

Make America Great Again is hurting the American Economy

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**Abstract**

*This paper will discuss the implicated problems of President Trump's American Exceptionalism and his anti-foreigner fiscal policies including the trade war of attrition that will eventually hurt the long-term American Economy. With the support from various interviews with the NYU professors, Korean professors, current students in the United States, and a member of the United Nations, this paper will provide both the economic and anthropological aspects of the issue and will tackle the issues by providing original solutions to the problem. Finally, this paper will also discuss the unanswered questions for the future researches.*

Make America great again is hurting the American economy.



*"Repel the American Invaders who are responsible for the agony and the misfortune."*

### **Background**

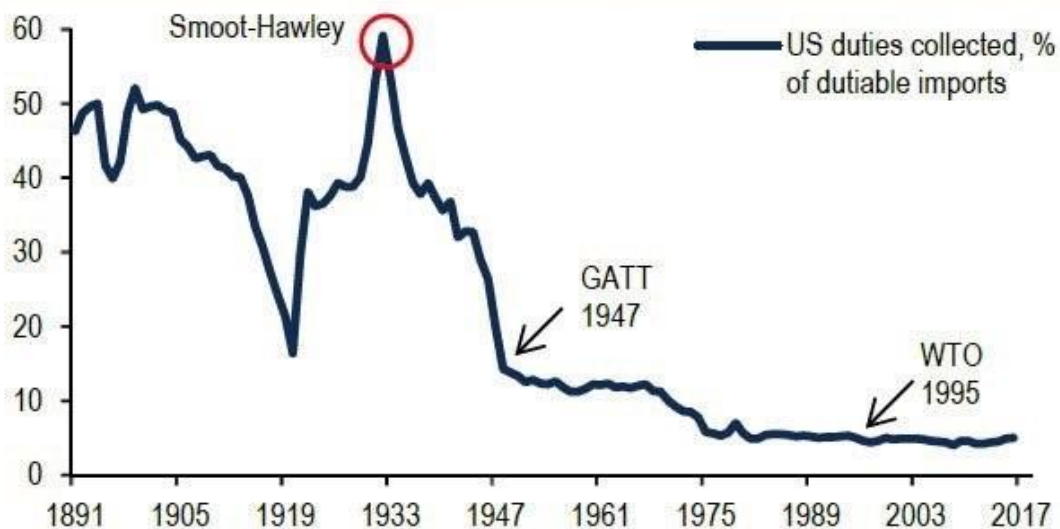
President Donald Trump's primary strategy to win the presidential election of 2016 was by collecting vote numbers from people who believe that immigrants and foreigners are responsible for the delay of the United States' economic growth and high unemployment rate. The strategy was successful, so President Trump became the leader of the strongest economy in the world. As President Trump promised to the citizens of the United States, he accelerated right away his promise "make America great again" by implementing various foreign fiscal policies and regulations on foreigners. However, his aggressive policies against foreign countries and people in the most globalized era of human history are the shortcuts to escalate hostilities against the United States. However, the media has been propagating the xenophobia to make the citizens believe that the foreigners are solely responsible for their stressful lives and slow economic growth, making the anti-immigrant policies and imposing heavy tariffs on foreign goods inevitable. Diplomatically, President Trump declared trade wars against several others, for example, China, Canada, Japan, EU and some other nations to bring trade benefits to the United States by any means necessary. However, the propaganda is biased and misleading just like the above poster produced in North Korean: *Repel the American Invaders who are responsible for the agony and the misfortune.*

Imposing tariffs on foreign countries to create the aggregate surplus in the American economy will benefit a couple of industries for a short-term, for example, the steel industry. But the retaliatory actions from other nations are inevitable which will cause damages to the

American economy. Also, the radical anti-immigrant policies will chase out the incoming foreign funds leading to the economic downturn because those policies will decrease the number of people moving into the United States followed by the amount of currency spent which used to help a lot in the aggregate economy. As a result, President Trump's diplomatic tactics will not make America great again but will hurt the economy in the long-run.

One cannot deny the fact that we are living in the most globalized era in the history of human beings, and intercontinental trades and international relations were the catalysts to push both the rapid globalization and economic growth. However, not all the international relations were beneficial to one another. Throughout the histories, nations manipulated trades to take advantage of the others, and those incidents erupted trade wars that negatively affected their economies. The Tariff Act of 1930 is an excellent example. Tariff Act of 1930, which is also known as the Smoot-Hawley Tariff, was a similar tariff act that President Trump imposed as a protectionist trade act. In 1930, a Senator Reed Smoot and Representative Willis C. Hawley sponsored the act, and the act increased the tariffs on around 20,000 imported goods. (Beaudreau, 1996). This act of protectionism catalyzed other nations to impose retaliatory tariffs on the U.S goods and led to the Great Depression of 1930. The most obvious case in 2017 and 2018 is the ongoing trade war of attrition between the United States and China, and it seems that they are walking on the path where it leads to the trade war of both ends losing. Articles from the Economists describe not only the effect of the trade war but also the tension between the two most prominent economies and among the world. Whenever there is a trade war between two significant economies, some countries suffer side blows in a fight while some receive benefits.

