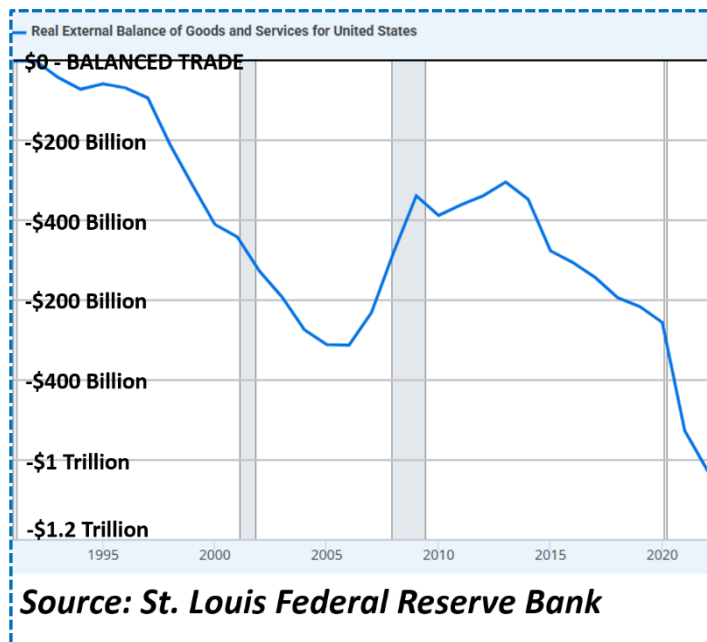


Trump's Tariff Policy

So, what are the goals of President Donald Trump's tariff/ trade policy which he rolled out on April 2, 2025? He and his staff have been very up-front and **TRANSPARENT** about the first two goals. Personally, I believe there is a third **UNSPOKEN** goal which I will address at the end.

For a brief overview of how tariffs work, click [here](#). Also, I'm not including increased federal revenue, but this is definitely a short-term benefit.

Goal 1.) Establishing Two-Way Free and Fair Trade: "Free and Fair" Trade only works when both parties (e.g., China and the U.S.) agree to a free and fair trade deal and then **ABIDE** by it. Trump points out that previous presidential administrations have focused on the "agree" part of our various international trade relationships. However, when it comes to the "abide" part they have been **derelict**. Keep in mind that tariffs are only part of the equation. If Japan has open access to sell Toyotas in the U.S., but through regulatory red tape, outright bans, etc. makes it nearly impossible to sell Fords in Japan? That's hardly free and fair trade when it comes to autos even if the tariffs on both sides are **zero**. As **EVIDENCE** that previous U.S. Presidents have mismanaged "free and fair" trade, Trump points to our **ever-increasing trade deficits** with our global trading partners across the board over the last 30 years.



Trade deficits are the ultimate scorecard when it comes to determining whether trade between two countries is truly "free and fair." President Trump has indicated that he is willing to use tariffs as an **ONGOING TOOL** to address these trade deficits today

and into the future. Tariffs have a **dampening effect** on U.S. imports from a given country (e.g. India). So, if U.S. imports from India greatly exceed U.S. exports to India, Trump (or any future U.S. President) can use tariffs to **RECTIFY THIS IMBALANCE**. This also incentivizes India to more fully open its markets to U.S.-made goods.

Democrats have labeled Trump's tariff policy as **chaotic**. I would argue that Trump is using tariffs as a **FLEXIBLE TOOL TO RECTIFY UNFAIR TRADE RELATIONSHIPS** but for the sake of this argument I will agree to the Democrats' term. What the Democrats fail to mention (or more likely simply fail to understand) is that **CHAOS HAS AN UPSIDE**. If I'm a smart U.S. manufacturing CEO (e.g. Tim Cook of Apple) I can **ELIMINATE** the problem of tariff uncertainty (or "chaos") by shifting my manufacturing operations from China back to the U.S. Also, by showing that he has an **"itchy tariff trigger**

finger" Trump incentivizes our trading partners to tamp down on engaging in any trading "**shenanigans**" going forward.

