

Key-question: is globalization leading to a more united and equal world?

Lesson 1 –

**Case study: NEW YORK, a global city (3 h)**

**Introduce**: Locate New York (where is and what is NYC ?)

Don't make the confusion between : the state of New York, New York metropolitan area, New York city

- **New York state**

Located in the northeastern United States, capital city = Albany

It was one of the 13 original colonies, which declared their Independence in 1776.

It's the fourth most populous state, with almost 20 million inhabitants, but over 40 % live in New York city and 2/3 live in the NY metropolitan area.

It is the third wealthiest state in the USA and if it was a sovereign state, it would be the 16<sup>th</sup> power in the world.

Curiosity: Niagara falls at the border with Canada in the Great lakes region

- **New York metropolitan area = Greater New York = Tri-state area**

With 22 million inhabitants, it is the most populous states in the USA.

The core is NYC, but includes also many counties of different states (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania).

It is larger than New York state and the wealthiest region in the world.

- **New York City nicknamed "Big apple" or "Gotham"**

The most populous city in the USA with an estimated population of almost 9 million.

NYC is organized in five boroughs : Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, the Bronx and Saten Island.

Its GMP (gross metropolitan product) is about 1.73 trillion. So, if it was a sovereign state, it would be the 12<sup>th</sup> higher GDP in the world.

⇒ The topic is NMA and NYC.

As you can see, they are the most populous and the wealthiest in the USA.

They are the core, the heart of the world.

**Definition**: New York is a **"global city" or a "world city" or sometimes "Alpha city"**

You can find the word "world city" coined by the French historian Fernand Braudel. He explained that since the Antiquity, some cities organized the trade and the flows and got a superpower on a part of the world (the world economy).

With the globalization, those cities got a world power.

This word was coined in 1991 by a Dutch-American sociologist and economist : Saskia Sassen. She studied globalization and its effects on cities. For her, some cities are cores and nodes of globalization. They organize the world economy and the flows. She found only 3 global cities : NYC, London and Tokyo.

This definition evolved with the French geographer Cynthia Ghorra-Gobin (2007), who prefers the word "world-city" wich includes also historical and cultural aspects of the power (and not only the economic and financial aspects). In English, we accept the two words, which cover more than 70 criteria.

The research publishes a ranking of those cities. The most known is the Global power city index (the last in 2017, financed by a Japanese foundation)

## 1. Why is NYC a global city?

*Here you must find the characteristics of a world or a global city...*

*Watch the different sources, describe and try to find a definition.*

- Population

Population: NY is a megacity (the population exceeds 8 million) 8.55 million (2016)

Since the first US census in 1790, it has held that position, and continues to have more than double the population of Los Angeles, the second largest city.

Chicago is the third largest city in the US, but has just 1/3 the number of people as New York City

NYC is a cosmopolitan city :

- Because of immigration : NYC is a major gateway for immigration, 12 million immigrants were received at Ellis Island since 1892 and more than 800 different languages are spoken.  
Today, the city population is 44 % white and more than 28 % are Hispanic. Only 13 % are African American and the number is decreasing.
- Because of tourism : New York City received an eighth consecutive annual record of approximately 62.8 million tourists in 2017. According to NYC & Company, the official destination marketing organization for the city, the top producing countries for international visitors to New York City in 2011 were the United Kingdom (1,055,000), Canada (1,033,000), Brazil (718,000), France (662,000), Germany (587,000), Australia (532,000), Italy (495,000), China (427,000), Spain (422,000), Mexico (376,000), and Japan (299,000)
- Because of foreign students : more than 500 000 attracted by the famous Columbia university, the NY university or the Rockefeller university.

- Transport's network connected to the world :

3 international airports and ports for container shipping, A very high density of railways, highways and digital network towards the hinterland

- Financial and economic power

The economy of New York City is the largest regional economy in the United States.

New York City has been a leading center of finance in the world economy since the end of World War I.

It is concentrated in the Financial district in the lower Manhattan.

→ New York City is home to the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ, the world's largest stock exchanges by market capitalization and trading activity (= 1<sup>st</sup> place for Foreign Direct Investments). In 2012, the New York City Metropolitan Statistical Area generated a gross metropolitan product (GMP) of over US\$1.33 trillion, just behind the GDP of only twelve nations

→ Concentration of world's activities:

- CBD (The Financial district with the NY stock Exchange,
- headquarters of TNCs (or head offices), innovation territories of high technologies like Silicon Alley)
- high concentrations of advanced service sector firms in fields such as law, accountancy, banking and management consultancy, insurance, health care, real estate and is the top global center for the advertising industry, which is often referred to as "Madison Avenue"
-

Manufacturing, although declining, remains consequential.

