Negative Brief: Shoe Tariffs

By “Coach Vance” Trefethen

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Negative: Shoe Tariffs

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

1. Tiny impact

Link: If the plan completely works as AFF claims, it eliminates $800 million in tariffs

Aida Ahmad 2012 (journalist) 21 June 2012 "Shoe importers push to cut US tariffs" (accessed 30 Nov 2022) https://fdra.org/latest-news/shoe-importers-push-to-cut-us-tariffs/

The proposed Affordable Footwear Act seeks to eliminate about $800 million in duties on children’s and low-cost shoes out of the $2 billion in total duties collected on imported shoes in 2010.

Link: The US population is 333.3 million

US Census Bureau 2022. https://www.census.gov/popclock/ (accessed 30 Nov 2022)



Impact: do the math. That's $2.40 per person

800 million dollars divided by 333.3 million people equals 2 dollars and 40 cents per person. Judge, that's what you'll get for the 2 hours we're all going to spend on this debate. I think we all had better uses of our time. We need to teach Affirmative teams not to run trivial cases like this by awarding a Negative ballot.

2. A/T "Taxation without representation"

You were represented: Congress voted to authorize the President to adjust tariffs. You can write your Congressman if you disagree

Brock R. Williams 2020 (Specialist in International Trade & Finance, Congressional Research Service) 15 Dec 2020 " Trump Administration Tariff Actions: Frequently Asked Questions" (accessed 30 Nov 2022) https://sgp.fas.org/crs/row/R45529.pdf

The Constitution grants Congress the sole authority over the regulation of foreign commerce. Over the past several decades, Congress has authorized the President to adjust tariffs and other trade restrictions in certain circumstances through specific trade laws. Since 2018, the Trump Administration has used these delegated authorities under three trade laws to imposed increased tariffs, largely in the range of 10% - 25%, on a variety of U.S. imports.

Supreme Court says Congress can delegate tariff rate decision-making to the President, without violating the Constitution

Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas 1940. Decision of the court in United States v. Bush Co. 20 May 1940 60 S.Ct. 944 <https://casetext.com/case/united-states-v-bush-co#p380> (accessed 30 Oct 2022)

It has long been held that where Congress has authorized a public officer to take some specified legislative action when in his judgment that action is necessary or appropriate to carry out the policy of Congress, the judgment of the officer as to the existence of the facts calling for that action is not subject to review. *Martin* v. *Mott*, 12 Wheat. 19; *Monongahela Bridge Co*. v. *United States*, [216 U.S. 177](https://casetext.com/case/monongahela-bridge-v-united-states); *Dakota Central Telephone Co*. v. *South Dakota*, [250 U.S. 163](https://casetext.com/case/dakota-cent-tel-co-v-south-dakota); *United States* v. *Chemical Foundation, Inc.*, [272 U.S. 1](https://casetext.com/case/united-states-v-chemical-foundation-2). As stated by Mr. Justice Story in *Martin* v. *Mott, supra*, pp. 31-32: "Whenever a statute gives a discretionary power to any person, to be exercised by him upon his own opinion of certain facts, it is a sound rule of construction, that the statute constitutes him the sole and exclusive judge of the existence of those facts." For the judiciary to probe the reasoning which underlies this Proclamation would amount to a clear invasion of the legislative and executive domains. Under the Constitution it is exclusively for Congress, or those to whom it delegates authority, to determine what tariffs shall be imposed.

3. Shoe vendors relocate and bypass the tariffs. [so, consumers aren't harmed after all]

Link: The Trump tariffs on shoes are specific to China and Mexico

Eurofins / BLC Leather Technology Center 2019. (leading leather testing and technology centre) How Trump Tariffs Are Affecting the Footwear and Apparel Sectors 14 June 2019 (accessed 1 Dec 2022) https://www.blcleathertech.com/news/how-trump-tariffs-are-affecting-the-footwear-and-apparel-sectors

