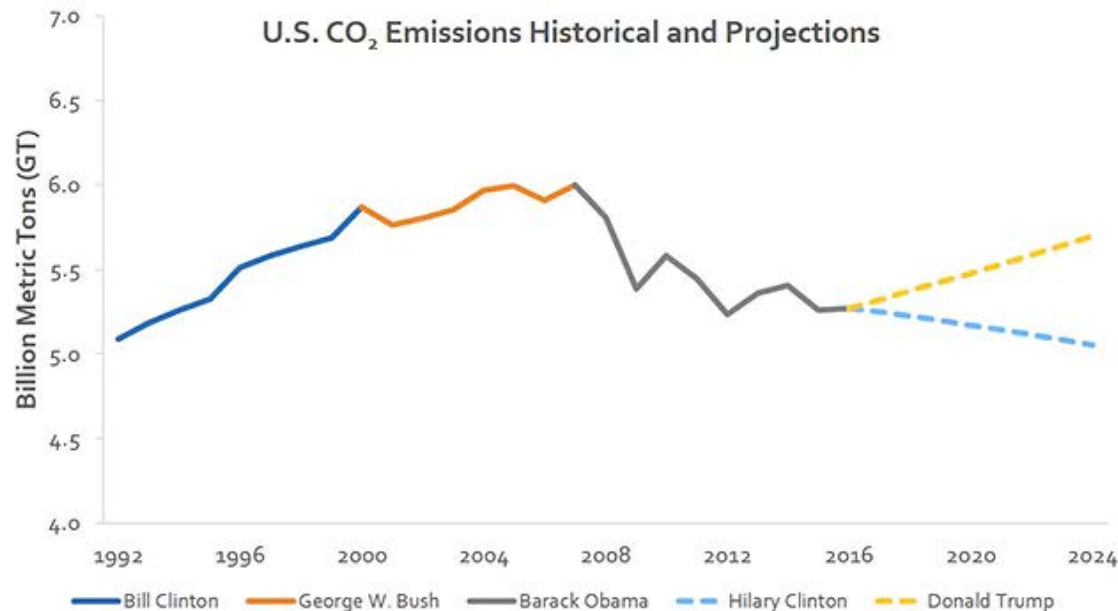
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# Is Trump a return to the status quo?

- US leadership in international climate policy has been the exception, not the rule
- Over the past 25 years, the typical position of US policy has been as a reluctant or obstructive hegemon
- This has offered political opportunities to others (notably the EU)

# Can Trump reverse US commitments to the Paris Agreement?

- Formally, the process of withdrawal will take 4 years (entry into force, November 2016)



Source: Lux Research, Inc.  
[www.luxresearchinc.com](http://www.luxresearchinc.com)

# Will a Trump administration affect US emissions trajectories?

- The energy transition in the US is underway
  - Costs are falling
  - RETs have been the dominant new power capacity for nearly 10 years
  - Deregulation is as likely to speed up as to retard innovation and transition

# What will other parties to Paris do?

- Unlikely to be much change for most states (nor for other actors)
- Commitments of China and India may have been contingent, but probably not any more
- ‘Pledge and review’ was intended to avoid a ‘grand bargain’ framing for international climate policy and to emphasize national motivations

# Will there be a crisis of leadership in international climate policy?

- China has shown that on trade and climate it is willing to take on a leadership position; strategically valuable for a nervous emerging power
- EU likely to play a less significant role as it deals with its own difficulties, but will ally with China on trade and climate

# So what is the downside?

- US science leadership: observations, modelling, basic science
- US technology leadership: many enabling digital and biotech technologies for the energy transition are from US innovations and firms
- US political leadership under Obama was key to Paris, so the loss of this will slow policy innovation