- Political influence: UN headquarter
- Cultural influence:
  - Museums (The Metropolitan Museum of Arts or MoMA) Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Central Park,...
  - Entertainment : the 2<sup>nd</sup> after Hollywood for television (seat of CBS, ABC, NBC) and the film industry (Miramax)
  - Journalism : New York Times and Wall Street journal, Vogue are read in the whole world.
  - Creative industries such as digital media, advertising, fashion, design and architecture account for a growing share of employment,

### Conclusion

NYC is the node of networks with other global or world cities = WMA (world(wide) megalopolitan archipelago)

## 2. Urban dynamics of NYC with globalization.

Questions: How does globalization affect the city planning ?

= Describe

→ The urban planning.

→ The urban landscapes

→ The organization of the urban displacements.

- Urban planning

As you can see, globalization is influencing the urban planning.

Manhattan is the core of the city with all the activities in a world city.

You have 2x CBD :

- Midtown, which includes the shopping district (5<sup>th</sup> Avenue) and the theater district (Broadway), main international Hotels (Plaza, Waldorf Astoria) and the Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building)... Flat Iron (Fifth Avenue) district is the center of the Silicon Alley (new technologies).
- Downtown includes the financial district (Wall Street) and the World Trade Center which was destroyed by a terrorist attack (9/11/2001).

Today, the district of WTC is under reconstruction with a new tower, called “the Freedom tower” or “1WTC”, 541 m high (more than the twin towers) and opened in 2014. Six other towers are today being rebuilding (on Greenwich Street).

A memorial for the victims of the terrorist attack was opened in 2011, named *Reflecting absence*, with waterfalls and the names of all the victims (almost 3000).

NYC is expanding. We call that the urban sprawl = an uncontrolled spread of urban development into neighboring regions. For geographers, it is like a new “frontier” (front pionnier)

As a result, the suburbs expand into the countryside. Mostly, those people are in the middle-class, searching a better lifestyle, more safety, fleeing the high prices of real-estate, etc.

Today, new CBD are being developing out of Manhattan : we call that Edge cities, with CBD Commercial center and housing... That's why NYC is becoming a polycentric city.

- Urban landscapes

Downton, the city planning is orthogonal, very easy to locate him/herself.

When we arrive in NYC, the first thing we can see is the skyline made of huge skyscrapers, which symbolizes Manhattan and the American dream. NYC has hundreds skyscrapers, mostly located in midtown and in lower Manhattan. It looks like a forest.

Some of them are so famous: the Empire State building, the "1 WTC", the 432 Park Avenue, the Chrysler building...

Time Square, nicknamed "the cross of the world", on Broadway. A very busy area with billboards, department stores and costumed characters.

The originality in NYC is that it is not empty during the night. Many people live there and have a very rich private life with all the possibilities for entertainment.

- Urban displacements

Everybody can move with hundreds of yellow cabs (taxis), by buses or subway, ferry boats for Staten Island.

Every day, hundreds of commuters go to the different hubs in NYC : Grand Central Station and the WTC transportation hub which are multimodal platforms , connecting the different means of transports.

But NYC is busy with regular traffic jams.

#### Vocabulary

New York State – NMA (NY metropolitan Area) – NYC  
(New York City)

County

Borough

GMP : Gross Metropolitan product (as GDP)

World city / global city

Megacity

Cosmopolitanism.