The value of US apparel and footwear imports stood at $129 billion in 2018(1), with approximately 40% of clothing and 73% percent of footwear imports ($11.4 billion) coming from China(2,3). The average import duty is 1.8% on all goods however the latest Trump Tariff will see an additional 25% added onto the existing tariffs for Chinese imports(3). For Mexico, an additional 5% tariff per month could be added to US imports until it reaches a 25% limit in October in response to immigration issues. However White House Trade Adviser Peter Navarro, has stated that it is likely that full effect of this tariff will not be implemented due to the on-going negotiations with the Mexican government(6). Mexico is regarded as a significant manufacturing hub for apparel and footwear destined to be retailed in the US. Mexico is the 8th largest supplier of apparel and 7th largest supplier of footwear to the US(7), which currently imports $691 million of men’s and boy’s blue jeans from Mexico(8), equating to 35% of imports(7).

Chinese factories are moving to Cambodia and Vietnam to bypass the tariffs

Jennifer Pak 2020. (journalist) 18 Nov 2020 " A Biden presidency won’t change what many Chinese exporters are doing" (accessed 1 Dec 2022) https://www.marketplace.org/2020/11/18/chinese-exporters-us-tariffs-trade-trump-biden-presidency-moving-production-southeast-asia/

More than a year ago, every pair of shoes coming off the sewing machines at the [Changjian factory in southern China](https://www.marketplace.org/2019/10/03/the-chinese-manufacturers-behind-u-s-shoe-brands/) were sent to America. Once Chinese shoes were subject to an extra U.S. tariff because of the ongoing U.S.-China trade war, Changjian’s owner, Tony Tung, shifted manufacturing to the company’s other factories. “Most of our production has moved out of China to Cambodia and Vietnam,” Tung said.

Shoe manufacturers leave China and avoid the tariffs.

Owen Stuart 2019 (Market Research Analyst with Freedonia Focus Reports) 7 Aug 2019 "[Shoe Production Set for Cross-Border Trek as China’s Labor Costs Rise](https://www.freedoniafocusreports.com/Content/Blog/2019/08/07/Shoe-Production-Set-for-Cross-Border-Trek-as-China%E2%80%99s-Labor-Costs-Rise)" (accessed 1 Dec 2022) FREEDONIA FOCUS REPORTS https://www.freedoniafocusreports.com/Content/Blog/2019/08/07/Shoe-Production-Set-for-Cross-Border-Trek-as-China%E2%80%99s-Labor-Costs-Rise

In May 2019, the US government announced its intention to impose 25% tariffs on approximately $300 billion worth of Chinese goods, which includes shoes imported from China. A public hearing occurred in June 2019, though implementation of the tariffs is [on hold pending the outcome of a new round of trade discussions](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-china-trade-talks-restarted-president-trump-suspends-new-tariffs-today-2019-06-30/) between the US and China. Companies could simply pack up and leave China entirely. Others may continue to assemble shoe parts in China but assemble the final product in a different country to avoid the tariffs. Finally, others may keep Chinese production facilities open to satisfy Chinese demand, while making shoes for export to the US in other countries. Whether the tariffs are implemented or not, the increasing expense of producing in China will prod manufacturers to reconfigure their supply chains. Vietnam and Indonesia will likely see manufacturing gains due to lower labor costs. Mexico is also expected to benefit as manufacturers nearshore footwear production to speed their products’ time to market. Regardless, the ongoing uncertainty and any [further potential tariffs](https://www.cnbc.com/2019/08/01/trump-says-us-will-impose-10percent-tariffs-on-300-billion-of-chinese-goods-starting-september-1.html) will continue to incentivize manufacturers to move production of US-destined goods away from China.

4. Poor not harmed

Sneakers are not necessities of the poor: They're status symbols. If you can't afford them, don't buy them

Timothy Rooks 2022. (journalist with Deutsche Welle, a German news service) 28 Feb 2022 "Are old sneakers worth investing in?" (accessed 1 Dec 2022) https://www.dw.com/en/collecting-rare-trainers-are-sneakers-worth-investing-in/a-60687101

Long lines to buy popular sneakers have been around in the United States for decades. Starting in the late 1980s, kids made their parents wait in line to get their hands on the latest Nikes from [basketball legend Michael Jordan](https://www.dw.com/en/michael-jordans-sneakers-sell-for-record-615000/a-54566062), whose dunking silhouette was used for the Air Jordan logo. For most, it was not a long-term investment. There were short price shocks when certain pairs came out — but having them was more about being cool. Today, 36 years after they first debuted, Air Jordans have become iconic, and even have their own [Wikipedia page](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Jordan). At the same time, hip-hop music videos turned sneakers into status symbols. Suddenly celebrities, and later social media influencers, were seen wearing brand-name sneakers everywhere.

