

**UNIVERSITÉ DE TOULON ET DU VAR
FACULTÉ DES LETTRES ET SCIENCES HUMAINES**

SESSION / SEMESTRE	: session 1, semestre 3
DÉPARTEMENT	: Langues Etrangères Appliquées
CODE U.E. / ANNÉE	: 31c / 2009-2010
MATIÈRE	: civilisation américaine
DURÉE de l'ÉPREUVE	: 3 heures
DATE ET HEURE	: 8 janvier 2010, 11h00 – 14h00
SALLE	: amphi W 300
ENSEIGNANT	: P.-F. Peirano
DOCUMENTS AUTORISÉS:	néant

I. Answer **two** of the following three questions (8 pts).

- Choose a period during which the function of the President of the United States was in crisis and explain why.
- What was the impact of the presidency of George W. Bush?
- What was known as "McCarthyism" in the 1950s?

II. Text and questions (12 pts).

The interventions of the United States in Cuba and Viet Nam, as well as others less spectacular, have been justified as reactions to communist intervention. This argument derives from the assumption¹ that communism everywhere in the world is not only morally unacceptable and hostile to the United States, but also goes against the national interests of the United States. I shall assume that, as a matter of fact, communist intervention actually preceded ours, and shall raise the question whether our national interest required our counter-intervention.

Ten or twenty years ago, this question could have been answered in the positive manner. Then, communism was an extension of Soviet power. Since we were committed² to the containment of the Soviet Union, we were also

¹ the assumption: *la supposition* [to assume: *supposer*].

² to be committed: *être engagé*.

committed to the containment of communism anywhere in the world. However, today, we are faced with a variety of communisms, whose relations with the Soviet Union and China change from country to country and from time to time.

This type of intervention against communism naturally tends to blend into intervention against revolution *per se*³. So, we tend to intervene against all radical revolutionary movements, because we are afraid that they could be communist, and we also tend to intervene to defend all governments which are opposed to radical revolution, because they are also opposed to communism. Such a policy of intervention is bound to⁴ fail in practice.

This experience of failure is particularly painful⁵, and ought to be⁶ instructive for the United States. Because we have intervened in the political, military and economic affairs of other countries to the tune of far in excess of \$ 100 billion, and we are at present involved in a costly and risky war in Southeast Asia. Only the enemies of the United States will question the generosity of these efforts, which have no parallel in history. But have these efforts been wise⁷? The answer must be in the negative.

Hans J. Morgenthau, "To intervene or not to intervene", April 1967.

1. What historical events is the author referring to in this text?
2. What is the author's point of view about the various American interventions?
3. Reflect on the following passage: "*So, we tend to intervene against all radical revolutionary movements, because we are afraid that they could be communist, and we also tend to intervene on behalf of all governments which are opposed to radical revolution, because they are also opposed to communism*" (ll. 16-19). What policies did those interventions lead to – in the 1960s as well as in the preceding or following decades –? Could you quote a few examples?

³ *per se*: à proprement parler.

⁴ to be bound to (here): *avoir de grandes chances de*.

⁵ painful: *douloureux*.

⁶ ought to be: should be.

⁷ wise: *sage*.