

Group Presentations

Topic: The Recent U.S. Trade Restrictions and Potential Impacts

The United States has recently proposed imposing stiff tariffs on imported goods (e.g., steel and aluminum). Many countries, including France (and the EU), have voiced displeasure and have suggested possible means of retaliation. Fears of a global trade war are palpable.

The current situation has ignited a broad interest in the “free trade” debate and impacts of trade restrictions. The goal of the group presentation is to give you a chance to think about these issues and present your insights to the class.

You have been assigned to a group (a link to the group assignments is found on the course website). As a group, **choose a trading partner with the United States that will likely be affected by the new tariffs.** For steel and aluminum, this includes Canada, Mexico, Brazil, the European Union (largest are Germany and France), China, South Korea, Russia (and others). The U.S. also plans on levying a tariff on a wider range of Chinese imports. There have been other proposals as well.

From the perspective of that country, discuss the following:

1. Describe the trading relationship between the United States and your chosen trading partner. What goods are imported and exported and at what quantities? You may want to also report the numbers as a share of total exports and imports. A graph of the trade balance with US over time might be useful. You may also want to graph the exchange rate with the US over time. If the country is currently in a trade agreement (e.g., NAFTA) with the U.S. discuss the terms.

2. What tariffs are proposed and what are the potential impacts on the recipient country? Which industries will be affected? How large are the affected industries (e.g., number of jobs, contribution to GDP)? What is the projected impact in terms of production, exports, jobs, etc. In some cases, you may find numeric estimates of the impacts (but this is not required). Will any sectors benefit?

3. Many countries have voiced their displeasure with the impending tariffs and have suggested retaliatory measures. Discuss how the recipient country plans on responding to the tariffs. If the country has not made a statement, discuss possibilities given the current trading relationship. Which industries would be affected domestically? If the retaliatory measures include tariffs on U.S. imports, will any export markets be affected?

4. If possible, describe why the United States is imposing the tariff(s). Do you think the tariff(s) will achieve the objective? Make sure to support your answer. For example, suppose the stated objective is to reduce a trade deficit. In this case discuss the linkages between trade restrictions, exchange rates and trade balances. Comment on whether imposing the tariffs will likely decrease the deficit or exacerbate the deficit.

5. If you had the ear of the administration in your chosen country, what advice would you give regarding the current situation.

Format: Each presentation should be about 5 – 7 minutes long and will be followed by 2-3 minutes for questions. Presentations should contain visuals (e.g. Powerpoint, Google Slides, Prezi, images) and the major points should be supported with some form of documentation (e.g. graphs, statistics, quotes, academic studies). Please make sure to save your presentation on a USB drive or send it to me via email.

Delivery: The presentations will be given in class on Tuesday, June 19th 10:30 – 12:30 in Room 313.

Evaluation: See attached rubric.

	Exceeds expectations	Meets expectations	Does not meet expectations
Effectiveness	Immediately grabbed the attention of the audience and presented the information in an interesting/unique way. The main ideas were easily understood.	Gained attention of the audience and the main ideas were easily understood.	Little or no thought was given to engaging the audience in the presentation, and/or the ideas were presented in a confusing way.
Content	All of the (5) discussion points were addressed, and main points were supported with documentation. The level of detail and/or quality of the visuals was exemplary.	All of the (5) discussion points were addressed, and main points were supported with documentation	Not all of the (5) discussion points were addressed, or there were many inaccuracies in the content or it was lacking detail.
Delivery	All points were covered in the allotted time, the ideas well articulated, the presentation had a nice flow and there was obvious group involvement.	All points were covered in the allotted time and the ideas were well articulated.	Poor time management during presentation, lack of flow or ideas not clearly articulated.