**Chart 1: Peak globalization – tariffs just 5% vs 60% after Smoot-Hawley**



Source: BofAML Global Investment Strategy, US International Trade Commission

The graph above is from the US International Trade Commission which indicates the sharp drop in the % of dutiable imports after the U.S administration signed the Smoot-Hawley

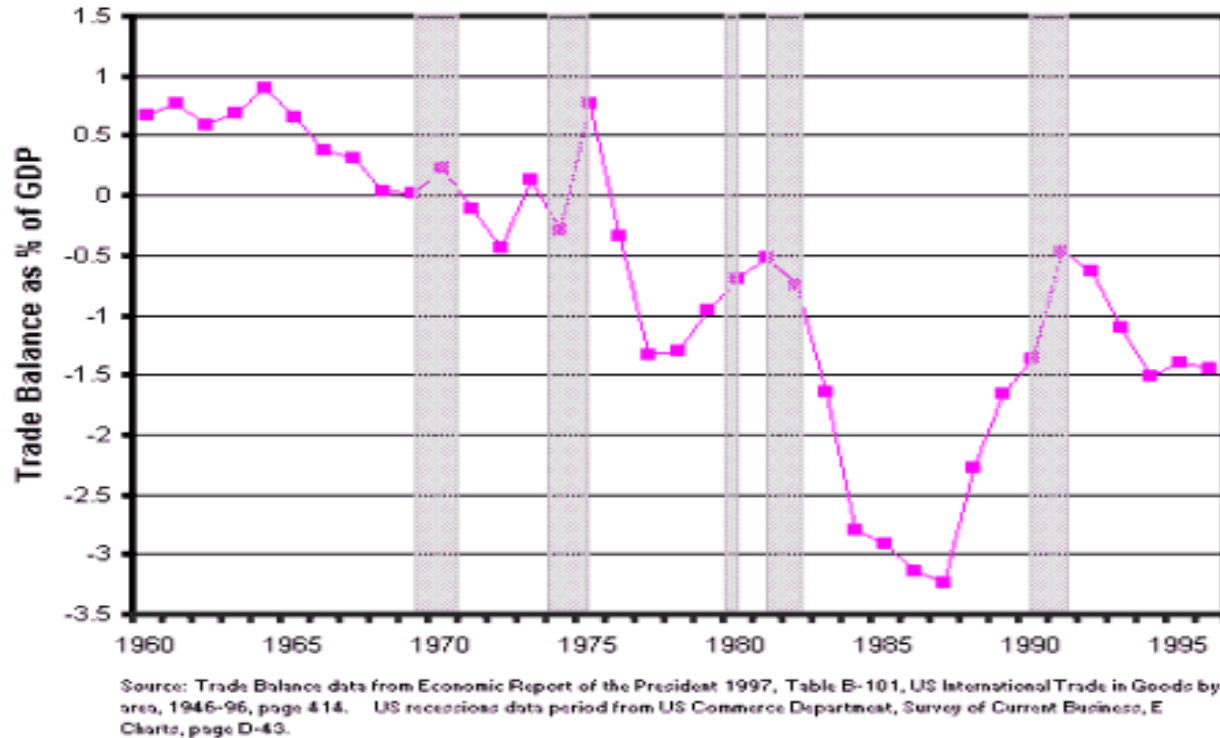
Act of 1930. This act is a precedent of radical protectionism policy which resulted in horrific economic damage in the early 1930s.

China and the United States are arguably the two biggest economies in the world which can fluctuate the global market with one small action. The heads of both countries, President Trump and President Xi, are fully aware the side effects of their war of nerves, but I believe that both will not withdraw without making a fuss. On May 8th of 2018, President Trump and President Xi had a talk to settle their disagreements and differences, but they had different opinions on the stance of the trade war. President Xi understands the side effects of the trade war which will leave both China and the United States worse off, but President Trump disagreed with President Xi. President Trump stated that Trading with China is stupid and insisted on the trade war by saying that he is very confident to bring a win back to the United States. But they are fully aware that the longer the trade war goes, the more they will suffer; However, none of the presidents are willing to step back. Their prides would not allow them to a soft action because they are the top two economies in the world and the submission could take away the "top" title (Economist, 2018).

Citizens from both countries are suffering from their presidents' war of nerves. After the announcement made by the United States in early March that it would implement high tariffs on steel and aluminum, China reacted immediately by imposing high tariffs on dozens of American goods such as wine and pork as retaliation. The problem for such case for the United States is that President Trump is neglecting the necessities of fair compensations on the side blows that American industries took, but he is focusing too much on fighting against the Chinese economy. While the tariffs on pork and wine that China imposed on America goods are hurting the American industries, those tariffs are randomly profiting some bystanders from the outside. For example, the Australian wine industry holds around 63% of the total wine imports in mainland China. 15% tariffs on American wine would naturally benefit the Australian wine industry, and the analysts expect the percentage of Australian wine importing in China to rise much higher (CNBC, 2018). This case explains the no-winner theory that many of economists already described and President Xi insisted strongly because both China and the United States are fighting against each other by hurting each other's economy and firms, but the bystanders are receiving all the profits from the trade war. I not only agree to President Xi's belief on the trade war that must come to an end before both sides make more losses but also agree to President Trump's opinion on finding justice for Chinese government's theft on American corporates' intellectual properties. However, the method of finding justice should not be the trade war but a fair and lawful international litigation. As litigation-wise, the United States will no longer receive blames from the others but will certainly get support from other countries such as Japan and Germany which claim the same complain on China and want to join the United States for the lawsuit on China.

Although his actions could result in adverse economic outcomes, President Trump announced on March 1st that imposing 25% tariffs on steel imports and 10% tariffs on aluminum imports are inevitable, but economists believe that this is *tariffically* a bad idea. The new tariffs will cover approximately \$46 billion of trades, but practically only 2% of trades would be of America's good imports. These tariffs are the direct demonstrations of President Trump's American protectionism, but people are wary of President Trump's way of handling this matter because he is acting upon the pretext of national security. President Trump firmly believes that

adjusting the international trade rules will fulfill his presidential slogan "make America great again." President Trump is utilizing the section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to practice his protectionist agenda; however, the trade experts believe that this protectionism will again distort the American economy just like Ronald Reagan did a couple of decades ago.



The trade war policy that a formal President Ronald Reagan imposed in the 1980s could not impede the growth in the United States trade deficit. According to the data from BAML economists, the United States trade deficits rose from \$36 billion or 1.3% of GDP to \$170 billion or 3.7% in 1989 (Business Insider, 2018). World Trade Organization's article XXI allows a country to raise tariffs when "it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests" (The Economists, 2018), and President Trump knows that this will empower him to do anything he wants even though this action could endanger the whole systems.

