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14 October 2021

Week 3 Work Ballot Wise

French Republic

Candidate Information

Emmanuel Macron (La République En Marche):

- Emmanuel Macron (b. 1977) is the 25th and current President of France. Originally a member of the Socialist Party, Macron had served as a senior advisor and Minister of Finance to former President François Hollande. In 2016, Macron left PS to form his own political party, La République En Marche. Branding himself as a progressive and pro-European politician, Macron scored a decisive victory over Marine Le Pen in the second round of voting in the 2017 French Presidential Election. During his presidency, Macron has faced a number of political and social crises ranging from the Yellow Vests (Gilet Jaunes) protests to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Seeking to head off future challenges by Marine Le Pen and other right-wing leaders, Macron and his party have embraced a 'law and order' approach to

governance, prioritizing aggressive policies such as the Global Security Bill, the Islamic Separatist Bill, and a significant reduction on immigration. At the current moment, Macron – who has not made a formal decision of whether to stand in the 2022 election – is the current favorite to win the 2022 Presidential Election.¹

Marine Le Pen (Rassemblement National):

- Marine Le Pen (b. 1968) is the current leader of the far-right Rassemblement National (National Rally) party. Although Le Pen has sought to present herself as a more moderate and mainstream candidate than her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, she still favors hardline policies on immigration, security, and Islam.² As of October 2021, Le Pen remains one of the favorites to challenge President Macron in the upcoming election. However, Le Pen's popularity has dropped significantly due to a poor showing by Rassemblement National in the 2021 regional elections and the unexpected rise of Eric Zemmour, a far-right television pundit who is now seen as the primary challenger to President Macron.³

Xavier Bertrand (Les Républicains):

- Xavier Bertrand (b. 1965) is the current President of the Regional Council for Hauts de France and the perennial frontrunner in the race

¹ Elysée, *Emmanuel Macron*, p. 1

² Eleanor Beardsley, *Marine Le Pen's Brutal Upbringing Shaped Her Worldview*, p. 1

³ Angelique Chrisafis, *French Far Right's New Face: The Meteoric Rise of Eric Zemmour*, p. 2

to represent Les Républicains in the 2022 Presidential Election. Although Bertrand has long been seen as an outsider to the mainstream right, Bertrand's simple nature and working-class conservatism has appealed to a wide-range of French voters – much to the ire of LR leaders - who feel that they have been neglected by the political class.⁴ Despite Bertrand's middle-class appeal, he currently sits in fourth place in the polls, trailing President Macron, Eric Zemmour, and Marine Le Pen.⁵

Jean-Luc Mélenchon: (La France Insoumise):

- Jean Luc Mélenchon (b. 1951) is the current head of the progressive La France Insoumise (Rebellious France) party. Often described as a left-wing populist and a democratic socialist, Mélenchon has advocated for a French exit from both the European Union and NATO. Equally important, Mélenchon and LFI have upheld traditional progressive policies such as gender equality, the fair treatment of migrants, and an end to Islamophobia and anti-Muslim stigmatization.⁶

Anne Hidalgo (Parti Socialiste):

- Anne Hidalgo (b. 1959) is the current Mayor of Paris and the Socialist Party's candidate in the 2022 Presidential Elections. Originally from the Andalusia region of Spain, Hidalgo has taken a particularly sensitive approach towards immigrants – a sharp contrast from the

⁴ Clea Caulcutt, *Xavier Bertrand, the Ex-Insurance Salesman Who Smashed the Jaws of the French Right*, p. 2

⁵ Politico, *France - 2022 Presidential Election Voting Intention*, p. 1

⁶ Anne Nussbaum & William Horobin, *Macron's Far-Left Nemesis Mélenchon Enters Campaign for 2022*, p. 1

attitudes of compatriots on the right. In addition to her support of a ‘humane’ immigration policy, Hidalgo has also been a strong supporter of eco-friendly initiatives.⁷ At the current moment, Hidalgo trails every major French candidate in the polls.

Yannick Jadot (Green Party):

- Yannick Jadot (b. 1967) is a current member of the European Parliament and the Green Party’s (EELV) candidate for President. As typical with Green Party candidates, much of Jadot’s political positions are centered around an effective response to global climate change and the implementation of green/eco-friendly policies. Described as a pragmatist, Jadot seeks to implement a “solutions based” approach to the current environmental crisis.⁸ Despite a common agreement amongst French politicians that climate change presents one of the most significant challenges of the modern era, Jadot and the EELV are currently polling second to last amongst major candidates in the 2022 Presidential Election.

