



economicthinking
Understanding and Creating Prosperity

MACKINAC CENTER
FOR PUBLIC POLICY



Mackinac Center Online Debate Workshops Notes, Resources • February 2017



High school and homeschool students in the NSDA and NCFCA leagues have US/China policy reform as their debate topic. Are the benefits of cross-border trade and investment for people in China and in the US worth the costs? Some companies in China and in the U.S. struggle to compete with imports. Consumers benefit from wider options but wonder about jobs “lost.”

Understanding and communicating the benefits, costs, and dynamics of international trade, along with other economic freedoms, can reduce the dangers and damage from protectionists and nationalists.

Doug Bandow's December 28, 2016 NCPA essay, [Economics of the 2016-2017 Debate Topic: U.S. Relations with China, Mixing Cooperation with Competition](#), provides valuable ideas for the topic, and was promoted widely by Economic Thinking and NCPA's Debate Central websites.

Other [Debate Central](#) and [Economic Thinking](#) posts are below. Links below connect to posts.



US/China Engaging in Nationalist Policies

Posted in Cross-Examination

Opposition to globalization has expanded and energized in the U.S. by both the Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump campaigns. “Globalization” sounds unappealing, like throwing goods and traditions from around the world in a blender and chopping them up. Consumers appreciate lower prices but worry about factories closing and “jobs being shipped overseas” to lower-paid workers in Mexico, China, Vietnam, or India.

Globalization, multilateral trade agreements, and “the international order” are regularly attacked by populists and nationalists in the US and Europe. And also in China.

<http://debate-central.ncpa.org/uschina-engaging-in-nationalist-policies/>

For Still-Poor China, Coal Pollution from Home Heating

Posted in Uncategorized

Rapid industrialization spilled pollution across China's cities, rivers, and skies. Market-reforms in the 1980s opened first agriculture and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) like Shenzhen to local enterprise and overseas investors. Market reforms and factories then expanded across China, bringing prosperity but also pollution from mining and manufacturing. Through the first decades of reform, pollution seems far less important than jobs when wage rates even in 1990 average income per person (GNI) was just \$330 a year. By 2000 average income had nearly tripled, but was still just \$940 a year, and by 2015, average income was nearly eight times higher to \$7,930.



<http://debate-central.ncpa.org/coal-pollution-from-home-heating/>



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UNCATEGORIZED FEBRUARY 5, 2017

China and Cuba Trade, Labor, and Migration

“Foot Soldiers of China's Shopping Boom” (New York Times, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017, p B1, online as For <http://economicthinking.org/2017/02/05/china-and-cuba-trade-labor-and-migration/>

[EconomicsinaCloud.org](#) offers online workshops on current and recent debate topics.

Plus dozens of posts on [EconomicThinking.org](#) and [NCPA Debate Central](#) explain economic and public choice principles and apply them to the US/China topic.

ECONOMIC THINKING POSTS ON DEBATE TOPICS



U.S./CHINA ENGAGEMENT & POLICY REFORM

JANUARY 28, 2017

Bootleggers and Baptists Agree:
Restrict Trade with China

When the President and Congress consider trade
<http://debate-central.ncpa.org/bootleggers-and-baptists-agree-to-restrict-trade-with-china/>

China

\$20.2 billion

Top 5 U.S. Exports

1. Soybeans (\$1.5 billion)
2. Crude Oil (\$1.3 billion)
3. Coal (\$1.1 billion)
4. Wheat (\$1.0 billion)
5. Cotton (\$875 million)

Export Growth

2009-2015

2015: \$20.2 billion

2009: \$6.7 billion

#2

Among U.S. Agricultural Export Markets, 2015

UNCATEGORIZED JANUARY 23, 2017

US/China Farm Wars [NCPA Debate Central post]

Bagoly mondja verébnék, hogy nagyfejű. (English version: “Pot calling the kettle black.” Many other cultures here.) In “United States Challenges

<http://debate-central.ncpa.org/uschina-farm-wars/>



Ask New Zealand to Manage South China Sea Fisheries

JANUARY 16, 2017

<http://debate-central.ncpa.org/chinas-sustainable-agriculture-the-biggest-threat-to-humanity/>