The timeline of the trade war goes back to March 1st when President Trump announced steep tariffs on aluminum and steel. The global market fiercely reacted to President Trump's fiscal policy, but the real target for the tariffs implement remained unclear. Economists believed that this action is to provoke the trade war against China. Later in March 22nd, President Trump signed the \$60b tariffs on Chinese import as a retaliation of the intelligence theft, and it led President Xi to approve the \$20b tariffs on American imports also as their retaliation for such acts. The stock markets fluctuated, and other countries such as Canada and South Korea that export the majority of aluminum and steel to the United States took side blows from the trade war between China and the United States.

The tariffs on steel and aluminum by manipulating the section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 will become an awful precedent, and no one can stop other strong economic powers to do the same in the future. Tariffs on steel and aluminum are at the expense of EU, Japan, and Korea, and will probably not do significant damage to the Chinese economy

because China barely exports steel and aluminum to America. The side effect on the job market is however noticeable. According to the article, these tariffs will "create 33,000 metal-making jobs and destroy 179,000 metal-dependent ones" (The Economists, 2018) and will only have a small effect on growth. The national security exemption strategy will be a bad idea knowing the fact that WTO will accept retaliatory tariffs that will start the trade war of attrition.

After the announcement, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce responded fiercely with a statement that the U.S is abusing national-security exemptions. Many economists find this ironic because China also has a record of abusing national-security exemption in the past for their benefits. However, the strategy on imposing tariffs on the steel and aluminum trades appears to be illogical because China does not export significant amounts of its steel or aluminum to the United States, but the others such as EU, Japan, and South Korea could be the hidden targets of President Trump. To solely damage the Chinese economy and to minimize the US-China trade deficits, other factors should come into play such as the investigations on Chinese intellectual property, which accusations are erupting from a lot of countries.

**Peter 5:8** – *“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”*

The ongoing trade war between two continents is shaking the global economy since it is the collision of the two of the largest economies. There are two polarized opinions on who started the tension. The first assumption argues that the Chinese government provided a reason for President Trump to act fiercely towards the trade war because the Chinese government has been illegally extracting American corporations’ confidential technologies to pursue its goal of “Made in China 2025.” Made in China 2025 is a strategy that Li Keqiang, the Premier of the State Council of the Republic of China, developed to push China to have high competitive power on technology markets and to produce top-notch products in the global markets. The second assumption suggests that President Trump is manipulating the tariffs and the section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 for his political desire and his slogan “Make America great again.” By playing around with tariffs and the Trade Expansion Act, President Trump is willing to fulfill his promises that he made during the election.

President Trump says that he imposed the heavy tariffs on steels and aluminum to threaten the Chinese economy, but the percentage of Chinese aluminum and steels importing into the United States is close to none. I believe that President Trump is using China as an excuse to impose tariffs on other goods as well to make people think that his actions are solely against the Chinese government, but, such fiscal policies are threatening the other nations and turning them into trade enemies. For example, in April the European Union asked for the exemption for U.S steel and aluminum tariffs because the EU holds one of the highest steel and aluminum imports in the United States. However, President Trump believes that to exempt EU from the tariffs, EU needs to import a lot more of American products because he thinks that the trades between EU and the United States were far from equal. Trump added numbers to his argument that each year the imports from the EU are \$592b which lead to a \$91b trade deficit. Such strategies that President Trump impose show that he is ready to take a challenge to come up with a plan that will profit the United States regardless of the damages he creates on another side of the world.

It is true that the United States economy and its fiscal policies affect the global markets and could indirectly benefit/damage some other countries like Japan for example. Japanese

economy received economic damage after the \$60b tariffs on Chinese import because Japan supplies components to China which becomes the final product and sold to the United States. As mentioned above, I give many credits to President Trump on his trade agendas and strategies which could “make America great again,” but he needs to come up with some better plans because most of the methodologies that he practices will eventually strike him back in the future. For example, even if President Trump successfully brings trade surpluses by manipulating the section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, the result would only be the surplus in the short run aggregate outcome. This action will most likely become a precedent which cannot stop other countries such as India and China to do the same in the future to benefit themselves. A unilateral decision in a globalized economy cannot bring a better result than that of a multilateral arrangement.

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge** – *“In politics, what begins in fear usually ends in folly.”*

As Samuel Taylor Coleridge, an English poet and philosopher in eighteenth centuries argued, it is true that corporates and universities have fears about the ongoing trade war between the United States and China and the United States’ American Exceptionalism. One because the trade war usually results in irreversible damage on both ends, and second because the decreasing in funds injecting into the U.S economy.

On the day when the United States imposed the tariffs on steel and aluminum brought higher profits to the domestic steel and aluminum industries, but the other day when China imposed the tariffs on pork tightened the belts for the livestock meat raising farms which export their goods to China. Supporters of the ongoing trade war are supposedly on profiting ends, and the protestors are probably on the losing ends. The economic chaos is inevitable because one cannot predict the direction of the arrow on which products will be next in the line for the sanctions. The industries and firms from both China and the United States are trembling because of their governments’ brawl which will most likely damage tons of their industries until they find a reasonable settlement. However, the trade war against China is not the only issue.