"Cool" sneakers retail for $50 to $100 over original price. "Poor" people, if they're truly poor, wouldn't be buying them

Maya Ernest 2021 (journalist) 18 Oct 2021 " Sneakers are more expensive than ever, and they’re not getting cheaper" (accessed 18 Oct 2021) https://www.inverse.com/input/style/sneakers-are-more-expensive-than-ever-theyre-not-getting-cheaper

As demonstrated by [Nike’s Travis Scott sneakers](https://www.inputmag.com/style/travis-scotts-next-nike-air-jordan-1-low-sneaker-honors-his-mocha-jordan-high) and [Adidas’ Yeezy slippers](https://www.inputmag.com/style/kanye-west-adidas-yeezy-day-bots-resellers-yeezy-supply-nightmare), there’s nothing people love more than exclusivity — an opportunity to feel special as a shopper. There’s pride in owning something so limited... but there’s a price too. Exclusive sneakers often retail for $50 to $100 more than their original price immediately, and can resell for thousands of dollars thereafter thanks to their restricted availability. The latter only fuels rising sneaker costs, with some looking to buy sneakers as an [investment](https://www.inputmag.com/style/sneaker-reselling-bots-solesavy-laced-app-communities-nike-snkrs-resellers) rather than a style choice.

Sneakers are a luxury

Maya Ernest 2021 (journalist) 18 Oct 2021 " Sneakers are more expensive than ever, and they’re not getting cheaper" (accessed 18 Oct 2021) https://www.inverse.com/input/style/sneakers-are-more-expensive-than-ever-theyre-not-getting-cheaper (brackets added)

WILL IT EVER END? — The inflated pricing of footwear is expected to extend into the holiday season and even next year, according to the FDRA [Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America]. And as the costs continue to rise, sneakers may soon be considered a luxury — if they aren’t already.

SOLVENCY

1. Won't solve for high prices

Multiple other factors driving higher shoe prices

Maya Ernest 2021 (journalist) 18 Oct 2021 " Sneakers are more expensive than ever, and they’re not getting cheaper" (accessed 18 Oct 2021) https://www.inverse.com/input/style/sneakers-are-more-expensive-than-ever-theyre-not-getting-cheaper

Sneaker prices have been steadily rising over the past year, according to new data by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics — and those prices could increase even more as the holiday season approaches. Per the [bureau’s monthly report](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.t02.htm#cpipress2.f.1), overall consumer prices rose by 5.4 percent in September compared to a year ago, with footwear prices showing significant inflation. The cost of men’s shoes has increased 5.5 percent, women’s have risen by 4.9 percent, and kids’ shoe prices have climbed by 11.9 percent. Much of this may be attributed to the pandemic, which has consistently caused labor, supply chain, and product shortages even now, nearly two years after it began.

DISADVANTAGES

1. De-industrialization.

**The economic "benefits" of the AFF plan are outweighed by the social impact of the lost manufacturing jobs, even if in raw dollars it looks like we gain more than we lose with their Plan. That's because when US factories shut down and we "save" that 2 dollars and 40 cents, the closed factories ripple throughout communities and society with much greater offsetting impacts. "Deindustrialization" happens when we lose manufacturing jobs and they're either not replace or else replaced by low wage service jobs that aren't as good.**

Link: AFF Plan = Thousands of lost US manufacturing jobs

Aida Ahmad 2012 (journalist) 21 June 2022 "Shoe importers push to cut US tariffs" (accessed 30 Nov 2022) https://fdra.org/latest-news/shoe-importers-push-to-cut-us-tariffs/

New Balance is the last athletic footwear manufacturer in the U. S. About 25 percent of the shoes it sells in North America are either manufactured or assembled at one of the five New England factories, and the company doesn’t have to pay any tariffs. Matthew LeBretton, New Balance director of public affairs, explained that the company favors keeping a climate that allows what is left of the domestic footwear industry to be competitive. The U. S. government has the ability to sustain and help create jobs in this sector by keeping the status quo, he said, or it can risk losing thousands of jobs by making decisions to help overseas manufacturers maximize their profits.