Network / digital network

Hinterland

Financial center

CBD : central Business district

NYSE and NASDAQ

TNC

Real estate

UNO : United Nations Organization

Core and node

Midtown / Downtown

Urban sprawl

Suburb

Edge city

Polycentric city

Skyline

Skyscraper

Multimodal platform

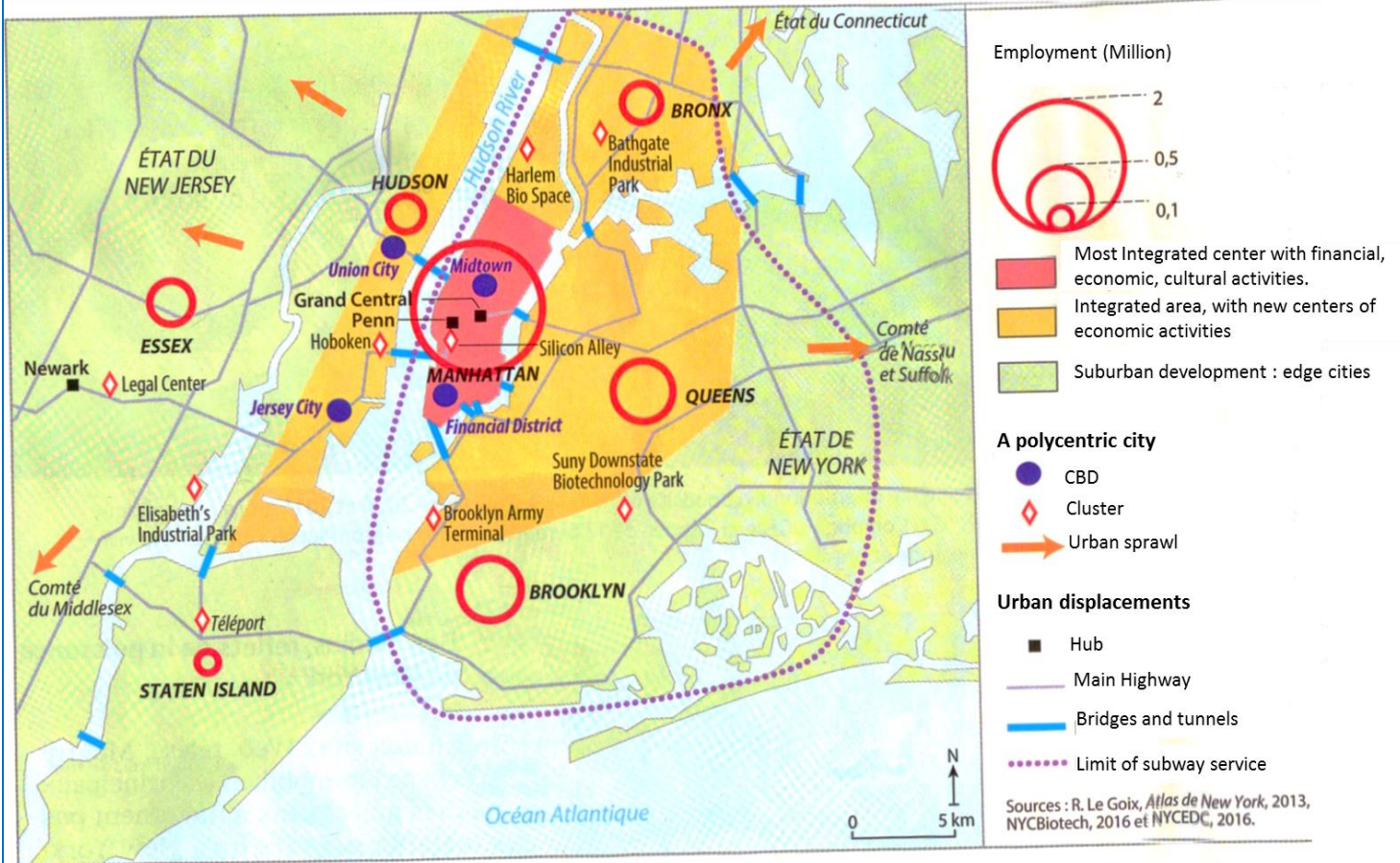
Traffic jam

## 1. Issues for the future

Ingéalités : contrastes sociaux spatiaux, ghettos, immobilier, middle-class dans les edge cities donc accroissement des inégalités

Problèmes environnementaux.

**URBAN DYNAMICS IN NEW YORK CITY**



**Lower MANHATTAN : the skyline**



NYC & Company / Kate Glicksberg

Source : <https://www.tripsavvy.com/48-hours-in-lower-manhattan-4126077>

Lesson 2 –

**An unequal world :  
Territories unequally integrated to globalization**

In a context of globalization, territories are not all integrated in an equal way. We must distinguish :

- **Impulse centers** establish poles and major spaces of globalization. They are cores. The others are peripheries.
- Abandoned spaces = territories and people **in margin**