*(Number of Korean students in the United States in each year, source : IIE)*

Soon after President Trump entered the White House in 2017, the number of international students flying into the United States dropped dramatically. According to the financial statement of the US Department of State in 2016-2017, the total number of issued student visa(F-1) in 2017 was 393,573 which is 16.6% lower than the total number of new F-1 Visa in 2016 which was 471,728 (Korea Daily, 2018). Two of the countries that hold the highest number of international students studying in the United States are China and India. The number of Chinese students dropped by 23.8%, and the number of Indian students fell by 27.5%. These patterns are because of the agenda that President Trump is pursuing which is to hire Americans and to give fewer opportunities for the foreigners. The process of getting student Visa became complicated, and the competitiveness of the job market in the United States made international students who studied in the United States nearly impossible to get the working visa (H-1B) primarily under the hire American first policy. Instead of coming into the United States where the anti-foreigner policies take the astronomical tuitions but offer no job opportunities, students and families are heading their directions to other English-speaking countries such as Canada, Australia, and England. According to the statistics from the University of Toronto, the number of international students increased by 14% compared to the previous year. Those national universities which were benefiting from charging astronomical tuition fees are on emergency alert. Most of the national universities such as the University of California charges American citizens \$28,014 per year for tuition while charging international students \$62,858 per year for the education cost. Aside from tuition fee, the consumptions and expenditures of the families of those international students' benefit the United States economy as well. According to the financial statistics, the amount of total foreign funds that families are injecting in the United States for these students per year is approximately 27 million dollars, so the reduced number of students can directly bring adverse effects to the United States economy. Hire American first should be adjusted accordingly because the Trump administration should be aware of the cause and effect of anti-immigration policies which can cause unexpected economic damages to the nation. The hire Americans policy will eventually drive the international students away from the country because of the land of the opportunity would become a land of wasting money.

'America first' will drive human talent away from the United States and will enhance Chinese competitiveness in the world technology market. Yan Xuetong, a distinguished professor and the dean of the Institute of International Relations at Tsinghua University, believes that the United States is walking on the same road that Nazi Germany used to walk on. In the early 1900s, the United States overtook both the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany by providing liberty and support to the most intelligent people. The current Trump administration is building a wall against the intelligent and talented researchers by limiting the Working Visas, but the Chinese government is offering significant incentives to bring in the intellectuals around the world and is diminishing the human capital gap with the United States (Trigkas, 2018).

**Charles Edwin Winter** – *“When the culture of the East, its chief characteristic, is added to the strength of body and the strength of mind of the agricultural center, its special contribution, and these two get characteristics are constantly imbued with the spirit of independence and love of liberty which lives in the hearts of the dwellers of the mountains, their main quality added to the national character, there is every reason to believe that we shall have*

*a people and institutions such as will be permanent... Under these and these alone, the faculties, the aspirations and inspirations of humankind may be unfolded into their full flowering to the fruition of an ever greater and more humane civilization."*

The founding fathers of the United States of America are the immigrants from the European countries, and those first-generation immigrants undoubtedly developed the country and contributed to making the United States the most influential country in the world. The United States is a unique country with a broad diversity that attracts people from all over the world who pursue the better lives or career opportunities. Without the contribution from immigrants, the United States would not have become the largest economy in the world, but the reoccurring of American exceptionalism makes people forget about the foundational value, identity, of this nation and the history of the United States.

The global economy is on the downhill, so people agonize in their daily lives and seek for a reason for these misfortunes. This economic trend is not limited to the United States only because most countries are under the slow economic growth, and most people feel the same under these circumstances. But the current government and President Trump are handling this problem by searching for a scapegoat: immigrants and the foreign countries. The scapegoat, a method of blame-finding to delude the public and to receive a broad base of support, is not a sound strategy to overcome the current economic recession. Throughout the history of humanity, a couple of countries utilized the method of blame-finding to escape the burden of the public's criticisms: The Sonderweg, American exceptionalism, and the Juche religion of North Korea. The Sonderweg and Juche religions are two of the most extreme cases of the nation's exceptionalism, but they share similar ideologies with the American exceptionalism: Kick out and exclude the foreigners and unite the country. Some portion of the American citizens think hiring foreigners are not beneficial and find foreigners responsible for the high unemployment rate. However, these arguments do not come along with substantial evidence, especially the case that the foreigners are manipulating the trade and exploiting the United States' economy. There are many reported cases that the United States is causing trade deficits in the other nations as well. South Korea and the United States have been trading their goods for a long time, but the Korean agriculture and stockbreeding products had been the primary cause of the trade deficits in Korea. After they started to trade their goods, South Korean trade deficits on Agriculture and stockbreeding products increased by \$7.5 million, and the experts are expecting to see worse deficit each year (Yonhap, 2017). "While he has promised a lot of initiatives to "fix the mess" the country has allegedly gotten into, Trump rarely explicates what exactly is to be understood by American greatness" (Wolf, 2017, p.13).

The prime minister of Great Britain, Sir Winston Churchill once said the following: "A nation that forgets its past has no future" (Churchill 1965). As Churchill's quote delivers implicated meaning, a nation should never forget about its identity or history. Thus, no one should forget the national identity of the United States: a country of immigrants without ethnic identity. However, practicing the American exceptionalism by pushing immigrants away from the state, and giving less and fewer job opportunities for the foreigners are battling against its national identity.

Another claim of value is the public jealousy. The depiction of foreigners taking high-paying jobs raged many people in the United States and imbued an idea to "reclaim" those jobs

back to themselves. However, most of the high-paying jobs occupied by the foreigners, for example, engineering or software designing, require the complicated set of skills, but unrelated and irrelevant public swayed by jealousy want the foreigners to step down from those professions. “The evaluation of proposals for preferential treatment in the occupational system should be linked to the “problem of standards,” that is, the difference between jobs which require competence and those which demand special ability and training” (Lipset, 1996, p.124). The jealousy swayed a considerable number of people followed by the hatred, and it contributed to developing discrimination and prejudices.

The American exceptionalism under the veil of the slogan, make America great again, is not making America great again, in fact, this is hurting the moral values of the public. It is true that the United States is undergoing the economic recession just like the other. German Nazi’s Sonderweg which passed the blame to Jews for its loss of the first World War was the public enemy in the globalized world and perished after the Second World War. North Korean Juche religion has been manipulating the media to institutionalize the belief to the public that the United States is entirely responsible for its misfortunes and agonies, but its antagonistic demeanors made itself to face one of the most stringent sanctions under the United Nations. The United States, even though the intensity is not as much as those of the German Nazi’s or the North Korea’s, the antagonistic approach to foreign countries in the globalized world could result in international sanction or various of retaliation. Also, the public should never forget that the nation is built upon the immigrants, and there will be no bright future for ones who forget their identities.