Goal 2.) Returning Manufacturing to the U.S.A: As alluded to above, Trump is using tariffs (and "tariff uncertainty" or "chaos") to incentivize both U.S. and foreign CEOs to shift their manufacturing to the U.S. Want to avoid the chaos? **Make both your autos and auto parts in the U.S.A.!!!!** The net result of Trump's tariff policy is that we Americans will get more high-tech state of the art (aka automated) manufacturing plants along with accompanying high-tech (and **HIGH PAYING**) manufacturing technician and engineering jobs. Reestablishing America's manufacturing base will not only benefit our economy but also our **NATIONAL SECURITY**. Folks, we won World War II in large part because none of our foes could match our manufacturing capabilities (having our factories separated from the war zones by two huge oceans didn't hurt as well). The **UTTER STUPIDITY** of not only outsourcing our essential pharmaceuticals manufacturing (as well as our key medical equipment) but outsourcing it to our **FOREMOST FOREIGN ADVERSARY (China** for those of you in Rio Linda) was made clear during the recent COVID Pandemic. At the end of the day, I think that President Trump agrees with what many of us in Texas believe. If we are to retain (and even enhance) our Superpower Status? We will need to produce more home-grown Robotics Technicians and Manufacturing Engineers and fewer Community Organizers and Lawyers.

Trump's Tariff Rollback: On April 9, 2025, Trump rolled back his tariffs on each nation **which did not retaliate against his first round of tariffs**. He rolled them back to a flat 10% for 90 days across the board. For example, tariffs on U.S. imports from Vietnam, which were set at 46% when Trump initiated his tariffs on April 2, 2025, were rolled back to just 10% a week later. Vietnam's leaders had **WISELY** decided to not retaliate and also displayed willingness to negotiate a new trade agreement with the Trump Administration. Democrats predictably ascribed this tariff rollback to Trump **"chickening out."** Let me offer an alternative view. I believe Trump's rollback was both **pre-planned** and **brilliant strategy**. President Trump wanted to send world leaders the message that he was serious about trade and offer them a taste of how bad things could get if they didn't play ball. That's what April 2 was all about. Trump then followed up **THE STICK** with **THE CARROT** on April 9 to those countries who got the message and responded appropriately (e.g., Vietnam). Trump understands incentives. The week of April 2- April 9 was all about getting our various global trading partners to the negotiating table with the **right motivation**.

The only country to stand up to Trump by raising its tariffs on its U.S. imports? **China!** Consequently, the one country not included in Trump's rollback? **China!** On April 9, 2025, Donald Trump increased U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports to 100%+ effectively killing the goods trade between the U.S. and China. My "conspiracy theory" (a good conspiracy in this case) is that Trump not only **anticipated** China's

move, but he **expected** it and will be using it to achieve his third goal. Keep in mind that Trump is not being transparent about this third goal, because in this case transparency is not in America's interest.

Goal 3.) Bringing Down Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist

Party: President Trump is really good at reading people. He understands Chinese Dictator Xi Jinping. Trump anticipated and planned on Xi reacting very negatively to his April 2 "Liberation Day" speech and tariff roll-out. I believe President Trump is going to use Xi Jinping's belligerence to bring both Xi and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) as a whole **to their knees**.

Publicly Donald Trump is extending the trade "olive branch" to Xi and his CCP cronies. Privately I'm convinced President Trump has no interest in reaching a trade agreement with Xi. Since **Bill Clinton** established the U.S.- Chinese open trade relationship in his second term (1998-1999 timeframe) **China has benefitted tremendously**. China's GDP in 1995 was **\$740 Billion**. By 2023 China's GDP had risen to **\$18.3 TRILLION**, a **24-fold** increase. China's growth was fueled by its ability to tap into its 1 billion+ largely impoverished population to provide foreign companies a huge supply of nearly free labor. China then commenced to flood the U.S. (and, to a lesser extent, Europe and the rest of the world) with a tsunami of cheap goods. This provided China - or more specifically the **Chinese Communist Party (CCP)** - the hard currency to fund its truly

astounding growth and development over the last 25 years. Additionally, as American high-tech companies such as Apple, Intel and Hewlett-Packard have shifted their manufacturing to China, the CCP has **blatantly stolen their technology**.

On the other hand, the United States has benefited little from this trade relationship (some cheap crap at Walmart and Target is the only upside I can see). Meanwhile the manufacturing sector of our economy was **obliterated**. American companies realized paying Ohio workers **\$25/hour** to assemble a given product (e.g., televisions) simply could not compete with their competitors who had shifted their manufacturing to China and were paying their worker **\$5/day**. As a result, America's **MANUFACTURING BELT** which extends from Wisconsin to Pennsylvania was transformed into America's **RUST BELT**.