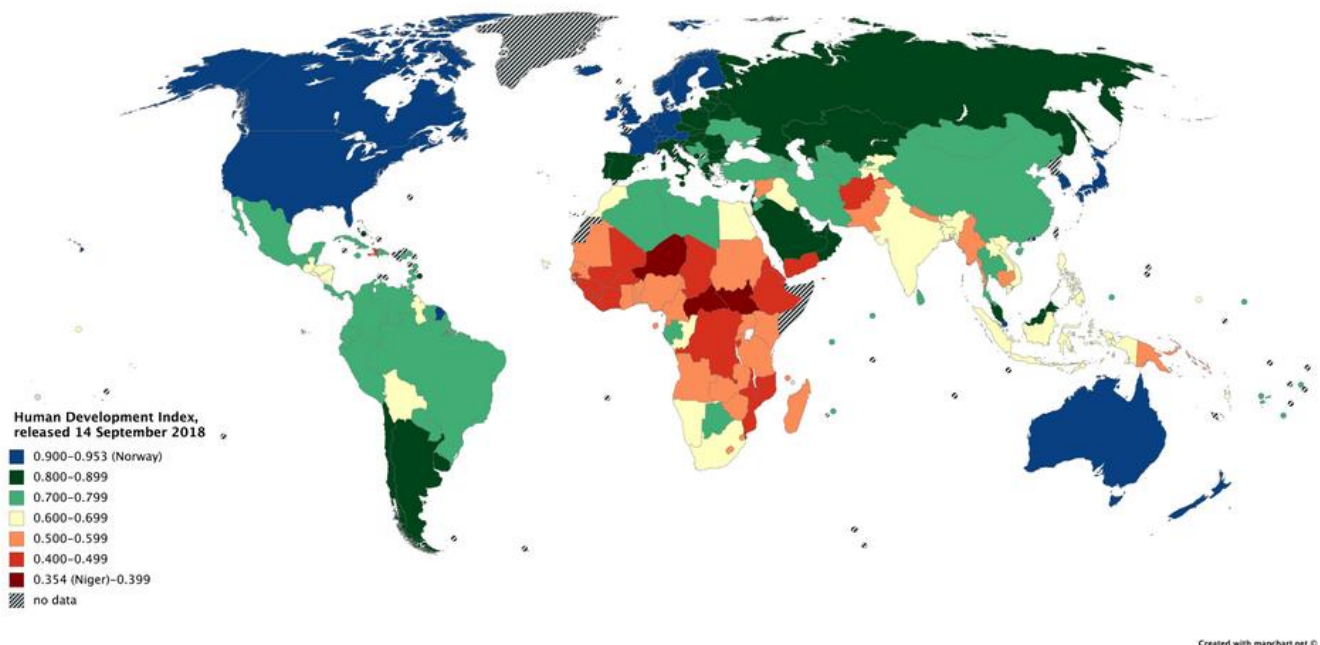
At last, don't forget to study this phenomenon at all scales.

The key-question : How has globalization created a hierarchical organization of the world ?

*You must define cores and periphery in the world, at different scales*

Sources :

**. the human development index (2018)**



Short definition of **HDI** : a composite statistic of life expectancy, education, and income indices used to rank countries into tiers (levels) of human development

GNI = Gross national Income (replacing the Gross National Product) = GDP + factor incomes earned by foreign residents (so the domestic and international activity).

*On this map, you must rank the countries : at the world scale*

**Catégorie 1 : The Most Developed Countries (MDCs) = we say usually “the North”**

- **The Triad** (composed of the USA, the European Union and Japan), now we prefer the term “main centers of power” (Not only Japan but East and South Asia, Not only the USA but North America)
- **The developed countries** : Australia, Israel...
- **(NPI1) or 4 dragons = The Newly Industrialising Countries of first generation (NIC1) or the four dragons** (South Korea, Hong-Kong, Taiwan and Singapore)

**Catégorie 2 : The “South”, but it's plural**

- **the emerging countries** (China, India, South Africa, Brazil and Mexico, ...)
- **the Developing countries** : Tigers, Dragons, Lions
- **the Least Developed Countries or the Fourth world (LDC's)**

## GEOGRAPHY - Theme 1 – Globalization : Territories in globalization

Today, the limit between North and South is more and more wrong, because it's always moving and it doesn't count the differences of scales (for example, the coast of China is a North, but the country is emerging).

At last, at a local scale:

In general, the most developed and integrated areas are the coasts, the cities (the CBD and sometimes the rich suburbs) which offer ports, airports, multimodal platforms, hubs, interfaces (east and south Asia, northern Range, the Atlantic coast of US, the Mediterranean sea, the Gulf).