### Interviews

**James Lendall Basford** – *“No man is so wise that he can afford to wholly ignore the advice of others.” Sparks from the Philosopher’s Stone, 1882.*

As James Basford mentioned in his book, Sparks from the Philosopher’s Stone, no person in the world can afford not to take any advice from the others. As many philosophers say about the advice, we are limited to our life experiences only, thus taking advice and reading others’ arguments help improving our pool of knowledge and preventing us from having a one-sided discussion. Understanding the importance of taking advice from more experienced professionals is vital because professionals do have more experience than me about the topic, and I was confident that they would open up a new lens for me too look in different angles as well. For the research paper, the interviews and the field trips serve as advisers.

A couple of interviews with the faculties of the NYU completely changed my aspects. I still am a student, and I completely understand that I do not have sufficient professional knowledge of the topic. When I first interviewed with an economics professor of the NYU, Maureen Keefe, she suggested a whole new aspect of the trade war and gave a fantastic opposition to the belief that I had before. I asked her if the imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum are an act of American Exceptionalism, but she disagreed with my opinion because she believes that President Trump’s foreign policies, especially the policies on tariffs, will bring benefits to the United States. She argued that the trade deficits had been slowing down the United States’ economic growth, and she also argued that the smart strategy to reduce the trade deficit is by imposing tariffs against the foreign countries that had been taking advantage over the United States. She said that Trump does not want the trade war, but his plan is to by

imposing tariffs on them asking other countries to drop or lower tariffs on the U.S goods. In other words, President Trump is indirectly negotiating the tariff cuts by implementing tariffs on the others. She said that the tariffs on steel and aluminum are the great example of President Trump's strategy to benefit the overall long-term economy of the United States. This counterclaim provided a professional insight on my topic which I was not aware of, and this idea helped me to improve my solution.

While the first interview provided a counterclaim, the second interview that I had with a different NYU faculty from the economics department brought a different result. The second interview added intriguing facts that support my original thesis and empowered my argument by providing her professional economic standpoint. For the second interview, I asked her opinion on both the short-term and long-term effects on the American economy on President Trump's foreign policies. Dr. Budhai-Robinson, my formal intermediate macroeconomics professor, supported my argument with her macroeconomic perspective. She mentioned that the trade, in aggregate, is a positive sum game that allows us to specialize in producing what we can do best or more efficient than others, and then trade to get other goods and services that others can deliver better than we do. She empowered my idea by providing the adverse effects on President Trump's tariffs on steel and aluminum because of the indirect effects that would outweigh the positive impact on the steel industry. For example, the high tariffs on steel and aluminum will in the short-run benefit the American productions, but countries such as China, Mexico, Canada, EU, etc. will retaliate by imposing tariffs on goods they buy from the United States. If those countries collectively impose new tariffs, then the tariff policies will consequently reduce jobs at home. "In Iowa, where farmers raise 40 million to 50 million pigs annually, President Trump's tariffs on steel and aluminum from Mexico have already cost producers \$560 million, according to an Iowa State University economist. How Can that be, you ask. Mexico has threatened countervailing tariffs that include a 20 percent tariff on American pork" (New York Times, 2018). With the addition of Dr. Budahi-Robinson's macroeconomic perspective and the statistics provided by the New York Times, I could confirm myself that the foreign policy, specifically the tariff policy that Trump is emphasizing, is not exactly making the America great again.

By the time I finished the third interview, I had started to understand that there are many more important aspects to add on the research paper which I was not aware. Especially the counterclaim that the first interview provided served as a guideline to come up with a better possible solution to the thesis and helped my paper to improve by fixing my biasedness. The interview with the member of the United Nations added humanity and anthropological aspects of the paper. Before speaking to the member of the United Nations, I believe that I paid too much attention to numbers and theories only. The discussions from the faculties of NYU and the United Nations were constructive because they served me as new textbooks with new information and new approaches.

For the interview with the member of the United Nations, we discussed the current American Exceptionalism and the Xenophobic society. Similar with what I believe, the interviewee also believes that the American Exceptionalism has increased nationalist sentiments across the globe by the leaders, especially in the Western world. Continuance of such exceptionalism and nationalism will create chaos within the global system and will ultimately undermine post-war security and unity, which is already at its most vulnerable state. The unexpected turns of events brought on by the Trump administration to the international area are

already shifting alliances and creating new international relations among unlikely partners. President Trump's demeanor at the G7 summit this year is a case in point. By increasingly distancing itself from its traditional allies and forging ties with dictators around the world, the United States will suffer from these whimsical acts of President Trump, not least in areas of international relations but in areas of economy and security. American exceptionalism has also been illustrated at the United Nations, affecting many countries and agendas under the UN umbrella. For example, the United States decided to cut funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which affects millions of Palestinian lives, and unilaterally declared Jerusalem as the capital city of Israel. Such unprecedented, undiplomatic move not only damages the reputation of the United States as an honest mediator for the Israel-Palestinian conflict but also creates further "enemies" within and beyond the Middle East. Many countries are following suit in placing their nationalistic agendas rather than cooperating to achieve peace and stability. This will result in further chaos, which will ultimately have detrimental effects on the US. Then I asked the interviewee about the recent executive order 13796 that President Trump signed, and the interviewee also agreed with my opinion. The Executive order 13796 is not least an example of a contradiction of such meaning but is blatantly racist and discriminatory. The countries listed on the ban are not the only countries within the global arena that are undergoing conflict, and the selection of these countries for travel ban into the United States is incomprehensible. One of the reasons for the travel ban was to protect the US territory from violent extremism and terrorism, which further adds to the discriminatory practice of categorizing nationals of such countries as the source of terrorism, which is incorrect.

