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Épreuve de : Langue vivante A

Consignes
- Remplir soigneusement l'en-tête de chaque feuille avant de commencer à composer
- Rédiger avec un stylo non effaçable bleu ou noir
- Ne rien écrire dans les marges (gauche et droite)
- Numéroter chaque page (cadre en bas à droite)
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Anglais

I. Compréhension

After the Covid-19 pandemic revealed the dysfunctioning of the pharmaceutical industry, Nick Dearden (Al Jazeera) and Antonia Cundy (Financial Times) analyze how the recent drug-related scandals affected public opinion and policies. Both authors argue that they provoked a significant awakening over its harmful role.

The articles dwell on the main hostility to the industry, heated by the opioid crisis. Public opinion seems to be increasingly aware that it is not doing what it is supposed to, helping people. Instead, the giants of "Big Pharma" and especially Purdue Pharma (which pushed OxyContin on patients) are seen as manipulative, focused solely on financial goals, and therefore responsible for the deaths of a few hundred thousand people. Indeed, they are described as hedgefunds, which use public money to maximise their profits and lie to their patients without any regards to their health.

While Dearden observes the newly acquired lucidity of public opinion and authorities, Cundy describes the mobilisation process to, at least symbolically, stop supporting the industry. Indeed, numerous cultural institutions across the West decided to cut all

financial and symbolic ties (for instance by removing the name from buildings) with the Sackler family, owner of Purdue Pharma, between 2019 and 2020. Oxford university had to take a similar decision as it was pressured by students and academics. Both articles reveal how it is now deemed as scandalous and morally wrong to be linked to the industry.

This surge of ethical concerns around Big Pharma is also visible in the new orientations of public policies. President Biden seems to be waging a war against it, described as a rival, an enemy which must be beaten. His administration was able to negotiate the price of numerous drugs. This audacte action, far from being nondescript, reflects a significant symbolic change: public authorities are now ready to challenge the industry's clout.

Thus, both articles show the perception of the pharmaceutical industry has dramatically changed recently. Nevertheless, they suggest that this shift is eventially symbolical for the moment. If the industry's positive image has been shattered, its financial power remains strong.

352 words

Thème III:

It is a family of immigrants, as thousands of others. At the start of the 20th century, Sophie Greenberg came from Poland to find the American Dream in New York. There, she met Isaac Sackler who had arrived from Galicia. They had three children: Arthur, Mortimer, and Raymond. Despite some unlucky turns of event, the couple took pride in transmitting their sons a clean name. A little century and three generations

later, that name is hated in the country ; a Congressman said he " surely did not know a more infamous family in America ".
In the meantime, a pharmaceutical empire was erected, and OxyContin, one of the opioids which killed around 500 000 Americans in twenty years according to sanitary authorities, generated billions.
It is the story of this family that American journalist Patrick Radden Keefe tells in a masterful and extremely well-documented book. " One could find numerous excellent books about the opioid crisis ", the author confesses. " Nevertheless, I wanted to write a new type of story, a saga depicting three generations of a familial dynasty and the way it had changed the world, a story about ambition, philanthropy, crime, impunity, the corruption of institutions, power and the crave for profits. "

II. Expression personnelle :

As the US is facing a major identity crisis deepened by drug-related scandals, the political, social and economic ideal it has represented seems to be challenged. Thus, have the opioid crisis and the detrimental power of Big Pharma turned the American Dream into a myth of yore ?
Admittedly, its ideal is heavily questioned, but this crisis also represents an opportunity to redefine it.

Undoubtedly, the traditionally American ideal of individual success and accomplishment does not make a lot of people dream anymore. Indeed, the US appears incapable to keep its promises. In Deaths of Despair (2020), Anne Case and Angus Deaton highlight the increase of the mortality rate of low-skilled middle-aged whites. The population who had historically been the sociological basis of the American Dream

now appears as a victim of the US capitalist and globalised economy. The "despair" they feel often leads to the consumption of addictive drugs, made even more likely by pharmaceutical companies' agressive strategies. For every ethnical group of the US, the drug overdose death rate has been rising between 2019 and 2020 (Document 4). The crisis of the American Dream is also deepened by the atmosphere of distrust during the Covid-19 pandemic, for instance with Trump letting fake news about vaccines flourish on "Truth" media. Furthermore, Big Pharma shatters the American democratic ideal of balanced and honest institutions. The numerous scandals of corruption concerning officials, the practice of lobbying, the influence of pharmaceutical lobbies (document 5), make the institutions and the democratic game appear as rigged, leaving the electors with despair and drugs to cure it (document 5).

Nevertheless, the contemporary health crisis also highlights the problems of the concept of American Dream. Rooted in the ideal of the "self-made man", the American Dream takes the risk to justify every inequalities as the illustration of differences of talent and merit, as advocated by Carnegie in The Gospel of Wealth (1886). On the contrary, the opioid crisis reveals that social trajectories must be understood collectively; as the success of some is the fragility of others, the dream of some is the nightmare of others (Document 3). It also showed in which concrete ways the US can be understood as a plutocracy, as stressed by J. Stiglitz in his article "Of the 1%, by the 1% and for the 1%".

Thus, the health crisis evokes to think a renewal of the American Dream, as an opportunity to give it a new meaning, based on more adapted ideals. Indeed, the opioid crisis showed how the

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population can make its own voice heard against inequalities and injustice (Document 2). The mobilisation of Nancy Goldin against the Sackler family is a good illustration. It also appears that the government must be included (Document 1), as Obama Care (2010) showed it, in the promotion of a new American ideal.

486 words.

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