### Some territories are still outside of the globalization

Some are enclosed :

- Mountains (Himalaya, Andes...), dense forests
- Islands : in the Pacific Ocean or at the opposite, continental countries (located far from the ocean)
- Cold spaces (polar) or deserts, less populated

→ fortunately, the **ICTs** reduce the distances. (Information and Communication Technologies).

. Some are excluded for ideological reasons (North Korea) or reasons of security (disadvantaged districts, ghettos...)

## 1. Definition: What is a thalassocracy ?

<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-is-a-thalassocracy.html>

A country or a nation is considered powerful by the size of its army and the ability to defend itself against the external armies and aggressors.

Thalassocracy is a combination of words derived from the Greek language : original word is THALASSOKRATOR (Strabon) = master of the seas.

The word “Thalassocracy” was first used by Alfred Mahan in his book *“The Influence of the Sea Power Upon History.”* (1890). Mahan, a US naval officer - nicknamed “the most important American strategist of the 19<sup>th</sup> century” - highlights the importance of sea power and set the pace for great naval army race which lasted beyond the World War I.

Thalassocracy was used by the Ancient Greek for the first time to describe the type of government that was set up by the Minoan Civilization which depended on its navy for its power.

### **History Of Thalassocracy**

The first nation whose powers depended on its ship was probably the Crete followed by the Phoenicians who did not manage to assert its authority because of the lack of unity. Greece exhibited the major thalassocracy with the founding of many colonies. However, Greece could also not hold on to the powers because it could not hold its colonies together. The other state that heavily depended on sea power was the Carthage. The Carthage asserted their dominance over the sea by defeating the Romans in the Second Punic War destroying their fleets in the process. The Romans, on the other hand, turned Mediterranean into their possession. The British dominance at sea was established during the Seven Year War that was fought from 1756 to 1763. British dominance over the sea was propelled by their commercial culture and the industrial revolution. The Dark Ages saw many coastal cities of the Mezzogiorno develop into Thalassocracies whose power was derived from the port and the ability of the navies to sail and defend their territories. In the Age of Exploration, many Thalassocracies emerged, particularly in Europe with several nations establishing their colonial empires held together by the naval powers. Some of the empires established during the age of exploration include the Portuguese, British, Dutch, and the Spanish.

<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-is-a-thalassocracy.html>

## **2 . To what extent are the US a thalassocracy?**

For the the specialists in geopolitics, the USA are a “World Island” !

- [A opened territory to the sea](#)

It means that their territory is structured by their interfaces (links between different areas: developed/developing, ocean and hinterland...

= for the US : the Pacific Coast, the Atlantic Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, and Mainstreet = the Seaway of the St Laurent from the Great Lakes to the Ocean.

Don't forget that the territory is made of the Mainland and overseas territories: Alaska and unincorporated territories like Hawai...



The maritime areas are spaces for commercial exchanges (90 % of the trade of goods), but they create vulnerability.

They must secure the maritime seaways (for flows of goods, especially Oil).

This explains the strategy of the US : the principles of a *Sea power* and the necessity of the *Sea control.*, because “Who rules the World Island commands the World”, (1904), Halford Mackinder, English geographer, father of geopolitics and geostrategy

= this is the SEA CONTROL !

## 1. The maritime strategy of the US

→ World Map : The United States of America : « Thalassokrator » (slide 27)

- Spaces to be controlled as a priority

= The Pacific Ocean = a change of the center of gravity (from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific area)

East Asia, The Caribbean Sea, The Mediterranean Sea and in the Middle East = the gulf.

As you can see, the Atlantic Ocean is no more a priority, because the US rely on the NATO alliance for the security of this area.

This explains that:

They have naval basis everywhere in the world: over all the continents and the seas

The repartition of the different fleets of the US Navy : more in the Pacific Ocean, and near Middle East

- The power of the Navy

The naval power is controlled by the US Navy, and particularly the US Marine Corps. Which is governed by the Secretary of Navy.

The USMC is composed of 400 ships and 62 submarines.

- A disputed power

Some maritime conflicts :

- With the climate global change, the Arctic Ocean is crossed by new seaways and the US want to have the control of it (because of the strategic situation and because of the new reachable resources (opposition from Canada, Russia...))