Link: US shoe manufacturing will grow under Status Quo policies

Samantha McDonald 2021 (journalist) 23 Feb 2021 "As US Footwear Imports See Drastic Declines, How Industry Execs Are Charting the Path Forward in 2021" (accessed 1 Dec 2022) https://footwearnews.com/2021/business/trade/us-footwear-imports-2021-forecasts-1203107796/

Upon taking office last month, Biden signed an [executive order](https://footwearnews.com/2021/business/retail/buy-american-executive-order-shoe-industry-1203098783/) meant to boost federal purchases of American-made products. While a lot still remains up in the air, industry leaders say there’s no doubt that domestic manufacturing is back in the limelight. According to the FDRA, U.S. shoe production is estimated at just roughly 25 million pairs every year. It represents about 2.5% of the total market today, but Priest predicts that could grow to between 3% and 5% over the next couple of years — and Herman agreed.

Impacts: Deindustrialization has multiple bad impacts on society that far outweigh

Prof. John Russo and Dr. Sherry Lee Linkon 2009 (Russo - coordinator of the Labor Studies Program at Williamson College of Business Administration, Youngstown State University. Linkon - PhD; Co-Director of the Center for Working-Class Studies at Youngstown State University) (ethical disclosure: Article is undated but internally discusses current events in 2009) "The Social Costs Of Deindustrialization" (accessed 30 Nov 2022) https://ysu.edu/center-working-class-studies/social-costs-deindustrialization

Deindustrialization undermines the social fabric of communities, states and the nation. The social costs of deindustrialization include the loss of jobs, homes and health care; reductions in the tax base, which in turn lead to cuts in necessary public services like police and fire protection; increases in crime both immediately and longterm; decaying local landscapes; increases in suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, family violence and depression; declines in nonprofits and cultural resources; and loss of faith in institutions such as government, business, unions, churches and traditional political organizations. Even when workers find new jobs or when communities succeed in bringing in new employers, these new jobs often pay less, offer fewer benefits, are less likely to provide union protections and, in many cases, are temporary, contingent or parttime. Finally, widespread job loss, especially in communities that rely on just one or two industries, undermines the community's identity and sense of competence. Deindustrialized communities too often become sites of persistent struggle, creating a cycle of failure from which it is difficult to escape.

Voting Impact: Social costs of de-industrialization will outweigh the AFF plan

Prof. John Russo and Dr. Sherry Lee Linkon 2009 (Russo - coordinator of the Labor Studies Program at Williamson College of Business Administration, Youngstown State University. Linkon - PhD; Co-Director of the Center for Working-Class Studies at Youngstown State University) (ethical disclosure: Article is undated but internally discusses current events in 2009) "The Social Costs Of Deindustrialization" (accessed 30 Nov 2022) https://ysu.edu/center-working-class-studies/social-costs-deindustrialization

Deindustrialization is not a new story. Nor does it, as some have suggested, follow the traditional historical narratives about natural economic evolution. Those who have lived in deindustrialized communities have long argued that the social costs and significance of deindustrialization are larger and more lasting than the dominant economic discourse about "creative destruction" and the fading of the old industrial economy.Deindustrialization is the direct result of corporate and governmental decisions that have not only displaced millions of American workers, but also done major harm to American communities. These injuries to our cities create social and economic costs that everyone pays.

2. Chinese Mercantilism

Link: 3/4 of imported shoes come from China

WASHINGTON POST 2018. (economics correspondent Abha Bhattarai) 24 July 2018 " Almost all shoes sold in the U.S. are imported. Now the industry is terrified of tariffs." (accessed 30 Nov 2022) https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2018/07/24/almost-all-shoes-sold-us-are-imported-now-industry-is-terrified-tariffs/

Ninety-eight percent of shoes are manufactured abroad, with nearly three-quarters of those imports coming from China, according to the American Apparel & Footwear Association, making footwear one of the most heavily imported products.