Eric Zemmour (Independent – Far Right):

- Eric Zemmour (b. 1958) is a French far-right journalist, author, and television pundit who has been mentioned as a possible candidate in the 2022 Presidential Election. Commonly known for his controversial and extreme right-wing views on immigration, Islam, and

⁷ Mari Eccles, *Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo to Run for French President*, p. 2

⁸ France 24, *French Greens Choose Yannick Jadot as Their Candidate for 2022 Presidential Election*, p. 2

LGBTQ rights, Zemmour has sought to provide the French far-right with another alternative to the increasingly moderate Marine Le Pen. Although Zemmour has repeatedly turned down requests to run for President, some French polls currently show him as the primary challenger to Emmanuel Macron in the 2022 Presidential Election.⁹

Key Issues

COVID-19

Summary:

- With over 6,800,000 million cases and nearly 115,000 deaths, France has been one of the hardest hit countries by the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰ According to a paper by Or et al, the pandemic “brought into light structural weaknesses of the health system, including its governance and decision making process.”¹¹ Despite a wide-ranging vaccine campaign - around 76% of the population has received at least one dose of a government approved COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson), the government has been accused of abusing its power and mismanaging the health crisis.¹² In particular, Macron has come under fire for the draconian measures implemented during the country’s three national lockdowns, the government issued Health Pass (Pass Sanitaire), and an alleged

⁹ Angelique Chrisafis, *French Far Right's New Face: The Meteoric Rise of Eric Zemmour*, p. 2

¹⁰ World Health Organization, *France: WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard*, p. 1

¹¹ Or et al., *France's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*, p. 1

¹² Josh Holder, *Tracking Coronavirus Vaccinations Around the World*, p. 1

neglect of the national healthcare system during the pandemic.

Specific Issue	Policy		Macron - LREM (President)	Le Pen - RN	Bertrand - LR	Melenchon - LFI	Hidalgo - PS	Jadot - EELV	Zemmour- Ind
COVID-19	Lock-downs	Candidate/Party Public Statement	 Adres...	The Coronavirus Black Book. From Fiasco to Abyss. (Marine Le Pen)	Bertrand on COVID-19		Hidalgo Statement on COVID-19 Lockdowns (March 2021)	Green Party Communique on COVID-19	
		Previous Party/Candidate Action/Proposal			LR National Convention on Health	Chapter 1: Mélenchon Presidential Program LFI Statement on COVID-19			
		Candidate/Party Press Release		RN Press Release on COVID-19					
		Miscellaneous	LREM COVID						

			Information Flyer. LREM Vaccination Flyer						
		Policy Orientation	Increased Government Oversight,	Populist - Right Orientation Reduced government oversight. Closure of borders.	Conservative - Leaning	Populist - Left Orientation Reduced Government Oversight	Liberal - Leaning Reduced Government Oversight.	Liberal - Leaning	
		Impact	Reduced Economic Productivity, Restriction of Liberties, Universal Impact	Impact of policies would be unclear.	Positive impact for the French Healthcare system.	Positive impact for the French Healthcare system. Positive Benefit to Civil Liberties	Positive impact for the French Healthcare system.	Increased Support for Local Government.	

Specific Issue	Policy		Macron - LREM (President)	Le Pen - RN	Bertrand - LR	Melenchon - LFI	Hidalgo - PS	Jadot - EELV	Zemmour- Ind
COVID-19	Pass Sanitaire	Candidate/Party Public Statement	 Emm...	Marine Le Pen on the Pass Sanitaire		LFI Program on the Health Pass. Mélenchon Tweet of the Pass Sanitaire	Olivier Faure on the Pass Sanitaire		
		Previous Party/Candidate Action/Proposal							
		Candidate/Party Press Release				La France Insoumise Press Release on Health Pass.	Press Release on Health Pass		
		Miscellaneous		Article on COVID-19 Health Pass.					
		Policy Orientation	Mandated Vaccination	Freedom of Choice, No to Vaccine mandates.	N/A	Freedom of Choice, No to Vaccine mandates.	Unclear	Unclear	

		Impact	Restriction of Liberties, Universal Impact	Doers not positively impact any particular group. Based primarily on an individual's belief system.	N/A	Doers not positively impact any particular group. Based primarily on an individual's belief system.	N/A	N/A	
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Economic Recovery/Recession

Summary:

