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Épreuve de : Langue Vivante A.

Consignes
- Remplir soigneusement l'en-tête de chaque feuille avant de commencer à composer
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Résumé analytique comparatif.

In November 2024 the victory of Donald, a billionaire himself endorsed by fellow billionaires, raised the awareness on the influence of money in the United States' presidential election. Scott Nover and Erica L. Green, in their respective articles, both aim at understanding what role money did play in last year's American presidential election.

As billionaires seem to have gathered a wide influence in both parties (I), the regulation of presidential elections is being questioned (II).

If the extracts of Biden's farewell address and the analysis of Green mainly ~~hint~~ point out ~~to~~ the growing influence of billionaires alongside Donald Trump, Nover

notes that "oligarchs" such as Bill Gates also supported Harris. 107
The very term used by Nover is telling of the political salience 119
billionaires gained according to him. As they participate in both 129
parties, their influence seems total. Yet, their influence 137
has historical precedents as Nover references the XIX th century 146
robber barons and Biden makes a parallel with the "military- 156
industrial complex", as coined by Eisenhower. However, Biden 164
~~tries~~ emphasises the ~~need~~ actualisation of their power in the 172
recent election. Media-owning billionaires like Musk have the 181
ability to influence not only parties but also the people with 192
"disinformation". Nover insists upon the deregulation of donations 200
to political parties ~~(Citizens~~ with the Supreme Court ruling 208
Citizen United to illustrate the high tide of money's influence 218
in the recent election. Hence, money played an important role 228
in last year's election thanks to the growing influence of 238
billionaires on parties and the media (and therefore on voters). 248

The role money ~~has~~ played in last year's election also had an indirect effect on how the elections are perceived. To ~~Nover~~ Winters, the crux of the matter lies in the emergence of "oligarchs", engaging in politics looking to their own "advantage" instead of benefitting their voters (the working-class). Thus such an extension of influence threatens the representative dimension of the American system, with a risk to foster, in the end "outrage". That reaction might give birth to ~~fast~~ "backlash policies" changing the regulation. One could see Biden's ~~constit~~ legislative recommendations as a ~~form of~~ "backlash policy", ~~although~~ ~~he focuses on the wider scheme of the American separation of powers,~~ ~~while~~

Nonetheless, both outline the salience of the issue to the future of democracy in the United States.

Both documents highlight an unprecedented (with the new regulation and means) influence of money in last year's election, although their main concern lies in the future of democracy.

385 mots.

II Essai argumenté :

In the ~~Letters~~ of a Federal farmer, Jefferson, one of the founding fathers, expressed his conception of an ideal democracy. ~~a stance~~ In order to avoid tyranny, one's fortune shouldn't exceed ~~an individual~~ a small plot of land, enough for an individual "yeoman farmer" according to Jefferson. As this set of documents shows, some have far exceeded Jefferson's considerations, and that fortune indeed influences the political system. Hence, one could wonder if this situation is putting democracy at risk. I will try to demonstrate why I think democracy in the United States is threatened. In a three fold approach, I will analyse how the soaring influence of billionaires (I) puts the fundamental basis of democracy at risk (II), ~~which creates institutional distrust (III).~~

In my opinion, a ~~movement~~ dynamic concentrates political and economic power in the hands of a restricted clique of billionaires, which threatens the independence of the

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legislative and executive branch. As Nouer (doc 1) points out, 149
both camps received the support of billionaires, funding 157
campaigns on important scales thanks to the Citizens United ruling, through PACs 169
and Super-PACs. Those participations seem to be correlated with 179
financial interests as Musk's fortune benefitted from 186
Trump's election increasing his fortune to $290 bn (doc 4). Musk's participation 195
in Trump's government shows how blured the lines 203
of a billionaire's role are. Although his domain should be 213
the administration, his implication in the November 8 diplomatic 221
call (doc 1) illustrates his influence on foreign policy. The 229
term "oligarchy", coined to depict the sociology of Trump's cabinet, 239
is quite telling of how the executive power is held by a small 252
number of succesful entrepreneurs. Biden's farewell address 259

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also points out (doc 2) the close link between the Houses and the stock market, also known as the "revolving door". Hence, the independence from finance of the executive and the legislative branches is put at risk by the influence of billionaires. This proximity of political figures and media-owners is reminiscent of the scenes depicted by Orson Welles in Citizen Kane and is quite worrying as freedom of speech and truth seem to be threatened in such a ~~situation~~ situation.

Indeed, I think that the possibility of media manipulation may corrupt the institutions. In Propaganda, in which Bernays presents the ways opinion can be manipulated in a democracy, thanks to publicity. Such power may enable "the abuse of power" as Biden contends, yet it can also undermine the basis of the democratic choice: the access to information. Moreover, the very equality of each vote is ~~threatened~~ at risk due to the influence of billionaires

as Winters ~~pot~~ remarks. This ~~actualises~~ actualizes Herbst 424
intakes in Numbered Voices where he contends that the suffrage 434
clouds other forms of mobilisations, in this case those of a 445
small elite. Hence, one could query the validity of ~~the~~ 454
freedom of speech if it doesn't rely on a form of equality 466
as Zyglis's cartoon seems to indicate. Therefore, the influence 475
of money undermines, in my opinion, the basis of democracy, the 486
vote and the truth. 490

Thus, in my opinion, the ~~role~~ increasing role of money 499
~~played~~ in the United States puts democracy at risk as ~~the~~ it 511
threatens the ~~vote~~ independance of the vote and the branches of 521
power. This situation creates a growing distrust ~~that, in my opinion,~~ 528
in the institutions, symbolised by the proposition of the No King's Act 540
by the Democrats, hinting ~~that~~ how dubious institutions may have become. 550

550 mots.

Thème:

The United States' richest man, if not the world's richest man, has not been economical on the means used in order to ~~uform~~ deeply the American government; becoming ~~an instrument pact and parcel~~ entirely instrumental in Donald Trump's campaign – who promised him to nominate him at the head of a commission ~~charg~~ meant to assess the budgetary situation of the American government. (...)

After having ~~invested~~ donated 75 million~~s~~ ~~of~~ dollar~~s~~ (sixty-nine million euros) ~~in~~ to the republican candidate's campaign, Elon Musk swore to offer one million dollar~~s~~ each day to a "randomly" picked voter on the polling kiosks of the swing states. In exchange, the voter has to sign a petition declaring impossible to modify the first and the second amendment of the American Constitution - those which guarantee freedom of speech and gun-bearing rights - ~~of~~ whom "traditional media do~~e~~s not want to talk about" as Musk contended.

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The media, one of the other targets of complotist circles... The social media X offers him "an unmatched firing power". Elom Musk appropriates the accusations against the Democrats, accusing them of massively deporting "illegal" migrants in key states so that they obtain the American nationality and vote for them.

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