- The “Beef tongue” in the China Sea

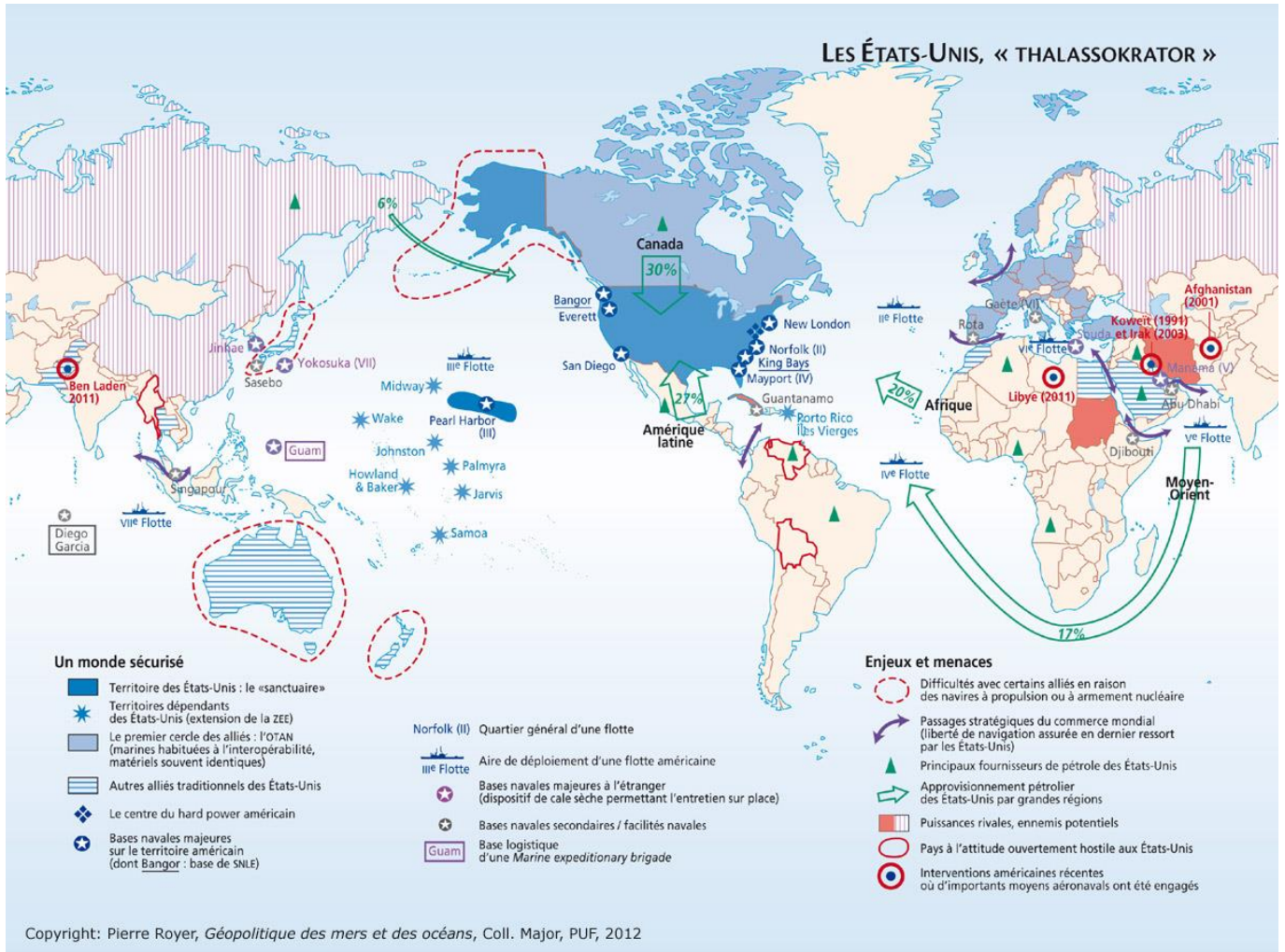
= Always the same reasons : security for the exchanges, control of new resources, military security.

The USA are the 1<sup>st</sup> military power on the sea. But they are disputed by other powers : China (2<sup>th</sup>), Russia, India and lately Brazil, Egypt...

They were vulnerable to terrorist attacks (The USS Cole in 2000).

- ⇒ They impulse a naval arms race with the principle of *the two powers standard* = they must always have the double of naval armament of the second !

<https://www.diploweb.com/Etats-Unis-thalassokrator-mais-pas.html>



<https://www.clionautes.org/les-etats-unis-et-la-mer-vers-un-changement-de-paradigme.html>