Link: American companies adjust to tariffs, and they move production out of China, and that's a good thing, as we'll show below

Brock R. Williams 2020 (Specialist in International Trade & Finance, Congressional Research Service) 15 Dec 2020 " Trump Administration Tariff Actions: Frequently Asked Questions" (accessed 30 Nov 2022) https://sgp.fas.org/crs/row/R45529.pdf

Tariffs can generate business shocks, increased costs, and uncertainty in the short-term. The longer they remain in place, some companies are able to reposition operations both within the United States and globally to adjust in response. U.S. tariffs on China were an additional factor, for example, in incentivizing an ongoing shift of certain production out of China that has been taking place over the past five years.

Link: Mercantilism. Chinese government intervenes to help its domestic industries and damage foreign competitors

Stephen Ezell 2013. (Senior Analyst, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation) 24 July 2013 China’s Economic Mercantilism <http://www.industryweek.com/public-policy/chinas-economic-mercantilism> (brackets added) (accessed 26 June 2022)

But by 2006, that began to change, as China made the strategic decision to shift away from attracting the commodity-based production facilities of foreign MNCs [multi-national corporations] toward a “China Inc.” development model focused on helping Chinese firms, often at the expense of foreign firms. The path to prosperity and autonomy now became “indigenous innovation” (in Chinese, zizhu chuagnxin), with a focus on helping Chinese firms move up the value-chain to higher-value-added production activities. To get there, China has embraced economic mercantilism on an unprecedented scale, using a wide array of policies to assist Chinese firms while discriminating against foreign establishments attempting to compete in China.

Link: Free trade enables other countries to practice mercantilist policies against us

Ian Fletcher 2010 (adjunct fellow at the U.S. Business and Industry Council; formerly an economist in private practice serving mainly hedge funds and private equity firms) Six Reasons for U.S. to Abandon Free-Trade Myth 26 Oct 2010 <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2010-10-26/six-reasons-for-u-s-to-drop-free-trade-myth-commentary-by-ian-fletcher> (accessed 26 June 2022)

The fifth dubious assumption is that free trade won’t turn benign trading partners into dangerous trading rivals. But free trade often does do this, as we see today in China, whose growth is massively dependent upon exports. This is especially likely when trading partners practice mercantilism, the 400-year-old strategy of deliberately gaming the world trading system by methods like currency manipulation and hidden tariffs.

Impact: US economic and political decline and rise of Chinese totalitarianism

Dr. Howard Richman, Prof. Raymond Richman & Prof. Jesse Richman 2010. (Howard Richman - PhD from Univ of Pittsburgh. Raymond Richman- professor emeritus of public and international affairs at Univ of Pittsburgh. Jesse Richman – PhD; associate professor of political science at Old Dominion Univ) 10 Dec 2010 Bernanke to China: Stop Hurting Us or You'll Hurt Us (accessed 26 June 2022) <http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2010/12/bernanke_to_china_stop_hurting.html>

If we don't act against mercantilism, the future is predictable: America will decline as an economic and political power.  Eventually, China will replace the United States as the dominant power on the world stage, and totalitarianism will likely replace democracy as the world's dominant political philosophy.  All because our leaders wouldn't balance budgets and trade.

Impact: Mercantilism will kill US jobs and economic growth

Dr Robert D Atkinson 2012. (president of the [Information Technology and Innovation Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_Technology_and_Innovation_Foundation), a public policy [think tank](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Think_tank); formerly vice president of the [Progressive Policy Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Progressive_Policy_Institute); PhD in City and Regional Planning) February 2012 Enough is Enough: Confronting Chinese Innovation Mercantilism <http://www2.itif.org/2012-enough-enough-chinese-mercantilism.pdf> (accessed 26 June 2022)

Further integration of global supply chains that link the United States and China could be good for both nations but not if Chinese policies continue to be based on absolute advantage and mercantilism. In this case, the results will be more of the same: the loss of U.S. industrial and high-tech output, and the jobs and GDP growth that go with it.