In addition to the interviews that I have done with several experts in the United States, I decided to interview someone from outside of the United States to bring dynamics into my research paper. I contacted the economics professor in South Korea, who wanted his name under anonymity, and he answered several questions of mine to help my research. On the first question, I asked him if the trade war between China and the United States would affect the countries around such as Japan and South Korea, and he told me that both Japan and South Korea are indirectly involved. South Korea for example, the total export growth in electronics and cars fell drastically due to the escalating tension between the United States and China. The government statistics indicated that South Korea ranked 6th on the list of countries that are profoundly affected by the trade war between the United States and China because South Korea is a trade partner for both the United States and China in electronics, cars, vessels, and steel (Korea International Trade Association, 2018). The interviewee sees that the "chicken game" between the two powerful economies will indirectly damage the South Korean industries. For the second question, I asked him what would stop them from imposing ridiculous tariffs on each other. He said that the peaceful settlement would come after either China or the United States sign the waiver of claim to prevent the future legal complaints in compensations. The waiver of claim is the most efficient and advisable method for them to have a continuous and stable trade in the future, but he said that both the United States and China would not sign the waiver of the claim because both think that the opponent is the real cause of the problem. He said that the more realistic ending would be them going into the trade war of attrition until one surrender, but they will have to bear the economic damages that tons of industries and civilians must suffer. The interview with the professor was helpful to understand the detailed indirect effects that the trade war would bring to the other nations.

After the interviews, I could settle down the chaos in my mind because before I felt like I was hitting the dead-end with limited knowledge and aspects. Honestly, I was not entirely sure where my paper was going, and I was uncertain if I could come up with a good quality paper with just focusing on the trade war between China and the United States. However, the interviews provided different aspects of the topic from counterclaims to the foundational controversy which served as the breakthrough for my writing. The interviewees introduced a new fact about President Donald Trump's hidden strategy under the tariff imposed on the steel and aluminum with some historical background, a new value that Trump forgets about while pushing his slogan "make America great again," and the policies which would eventually help the American corporates in the long-run as a counterclaim of mine. These valuable viewpoints(advice) are essential to writing a quality paper because everyone will hit the dead-end and need a breakthrough to get fresh opinions and to see the unseen angle of the topic.

**Elbert Hubbard** – *“To avoid criticism say nothing, do nothing, be nothing.” Little Journeys to the Homes of the Great Vol. 3: American Statesmen.*

No one in the world can come up with a perfect statement or an argument that does not have any shortcoming. People think differently depending on their experience, background, nationality, language, etc., so it is risky to assume that one's idea is perfect that no one would disagree with the idea. Elbert Hubbard, an American writer and a philosopher, wrote in his book *Little Journeys to the Homes of the Great* that “To avoid criticism, say nothing, do nothing, be nothing.” This quote directly sends a message to the writers who believe that all the criticisms are useless and to those who do not understand that the criticism is a key to write or compose a successful work and to improve one's writing. Recognizing the importance of the counterclaims and critiques of one's topic, one can absorb those claims and evaluations by head not by heart to improve the thesis or evidence by trying to come up with a solution that embraces all the comments as well.

Expert sources help papers to improve in quality by providing professional knowledge and evidence which a writer would not have been able to come up with his or her limited experience. The expert sources can save time for us to find the exact regulation or a case study which I may use to strengthen my statement. College students including myself usually do not have a pool of knowledge to quote the related case study directly out of their understanding, so spending the exogenous amount of time researching the adequate case study or law is unavoidable. Thus, students require assistance from professional sources to save time on researching, so they can allocate more time to improving their paper in other ways. Second, the expert sources validate my thesis with statistics and evidence.

If I believe that my argument is perfect, I do not need to listen or to understand the expert sources to validate or oppose my thesis, but one should not deny the fact that self-conceit makes the depth of one's paper very dense. Using the expert sources is essential in various ways, so I believe that the ability to accept both the criticism and advice are keys to write a successful research paper.

### **Solutions to the problem**

**Albert Einstein** – *“It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer.”*

Albert Einstein, arguably the most famous scientist of all time, claimed that the fundamental way to solve complicated problems is to spend a long time to come up with the better solution. The initial idea of a solution that we come up with is not ripe enough to become the final solution. We start developing the initial idea with different approaches by getting advice from professionals and reading more about the topic to broaden our sights. The more time we spend on a problem, the better result we can come up with.

President Trump, utilizing his abilities to fulfill the promises he made during the United States presidential election of 2016, is imposing fiscal and international policies which are to generate overall economic surplus and value for the United States citizens. To win the presidential election of 2016, President Trump proposed that he would prioritize the benefits of the United States first and would prevent the immigrants and foreigners from “stealing” jobs from the American workers. Thus, after winning the election, President Trump imposed several policies against the immigrants who came to the United States to pursue better job opportunities by joining the job market. Not only he added a couple of policies against the immigrants, but he also signed xenophobic policies such as the Executive Order 13769 which he signed to protect the United States from international terrorists entering the United States.

Since after the globalization of the 1970s, Alaskans could eat tropical fruits and the countries under the geographical region of the equator could enjoy the Antarctic food. Trade was arguably the essential key that accelerated the rapid globalization, and states could benefit from importing cheaper products or the rare products that they could not produce by themselves. The economic benefits generated among the countries catalyzed the fast-economic growth, and countries started to understand how important the trade is. The skills and strategies of trade became as complicated as it can be, so countries now use trade mechanism to either threaten or to show appreciation to other nations. Beginning in the first of the June of 2018, President Trump imposed a 10% tariff on aluminum and a 25% tariff on steel in response to the trade deficits that the United States had been bearing. This implementation was an aggressive act towards the others and caused other nations to start retaliating against the United States market economy. As mentioned in the previous paragraphs, the aggressive trade acts against the others to generate the benefits of oneself usually caused chaotic results. Instead of acting aggressively, what the Trump administration needs is to take an amicable action to create values and higher economic surplus. Organizing the specific data on which sector that the United States had been suffering in the trade and to have summit meetings to mediate the ideal solution which could benefit both countries would be a more probable and smart solution that the Trump administration should act upon. President Trump is a fantastic negotiator, and his successful businesses experiences prove his exceptional ability. Thus, instead of risking retaliation from the other nations and becoming a public enemy in the trade market, I would suggest the Trump administration approach the issue more peacefully to maintain friendly relations with the other economic powers. It is not too late to start taking aggressive actions after the other nations such as China, EU, and Canada decline the peaceful method of the current situation. Thus, I believe it is too early to impose the tariffs on behalf of national security by manipulating the trade expansion act of 232 because this act will leave an awful antecedent to the other economic powers to act the same as the United States did.

