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Letters

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Trump tromps onto the world stage

A stunning abandonment of our accord with Europe

On this 100th birthday of President John F. Kennedy, the headlines citing [German Chancellor Angela Merkel's statement](#) that Europe can no longer rely on its relationship with the United States stand in stark contrast with headlines more than 50 years ago, when our young president affirmed US solidarity with Germany and Europe at the Berlin Wall.

JFK shouted out, to soaring applause in June, 1963: “Freedom has many difficulties and democracy is not perfect, but we have never had to put a wall up to keep our people in. . . . All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin, and, therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words “Ich bin ein Berliner.””

In July 2008, candidate Barack Obama wowed a crowd of tens of thousands at the Brandenburg Gate who came to hear him spin his dreams of hope, not for America, but for the whole world. After listing a series of global problems, Obama declared: “No one nation, no matter how large or powerful, can defeat such challenges alone.”

The rudeness demonstrated by President Trump this month toward Chancellor Merkel, combined with his failure to explicitly endorse the mutual aid pact of NATO's Article 5, has moved most European Union leaders toward the same conclusion: The United States is walking away from its historic global position as a leading partner in preserving the peace in Europe.

The world view of today's Oval Office has abandoned the post-World War II vision that made America great around the world.

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