- Like many other countries, France's economy has been hit hard by the COVID-19 Pandemic. In 2020, the French economy contracted by over eight percent as a result of two national lockdowns and large-scale community spread of COVID-19.¹³ This marks France's worst recession since the Second World War. In response to the pandemic, the French Government has introduced a series of monetary assistance schemes such as payment deferrals, rate reductions (taxes), state compensation, and economic stimulus measures (loans,

¹³ The World Bank, *GDP Growth (Annual %) - France*, p. 1

moratoriums, debt repayments) in addition to a support for the social and solidarity economy and a wide-ranging economic recovery plan.¹⁴ Despite the continued spread of COVID-19 and the introduction of the highly contagious Delta Variant, the French economy is predicted to grow an estimated 8% in 2021.¹⁵

Specific Issue	Policy		Macron - LREM (President)	Le Pen - RN	Bertrand - LR	Melenchon - LFI	Hidalgo - PS	Jadot - EELV	Zemmour-Ind
Economic Recovery/Recession	Subsidies/ Public Funding/ Economic Recovery Unemployment Reform	Candidate/ Party Public Statement			Tweet from Hauts-de-France on job creation. Bertrand on Macron's Proposed Unemployment Reform		PS Statement on Unemployment Insurance PS Statement on Macron's Economic Recovery Plan Hidalgo on Unemployment Reform	Green Party Statement on Unemployment Reform	
		Previous Party/Candidate Action/	Business Support Measures		LR Convention on the Economic	Chapter 2: Mélenchon Presidential Program		Green Party Economic Recovery Plan	

¹⁴ Ministry of Finance, *Coronavirus COVID-19: Support for Business*, p. 1

¹⁵ Reuters, *France expects economic growth of 8% for 2021 - Minister*, p. 1

		Proposal	Government Aid for the Social and Solidarity Economy France Relance Recovery Plan LREM Unemployment Reform		Sovereignty of France				
		Party/Candidate Press Release					PS Press Release on Unemployment Insurance		
		Miscellaneous	Support for Young People News Article on France 2030 Investment Plan				Olivier Faure on Unemployment Insurance		
		Policy Orientation	Welfare (Liberal-leaning) Unemployment Reform (Conservative-	Welfare	Coservative - Leaning	Liberal - Leaning	Liberal - Leaning	Liberal - Green Orientation Green Investment	

			Leaning) Increased Government Oversight						
		Impact	Increased support for young people and climate initiatives.	Some support for small business and the working class.	Positive impact on traditional French industries (defense, health, energy transition, food, high-tech). Positive benefits for farmers and agriculture workers.	Unclear.	Positive impact on small businesses and the solidarity economy. Benefits Social-Ecology.	Positive impact on the environment. Increased support for the 'green' economy. Increased support for the working class (Universal Basic Income).	

Security/Police Violence

Summary:

- In April of 2020, the LREM controlled National Assembly (lower house of the French Parliament) passed a wide-ranging security bill, greatly expanding the authority of the Police. Despite the government's claims that the new law will better protect officers and allow them to effectively perform their jobs, opponents have claimed that the new law is too vague and can easily be abused. In particular, critics argue that Article 24 - a section of the bill which makes it illegal to share or publish images of active duty police officers - will restrict the ability of the public to report acts of police violence.¹⁶ Prime Minister Jean Castex has since said that the article would be 'amended.'¹⁷

Specific Issue	Policy		Macron - LREM (President)	Le Pen - RN	Bertrand - LR	Melenchon - LFI	Hidalgo - PS	Jadot - EELV	Zemmour- Ind
Security/Police Violence	Police Power	Candidate/ Party Public Statement			Bertrand on Law and Order Bertrand proposal for individuals who attack Police Officers. Bertrand	LFI Booklet on Security and Policing LFI Statement on the Global Security Bill	PS Statement on Police Violence Communique from the Socialist Party on attacks against the Police	Green Party Document on Security and Police Violence	

¹⁶ Kim Willsher, *Concern over French Bill that Cracks Down on Photos Identifying Police*, p. 1

¹⁷ British Broadcasting Corporation, *Michel Zecler Beating*, p. 5

					Speech on Security				
		Party/Candidate Action/Proposal	Global Security Bill	White Paper on Security Forty Propositions on the Police RN Publication on Security and the Suburbs	LR Proposals on Security				
		Party/Candidate Press Release	LREM Press Release on Security			Press Release on Security and Policing LFI Press Release on Gang Violence Additional LFI Press Release on Global	PS Press Release on Police Training Additional Press Release on Police and Security		