The arose tension is uneasy to bring back to the normal state, so leading other nations into peaceful summit would be difficult. It is true that most of the countries are causing the trade deficits to the United States, but to ease the high tension, President Trump must take the

initiative to bring others into the table. The US-China relation has been utterly bad because of several reasons. One of the reasons is the installation of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) in South Korea to defend the possible North Korean nuclear missile, and THAAD radar can surveil the air above China as well. The United States installation of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, system in South Korea has inflamed people in China's military and intelligence operations" (Lu, 2017). The national security is one of the most sensitive issues that every country share. If President Trump can actively describe the imminent danger of the threat from the North Korea and guarantees that there will be no intrusion of Chinese airspace, then the tension will likely be eased.

As discussed in previous paragraphs, the reducing number of international students will damage the overall long-term economy. Most of the international students especially Chinese students come to the United States with purposes of learning English and acquiring jobs to build their successful careers. From ten interviews that I proceeded with Chinese students in America, I found one thing in common from interviews. For the interview, I asked two questions to the interviewees: What did you want to achieve from studying in the U.S and do you recommend prospective Chinese students to study in the U.S like you did as to seek their careers? Nine out of ten interviewees shared the same answer. For the first question, they answered that they came to the United States to become fluent in English which would help them in their future and to have job opportunities to build their career in fruitful ways. They became fluent in English, but they are not sure if they can work in the United States. Only one answered that she would receive a working visa. The answers to the second question were all the same. All of them indeed became fluent in English by studying in the United States, but the reduced job opportunity is an essential reason for them not to recommend others to study in the United States. Others can become fluent in English and also get decent jobs elsewhere such as Canada where it appreciates foreigners. The United States unarguably have the greatest education system in the world, and people will still come to the United States for their educations. But students are studying to get a decent job, but if the country is not providing jobs for those who study here in the United States, then those students will head their directions to different countries.

According to the NAFSA: Association of international educators, international students who study in the United States bring both the economic and academic benefits to this nation. Although only 5 percent of total college students in the United States is international students, these students undoubtedly make essential contributions to the country. The total economic contribution that international students made solely in the 2016-2017 academic year were \$36.9 billion and almost 25% of the founders of at least \$1 billion startup companies in the United States are international students. Putting aside the money value, international students contribute hugely to innovation as well. The researchers believe that a 10% rise in the number of international graduate students will possibly increase patent applications by nearly 5%. Thus, a decrease in foreign graduate students because of the visa policies would directly hurt the United States' innovative researches (Chellaraj, 2008). All the American winners of the Nobel prizes in scientific fields and economics in 2016 were immigrants, and immigrants who later received the citizenship of the United States awarded almost 40% of the total number of Nobel Prizes in medicine, physics, and chemistry since 2000 (NAFSA, 2017).

Even though tons of statistics prove the benefits of holding international students in this country, president Trump is taking backward steps to such matter because he promised the



citizens of the United States to give all the jobs to them first. A student from Bloomfield College in State of New Jersey decided to return to the Republic of Korea in 2016 because he did not want to gamble his chance of achieving the H-1B visa after spending almost \$100,000 a year. He believed that the risk is too high for such a low probability of winning, so he gave up his dream by returning to his nation (Korean daily, 2018). Another student, Lee, who graduated from prestigious university in west coast got a position in Goldman Sachs under the OPT (Optional practical training for F-1 students for a year), but she had to quit the job because she did not win the H1-B visa lottery. According to the Sungsoo Kim, the head of the HRCap a recruiting agency, said on his interview that firms are avoiding OPT holders because the uncertainty of winning the visa lottery increases their risk of losing employees who have been trained for a year already. Instead, those firms can hire green card holders or citizens to avoid such uncertainties. (Korea Daily, 2018)

To maximize the benefits of the American Economy and to minimize the loss of human resources, cooperation among the universities, firms, and the government is necessary. A suggested theory is that the Universities and the firms make job affiliations, and they provide a guideline or a curriculum that would guarantee the employment of the foreigners who follow the exact curriculum. This project requires maximum cooperation among the universities, firms, and the government of the United States. First, the government should analyze on which fields they need working forces with a specific set of skills. For example, if the analysis predicts the lack of graphic designer or biomedical engineer in the next 4 years, the government rigorously discuss this analysis with firms that require designers or engineers and the prestigious universities that have excellent concentrations in graphic design or biomedical engineering to calculate how many guaranteed H1-B the government can issue for the upcoming prospective students. Then those selected universities publish the number of students they are willing to accept and provide expectations and curriculums to the prospective students. The international students can then make decisions from that point. If they believe that they qualify, or if their goal is to work in the United States to receive high payments solely, then they start applying accordingly. By doing these processes, the United States will have less chance of losing prestigious students, and international students will happily pay for the tuition regardless of the amount. One might argue that not changing any policy will benefit the United States more because my suggestion reduces the number of students in the United States and lead to a decrease in foreign funds coming into the United States. The government does not have to get rid of the current visa policy because there are always be people who are willing to take the risk to have better career opportunities in the United States. The government should keep the policy by announcing that international students still can get jobs by the current visa policies because the collaboration of maintaining the policy and applying a new policy will maximize the number of international students in the United States without losing them to other English-speaking nations.