The CCP has abused our trade relationship from the beginning. Dumping goods, **STEALING OUR TECHNOLOGY/INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY** and making it nearly impossible for some of our companies (e.g. Amazon, Chevrolet) to do business in China are all characteristics of this very **ONE-SIDED** trade relationship. If you go to the traffic-filled streets of Beijing or Shanghai today you would be hard-pressed to spot a Ford or GM made vehicle. I firmly believe Donald Trump, just like 90% of the folks in MI, OH and western PA, has finally **HAD ENOUGH**.

You've likely heard the phrase, "I'll make him an offer he can't refuse." In this case I believe Donald Trump will make Xi Jinping an offer he **CANNOT ACCEPT**. Trump will offer a deal that Xi's ego simply won't allow.

Keep in mind, we don't need China. What they import from us is paltry compared to what we import from them. We certainly don't need them **STEALING OUR TECHNOLOGY** on an on-going basis. For high value products (e.g., computer chips) and essential products such as pharmaceuticals, steel, etc. we can shift production from China to high tech, automated (and therefore **HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE**) domestic manufacturing factories. For labor intensive products that are not suited to be made in the U.S. at this point in time (e.g. clothing, shoes...)? Simply shift production from China to Vietnam, the Philippines, India, etc.

Simply put? When it comes to China-American trade going forward, many Americans (including DJT himself) are inclined to tell Xi Jinping and his commie cronies to **take a long walk off a short pier**.

While he's walling off China (or more specifically the **CCP**) from the U.S. Economy, I do believe President Trump will rally the rest of the world to move away from China. The CCP has treated its European and Asian trading partners just as **shabbily** as it has treated us. If Trump gives Japan, the UK, Mexico and even Panama the choice between aligning with the CCP or aligning with us? I'm convinced

that almost every country (minus maybe Russia, Iran and North Korea) will **CHOOSE TO ALIGN WITH US**. To seal the deal Trump might want to remind world leaders of the CCP's little gift to the world a mere five years ago.

Many of us believe that Xi and the Chinese Communist Party used COVID as a **BIOWEAPON** specifically targeted against the U.S. and President Donald Trump (first term) who Xi viewed as the biggest impediment to Xi's goal of China **OVERTAKING** the United States to become the World's Premier Economic and **MILITARY** Superpower. The true story behind COVID will probably never be known as Xi and the Chicoms have absolutely **forbidden** any legitimate investigation from taking place in Wuhan. Best case scenario? COVID accidentally leaked from the **Wuhan Institute of Virology** and the CCP grossly mismanaged both controlling COVID's spread and informing the rest of the world of the threat it posed. Worst case scenario? Xi and the CCP developed COVID specifically as a **BIOWEAPON** and released it **ON PURPOSE**. Its purpose? To take out Trump and hobble the United States (and on both counts the CCP was initially successful). The rest of the world was merely collateral damage. For more on the CCP's role in the COVID Pandemic, check out pages 144-145.

So, what is the end game? China's economy is largely dependent on exports, especially to the U.S and Europe. You pull that away? China's economy suffers, maybe even crashes. The CCP's ability to fund its rapidly growing military goes away. Xi Jinping's goal for

China to replace the U.S. as the world's largest economy/superpower in his lifetime? **GONE!**

And consider that even dictators are eventually answerable to the people. Xi and even the CCP itself may find themselves in the ash heap of history. Keep in mind, folks, that our beef is with Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party, NOT the Chinese People (look up the recent Hong Kong Freedom Protests and the 1989 Tiananmen Square Protest and Massacre when you get a chance). By sticking to Xi Jinping and the CCP, Donald Trump will be doing a **GREAT SERVICE** for 1 billion+ Chinese citizens.

Finally, what can we do to help President Trump achieve these **AMERICA FIRST** goals? We can educate our Family, Friends and Neighbors about what is really going on here. The Democrats and their MSM allies are whining up a storm over Trump's tariffs. It's up to us to push back.

For more, check out [**The Common-Sense Guide to American History**](#).

This tariff piece is the one pdf on the website not in the book itself – somewhat outside the scope. I wrote it and am distributing it simply because Trump's tariffs are so often misunderstood. It needed to be done. – Peter Odegard May 3, 2025