						Security Bill			
						LFI Press Release on Police Violence			
		Miscellaneous	AP Report on Macron Speech at the Roubaix						
		Policy Orientation	Conservative - Leaning Expanded government powers. 'Law and Order'	Right - Wing Expanded government powers. 'Law and Order'	Conservative - Leaning	Liberal - Leaning	Center - Left Orientation	Liberal - Leaning	
		Impact	Increased funding for Police and Security Forces. Greater surveillance powers for	Increased funding for Police and Security Forces. Negative impact on civil	Increased funding for Police and Security Forces.	Decreased funding for the Police and Interior Ministry. Positive benefit for Black and	Modest benefits to the Police and Security forces. Mildly positive	End restrictions to civil liberties and other freedoms. End the stigmatization of marginalized groups.	

			the police. Negative impact on Black and Arab citizens.	liberties and Black and Arab citizens.		Arab citizens.	impact on Black and Arab citizens.		
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Islam/Laïcité

Summary:

- Throughout his term, President Macron has worked to uphold Laïcité (French Secularism) and prevent the spread of radical Islam within the country. In February of 2021, the French Parliament passed a bill designed to curtail the influence of Islamic ‘separatism’ in the country, promising stronger oversight of “mosques, schools, and sports clubs to safeguard France from radical Islamists and promote respect for French values.”¹⁸ This new legislation comes in the face of two violent attacks by Islamic extremists that claimed the life of Samuel Paty, a schoolteacher in northwest Paris who was beheaded for showing images of the Prophet Muhammed to his class, and a series of stabbing that killed three people in Nice.¹⁹ Despite large support for the bill in the French

¹⁸ Elaine Ganley, *France Passes anti-Radicalism Bill that Worries Muslims*, p. 1

¹⁹ Aurelien Breeden, *Two More Men Are Arrested Over Knife Attack in Nice*, p. 1

Parliament, opponents claim that the law unfairly targets members of the country's estimated five million Muslims.²⁰

Specific Issue	Policy		Macron - LREM (President)	Le Pen - RN	Bertrand - LR	Melenchon - LFI	Hidalgo - PS	Jadot - EELV	Zemmour-Ind
		Candidate/ Party Public Statement	Macron Speech on Islamic Separatism		Eric Ciotti Interview (June 2021) Xavier Bertrand on Salafism Bertrand tweet on Islamic Terrorism.	LFI Booklet on Laïcité	PS Communiqué on anti-Islam, anti-Semitic attacks	Green Party Document on Secularism	Statement retweeted by Eric Zemmour Eric Zemmour on Muslims Additional statement retweeted by Eric Zemmour regarding Islam Zemmour on Islam and Islamism
		Previous	Separatist	RN	LR		PS Proposals		

²⁰ Elaine Ganley, *France Passes anti-Radicalism Bill that Worries Muslims*, p. 1

		Party/Candidate Action/Proposal	Bill LREM Publication on Separatism LREM Proposals on Separatism	Proposals on Islam	Proposals on Islam		on Islamic Separatism		
		Party/ Candidate Press Release				LFI Press Release on the Stigmatization of Muslims LFI Press Release on Islamic Separatism			
		Miscellaneous		Report on Marine Le Pen ISIS Tweets					Zemmour Accused of Racism for Remarks about Drug Dealers
		Policy Orientation	Conservative - Leaning Increased	Conservative - Leaning Increased	Conservative - Leaning Increased	Liberal - Leaning Reduces the	Liberal - Leaning Reduces the	Liberal - Leaning Reduces the	Far/Populist Right Orientation

			surveillance powers.	Surveillance Powers. Ban on traditional religious attire.	authority to disrupt terrorist cells. Ban on traditional religious attire.	stigmatization of French Muslims.	stigmatization of French Muslims. Combat radicalization in French prisons.	stigmatization of French Muslims. Positive impact for French Muslims.	
		Impact	Threatens to stigmatize French Muslims.	Threatens to stigmatize French Muslims.	Threatens to stigmatize French Muslims.	Helps prevent the stigmatization of French Muslims.	Helps prevent the stigmatization of French Muslims.		Severe repercussions for the French Muslim community.