Graduating from the prestigious American universities, one can pursue a better career path because still a lot of companies prefer people who have degrees from the big names. Since a global campus student can achieve his or her career plan even outside of the United States that do rarely offer job opportunities to them, the global campus project can be the midway solution to give wins for both international students and universities. There are a couple of universities such as NYU, SUNY, and George Mason Universities that expanded their exceptional educational services to other nations. Two of the well-known programs are NYU Shanghai and

Abu-Dhabi, and these programs offer English-based lectures and equally outstanding lectures to the students who are willing to take the courses elsewhere than in the New York City. Students who enroll in those global campuses share similar goals with the ones who matriculate in NYC campus, but their goals vary in some details. Global campus students, identical to the ones in NYC, want to study their field of academics in English, and also they want to have outstanding educational services from prestigious universities in the United States. However, these students from global-campus have different career path than the ones in NYC. The most significant difference between a student from global campus and a student from NYC is that global students are willing to find job opportunities elsewhere than only in the United States. Expanding global schools could be one of the ways to practically reduce the economic loss for both the American economy and the universities because students will get what they want, a degree from a prestigious university, and the universities will receive a high economic contribution from these students.

### Unanswered Questions

**Debbie Ford** – *“It would be impossible to estimate how much time and energy we invest in trying to fix, change and deny – especially the ones that shake us at our very core.”*

Debbie Ford, an American writer with her well-known New York Times best-selling book, *The Dark Side of the Light Chasers*, said the above quote to emphasize how each one of us agonize over making changes that could alter us to our very cores. Throughout the process of writing this research paper, I did have to make several crucial changes that I had to start all the researches over again. My initial outlines and the thesis at the beginning of this course and the end-work that I have as a final paper are somewhat different because I decided to slightly deviate from the original path that I planned on focusing solely on the impacts on corporations to the implications on international students departing from the United States. However, the main idea did not change: the American Exceptionalism will hurt the American Economy in the long-run aggregate outcome. The significant shifts in my paper have shaken my whole plan, and I had to do a lot of research again to find the supporting evidence for my new direction in the essay. The genuine reason that I had to pivot was that before adding supporting evidence or originality to the paper, I had a firm belief that I could easily find my thesis-related primary sources or the secondary sources online. But, the more I research my thesis-related materials, the more I could find the student-related sources than corporation associated sources.

Even though I had to flip everything around including the sources I could start writing a more influential paper because the topic examples directly address my current status as an international student seeking a job opportunity. To finish this paper, I went through a lot of obstacles. One of the major obstacles was to come up with the original solution to the problem. Listing all the issues that I am trying to solve was not a big deal because I could find the issues everywhere online but coming up with at least one page of the original solution was a much harder task. However, expanding and developing my paper through evidence were not difficult once I developed an original solution to the problem. Well begun is half done, so after developing a solution, the supporting data including graphs and statistics for my idea smoothly and easily came all after. There are various methods to expand and to develop my case, but I specifically chose the statistics and interviews with professionals to support my case because I

wanted the professionals to evaluate my originality and to give me either a positive or a negative comment.

Different from the opinionated-interviews about my topic, the evaluation-interviews that I had with some professionals to ask for a comment about my original solution were somewhat different. Some provided positive feedbacks, and some presented negative ones. Most of the critiques that I received about my solution were about the adverse effects that the foreigners bring to the job market in the United States for American citizens.

### US unemployment rate



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

BBC

According to one of the interviews with the economics professors from NYU, my argument is naïve because from since President Trump promoted the agenda “hire Americans first,” the unemployment rate decreased from nearly 5 percent to 4 percent that is the lowest since the year of 2000 leading to the fact that the policy is giving a boost to the domestic citizens who were seeking job opportunities (Personal Interview, 2018). Numbers surely tell the truth, but often lead to a one-sided argument. I cannot disagree that President Trump lowered the unemployment rate, but I believe that there are a cause and effect in this situation. This unemployment rate did not miraculously drop by itself, so one needs to also look at the side-effect of this result. President Trump lowered the national unemployment rate by choosing to take a temporary solution to the unemployment issues, giving nearly no job opportunities to the foreigners, but the aftermath will result in reductions in billions of dollars in foreign funds in American economy which would damage the long-term American economy.

There are feedbacks that I still cannot answer to such as the announcement by the Fed on 2<sup>nd</sup> of August says that the GDP rise in the second quarter is 4.1% that is the highest since 2014, so doesn't this mean that the government is doing just fine? How do I know if students would still come and study in the United States if they do not matriculate to the specific programs that I provided? And isn't it more beneficial for the American economy and universities to continuously give uncertainty to the students to have the hope of getting jobs in order to have more students (more economic contributions) to come? Each time I ask someone to evaluate my solution, I always got a new perspective to consider in forging my solution into a better one. I honestly doubt myself that my solution is a whole, but I am going to continuously try to answer the unanswered as much as I can even after the end of the course for my interest.

**Amit Ray** – *“International peace negotiations need more value creation than value claiming. The more we create value for peace and development, the easier it is going to claim value.”*  
*Peace on the Earth A Nuclear Weapons Free World.*”

Throughout the history of humanity, humanity experienced several types of war that destroyed lands, murdered millions of civilians, and collapsed economies. The physical war directly destroys everything, and a non-physical war such as the cold war or trade war indirectly devastates people’s daily lives and values. Regardless of what kind of war, most people agree on the idea that the war should be the very last option. Amit Ray, an Indian author who wrote a book about peace, said in his book that the peace negotiation among countries should focus more on value creation than value claiming. If all nations start focusing solely on claiming their values without considering about creating a new one, the negotiation would not be productive, and the relations would eventually degenerate. Thus, the importance of creating new values and the effort to meet halfway are vital to not only minimize the economic or physical damage but also prosper both ends. However, to meet halfway or to stop claiming the values of their own are easier to be said than done.

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