Immigration

Summary:

- Although France has not experienced the large-scale migrant crisis faced by Germany, Hungary, Austria, and Greece, the number of asylum applications within the country has grown exponentially in the last five years.²¹ Reeling from a series of devastating terrorist

²¹ World Data, *Asylum Applications and Refugees in France*, p. 1

attacks and fearing an influx of refugees from the Middle East, far-right figures such as Marine Le Pen and Eric Zemmour - who have called for strict limits on immigration - have skyrocketed in popularity. This approach has also been mirrored by the Macron government who recently passed legislation making it more difficult for migrants to legally enter the country.²²

Specific Issue	Policy		Macron - LREM (President)	Le Pen - RN	Bertrand - LR	Melenchon - LFI	Hidalgo - PS	Jadot - EELV	Zemmour- Ind
Immigration	Restrict/ Allow Immigrants and Asylum Seekers	Public Statement		RN Publication on Immigration Marine Le Pen Interview on France 2 (French) Marine Le Pen Interview regarding Immigration Referendum	Bertrand on Immigration, Race, and Religion Bertrand on Immigration Policy	LFI Booklet on Migration		Green Party Document on Migration	Eric Zemmour on Immigration Additional Tweet by Zemmour regarding Immigration Zemmour on Immigration and Nationality

²² France 24, *Macron's Government Passes Controversial Asylum and Immigration Law*, p. 1

		Previous Party/Candidate Action/Proposals	Macron Immigration Bill		LR Immigration Proposals		PS Proposals on Immigration		
		Candidate/Party Press Release		RN Press Release on Immigration (July 2021) RN Press Release on Immigration in the Balkans	LR Press Release on Immigration (Larcher) LR Press Release on Immigration (Ratailleau)	LFI Press Release on Migrants LFI Press Release on Afghan Refugees LFI Press Release on Macron's decision to limit visas from the Maghreb			
		Miscellaneous		Black Book on the Regions					The Great Replacement Theory
		Policy Orientation	Conservative - Leaning	Right - Wing Nativism	Conservative - Leaning	Liberal - Leaning	Liberal - Leaning	Liberal - Leaning	Far/Populist - Right Orientation

			‘National Security’						
		Impact	Negative effect on migrants and asylum seekers.	Negative effect on migrants and asylum seekers.	Negative effect on migrants and asylum seekers.	Positive effect on migrants and asylum seekers.	Positive effect on migrants and asylum seekers.	Positive effect on migrants and asylum seekers.	Severe repercussions for migrants and asylum seekers.

Pension Reform

Summary:

- President Macron’s attempt to overhaul France’s dated pension system has become a key issue in the 2022 Presidential Election.

Although Macron’s proposed reforms were intended to streamline the current system, they have been met with substantial backlash from several groups.²³ From December 2019 to February 2020, hundreds of thousands of French citizens participated in nationwide protests calling for President Macron to scrap his plans to universalize the current pension system.²⁴ Despite resulting in some of the largest and most sustained strikes in Modern French history, the government has stated that it intends to address the issue of pension reform once the

²³ Lisa Bryant, *France’s Government Introduces Pension Bill Amidst Protests*, p. 1

²⁴ The New York Times, *Strikes Against Macron’s Pension Plans Shut Down Much of France*, p. 1

COVID-19 pandemic has concluded.²⁵

Specific Issue	Policy		Macron - LREM (President)	Le Pen - RN	Bertrand - LR	Melenchon - LFI	Hidalgo - PS	Jadot - EELV	Zemmour- Ind
Pension Reform		Candidate/ Party Public Statement		Marine Le Pen on Pension Reform	Bertrand on Pension Reform Additional Bertrand tweet on Pension Reform	 Retire... Adrienne Quatennens on Pension Reform	Olivier Faure Statement on Pension Reform		
		Previous Candidate/ Party Action/Proposal			LR Pension Reform Proposals				
		Candidate/ Party Press Release					PS Press Release on Pension Reform		

²⁵ Reuters Staff, *France Finance Minister Says Pension Reform Should Not Be Put Off*, p. 1

		Miscellaneous	News Article on Macron Pension Reform Bill						
		Policy Orientation	Welfare	Oppose Macron's reforms. Protect the working class.	Oppose Macron's Reforms.	Oppose Macron's Reforms. Liberal - Leaning	Oppose Macron's Reforms.	N/A	
		Impact	Raised retirement age. Negative effect on teachers, doctors, and public sector employees (railroad workers)	Protects workers from the negative effects of Macron's reform.	Raised retirement age. Impact is unclear.	Unclear Increased support and recognition of trade unions protesting against President Macron.	Unclear	Unclear	

Gender Equality

Summary:

- Although France ranks highly within the EU on Women's Rights (abortion has been legal on the national level since 1975), the country still struggles with reports of Femicide – the intentional killing of women and girls – domestic violence, and sexual harassment in the workplace.²⁶ According to Human Rights Watch, incidents of domestic violence rose approximately 30% during the first week of the national lockdown in March 2020. Moreover, French police had reported at least ninety instances of femicide/sexual violence by December of 2020.²⁷ France was also heavily impacted by the #MeToo – the French called their movement #BalanceTonPorc (Rat out your Pig). Despite a lack of “significant convictions or resignations”, the movement has greatly increased “the visibility of victims.”²⁸

Specific Issue	Policy		Macron - LREM (President)	Le Pen - RN	Bertrand - LR	Melenchon - LFI	Hidalgo - PS	Jadot - EELV	Zemmour- Ind
Gender Equality	Women's Rights/ Abortion	Candidate/ Party Candidate/ Party Public Statement	Macron Statement on Abortion (Twitter)			LFI Booklet on Gender Equality	Olivier Faure Speech (August 28, 2021) See Page 3 Anne Hidalgo	Green Party Document on Culture and Feminism	

²⁶ Marie Diehl, *Abortion in France*, p. 1

²⁷ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2021: France*, p. 5

²⁸ The Borgen Project, *Women's Rights in France*, p. 2

							on Gender Equality.		
		Previous Candidate/ Party Action/ Proposal	LREM Proposals on Gender Equality Parliamentary Report on Abortion						
		Candidate/ Party Press Release				LFI Press Release on anti-Racism/ anti-Sexism Protest			
		Miscellaneous	News Report on Macron Abortion Law	RN Flyer on Women's Rights			News Article on Anne Hidalgo and Gender Equality		
		Policy Orientation	Liberal - Leaning Increased support for abortion.	Pro - equality/ women's right	Unclear	Liberal - Leaning Promote gender equality and	Liberal - Leaning Promote gender equality and	Liberal - Leaning Promote gender equality and	

						protect the right to abortion.	protect the right to abortion.	eco-feminism.	
		Impact	Increased support for abortion rights and gender equality.	Some support for abortion rights and gender equality.	N/A	Benefits gender equality and women's rights.	Greatly benefits gender equality and women's rights.	Benefits gender equality and women's rights.	

Climate Change

Summary:

Climate Change – like in many other countries – has had a major effect on France. This has been especially true in recent years as the country has suffered from extreme heatwaves and large-scale flooding.²⁹ Despite being a member of the Paris Climate Accord and promising to shift to a ‘Green Economy’, the French government has been criticized by both the United Nations and the country’s independent High Council for the Climate for failing to meet its goals for combating Climate Change.³⁰ In response to these shortcomings, President Macron recently announced his intention to add a provision to the French constitution guaranteeing “environmental protection and biological diversity” in addition to an

²⁹ Tom Di Liberto & Rebecca Lindsey, *Atmospheric Groundhog Day Behind Flooding in France and Germany*, p. 2-3

³⁰ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2021: France*, p. 7

ambitious effort to combat climate change.³¹ However, climate activists have continued to criticize the government for not doing enough stating, “as it stands, the proposed law is a climatic and social failure.”³²

Specific Issue	Policy		Macron - LREM (President)	Le Pen - RN	Bertrand - LR	Melenchon - LFI	Hidalgo - PS	Jadot - EELV	Zemmour- Ind
Climate Change	Environmental Sustainability	Candidate/ Party Public Statement	Macron at the Citizen's Climate Council	RN Counter-Project to President Macron's Climate Referendum Le Pen on Nuclear Power	Xavier Bertrand on Wind Turbines Xavier Bertrand on Nuclear Reactors.	LFI Booklet on Ecological Planning LFI Booklet on Renewable Energy LFI Booklet on Zero Waste LFI Booklet on Ecological Transport	PS Program on the Environment/ Climate Change Anne Hidalgo on Social Ecology	Domestic Biodiversity Planetary Health Climate Refugees Yannick Jadot on Nuclear Power Jadot on Climate Change and	Zemmour on Nuclear Power

³¹ France 24, *Macron's Climate Referendum Initiative Stalls as Senate Waters Down Bill*, p. 2

³² France 24, *Thousands March in France Demanding Real Action on Climate Change*, p. 1

						Jean-Luc Mélenchon Tweet on Climate Change Jean-Luc Mélenchon Tweet on Nuclear Power		Nuclear Power	
		Previous Candidate/ Party Action/Pro posal	Macron Govern- ment Climate Plan Macron/LR EM Climate Proposals (2017) National Assembly Resolution on Climate Change		LR Proposals on the Environment/ Climate Change			Green Party Energy Proposals Green Party Proposals on Building and Agri- culture Green Party Proposals on Lodging Green Party Proposals on Town Planning and	

								Land Use	
		Candidate/ Party Press Release				LFI Press Release on Climate Change Additional LFI Press Release on Climate Change			
		Miscella-n eous	News Article on Macron's Proposed Climate Referen- dum Recent Article on Climate Change and Nuclear Energy				News Article on Hidalgo Climate Policy in Paris Additional Article on Mayor Hidalgo's Climate Policy in Paris		
		Policy Orientation	Center - Left Orientation	Conservative - Leaning	Conser- vative - Leaning	Liberal - Leaning	Liberal Leaning	Liberal - Green Orientation	Far/Populist - Right Orientation

		Impact	Negative impact on the traditional energy industry. Somewhat Positive impact on the green economy and eco-friendly industries	Negative impact on the environment. Benefit traditional industries.	Negative impact on the environment. Benefit traditional industries.	Positive Impact on the Environment. Negative impact on traditional energy industries.	Positive Impact on the Environment. Possible disruption of daily commutes in Paris (Hidalgo Parking Space Policy).	Positive Impact on the Environment. Substantial benefits for the environment. Severe disruption for France's traditional industries.	Unclear

Counterterrorism (the Sahel and the Middle East)

Summary:

- Since the early to mid 2010s, France has participated in major counterterrorism operations in both the Middle East and its former colonies in the Sahel.

- In 2013, French troops were deployed to Mali to assist the government in pushing back Islamic militants that had gained a foothold in the country. The mission has since been succeeded by Operation Barkhane – an anti-insurgent operation that seeks to provide counterterrorism support for G5 Sahel governments and prevent terrorist groups from regaining a foothold in the region.³³
- In 2014, France launched Operation Chammal in an effort to contain the rapid expansion of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. Initially French forces conducted limited airstrikes on ISIL positions in the Levant. However, the size and scope of these operations was greatly increased after the 2015 Paris Attacks.
- In addition to Iraq and Syria, France has also deployed military forces in Libya where – alongside Russia and the United Arab Emirates – it has supported the forces of renegade Libyan general Khalifa Haftar against the UN backed Government of National Accord.³⁴
- Despite devoting massive amounts of resources to counterterrorism operations at home and abroad, France has struggled to contain the spread of Islamic extremism. In the past decade, nearly 1,300 people have been killed or injured in terrorist attacks on French soil - the most notable being the 2015 Paris attacks in which Islamic State gunmen and suicide bombers killed 130 people and wounded 350 more.³⁵

³³ Ministry of Defense, *Operation Barkhane*, p. 2

³⁴ Rym Momtaz, *With Haftar in Retreat, France Hedges its Bets in Libya*, p. 3

³⁵ Counter Extremism Project, *France: Extremism and Terrorism*, p. 1

- As of 2021, French authorities are believed to be monitoring roughly 15,000 terrorism suspects.³⁶ Equally important, the French government has worked to keep tabs on at least 1,400 radicalized individuals in French prisons and the approximately 2,000 French citizens who have left the country to join terrorist organizations since 2016.³⁷

Specific Issue	Policy		Macron - LREM (President)	Le Pen - RN	Bertrand - LR	Melenchon - LFI	Hidalgo - PS	Jadot - EELV	Zemmour- Ind
Counter-terrorism	Defense /Foreign Policy	Candidate/ Party Candidate /Party Public Statement	Macron Speech at No-Money For Terror Conference (2018)  Macro... (Macron Announces end to Operation Barkhane)	Marine Le Pen Statement on the Fall of Afghanistan	LR Senator Christian Cambon Interview - Radio France Internationale Bertrand on Operation Barkhane	Jean Luc Mélenchon on Mali		Green Party Statement on the Fall of Afghanistan and French Military Intervention in the Middle East and the Sahel	
		Previous	Macron/				Military		

³⁶ Counter Extremism Project, *France: Extremism and Terrorism*, p. 4

³⁷ Ibid.

		Candidate/ Party Action/ Proposal	LREM Defense Proposal				Interventions under President Hollande (2012-2017)		
		Candidate/ Party Press Release		RN Press Release on Afghanistan and the Sahel		LFI Press Release on Operation Barkhane LFI Press Release on Mali			
		Miscella-ne ous	Macron visits Baghdad						
		Policy Orientation	Conservative - Leaning Increase Defense Spending Project French Power	Conservative - Leaning	Conservative - Leaning Halt all efforts to withdraw from the Sahel. Project French Power.	Liberal - Leaning	Slightly - Left Leaning	Liberal - Leaning Oppose foreign interventions.	

		Impact	Negative Impact on French Muslims/ Arabs	Negative Impact on Migrants and Asylum Seekers.	Negative Impact on French Muslims/ Arabs	Positive Impact on French Muslims/ Arabs	Negative Impact on French Muslims/ Arabs	Positive Impact on French Muslims/ Arabs.	
			Benefit to French Security.	Negative Impact on French Muslims/ Arabs	Benefit to French Security.	Possible security vacuum in the Sahel.	Benefit to French Security.		

Foreign Policy (European Union/AUKUS)

Summary:

- As one of the bloc's founding members and the seat of the European Parliament, France has long favored a strong relationship with the EU.³⁸ However, the 2015 migrant crisis and the subsequent rise of populist forces in Europe has led some French citizens questioning the benefits of the European Union.
- On September 15, 2021, the US, Australia, and the UK announced the creation of a trilateral security pact (AUKUS) in which

³⁸ European Union, *France*, p. 1

Washington and London would provide the Australian government with nuclear powered submarines. The French – who had signed a \$66 billion submarine deal with Canberra in 2016 – were shocked and dismayed by the announcement of the agreement, referring to it as “knife-in-the-back.”³⁹ For Macron and the French government, who have sought to maintain France’s traditional role as a global power, the AUKUS debacle has created an existential crisis in which the French people have begun to question their country’s place in the world. Additionally, AUKUS represents a significant setback for French power projection in the Pacific – which it sees as currently dominated by the US and China.⁴⁰

Specific Issue	Policy		Macron - LREM (President)	Le Pen - RN	Bertrand - LR	Melenchon - LFI	Hidalgo - PS	Jadot - EELV	Zemmour- Ind
Foreign Policy (European Union/ AUKUS)	Defense /Foreign Policy	Candidate/ Party Candidate/ Party Public Statement	Macro... (Macron Statement on AUKUS and Defense Deal with Greece) French Foreign Minister on AUKUS	RN European Program Marine Le Pen Statement on AUKUS	LR European/International Convention Xavier Bertrand on AUKUS and France's Relationship	LFI Booklet on NATO and European Defense Chapter 4: Mélenchon Presidential Program (2021)		Europe and Ecology Europe and Defense Europe and Democracy Green Party Project (2022) See pgs 82-83	Zemmour on the European Union

³⁹ Norimitsu Onishi, *An Uncomfortable Question in France: Are We Still a Great Power?*, p. 1-3

⁴⁰ Norimitsu Onishi, *An Uncomfortable Question in France: Are We Still a Great Power?*, p. 3

			LREM/ Macron European Program		with the United States	Jean-Luc Mélenchon Statement on AUKUS Jean-Luc Mélenchon on NATO Jean-Luc Mélenchon on the EU and French obligations to European Treaties		Yannick Jadot on the European Union	
		Previous Candidate/ Party Action/ Proposal	News Article on French Defense Deal with Greece		President Sarkozy (LR) Speech at the European Council (2008)		President Hollande (PS) Speech at the European Parliament (2015)		
		Candidate/ Party Press Release					PS Press Release on the State of the EU		

		Miscellaneous							
		Policy Orientation	Center - Right Orientation Pro-European Project French Power	Populist - Right Orientation Eurosceptic	Conservative - Leaning Pro - European Project French Power	Populist - Left Orientation Eurosceptic	Liberal - Leaning Pro - European Project French Power	Liberal- Green Orientation Pro-European Pro-Climate	Far/Populist Right Orientation
		Impact	Benefits the French working class (EU). Positive security benefits (EU). Negative effect on French Global Power (AUKUS). Negative impact on the	Reduced global cooperation (EU/ AUKUS).	Benefits the French working class (EU). Positive security benefits (EU). Negative ramifications for the NATO Alliance (AUKUS)	Reduced global cooperation (EU/ AUKUS).	Benefits the French working class (EU). Positive security benefits (EU).	Benefits the Environment. Benefits the French working class (EU). Increased global cooperation (EU).	Unclear

			French defense sector (AUKUS).						
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