

Questions for PubPol/Econ 541
Sep 30

Policies and Institutions: National, US

Jackson, Ch. 3, pp. 79-100:

- Should (according to Jackson), and do, international institutions like the WTO interfere with the sovereignty of its member states?
- To what part of the US government does the US constitution assign responsibility for commercial policy? What does this imply for the procedures by which the US enters into trade agreements?
- Once a trade agreement is negotiated and accepted, does it automatically become part of the law of the participating countries?
- Can the US federal government enter into international agreements that constrain the US states? Does the same apply to other negotiating units' (e.g., Canada, the EU) abilities to commit their sub-units?
- Why did Fast Track, or something like it, become necessary only after trade negotiations were moving beyond tariffs to negotiating non-tariff measures?
- What are the four requirements of the Fast Track procedure that was first approved by Congress? Under what President was this done?
- What units of the US government have responsibilities for aspects of US trade policies?

Verrill, "An Introduction to Trade Remedies Available under U.S. Law," 1999.

- Who has "standing" under the antidumping law? Who determines whether there is dumping?
- How do the injury requirements differ for antidumping and for safeguards? Do either require that the domestic firms make losses?
- What can a U.S. producer do if it believes that its competitors in another country are engaging in anticompetitive conduct that is being tolerated by their government?

USTR, "USTR Releases President Biden's 2024 Trade Policy Agenda and 2023 Annual Report," Office of the United States Trade Representative, March 1, 2024.

- From this, does it appear that the Biden administration is pursuing any new trade agreements?
- Is there any mention of actions taken against China?

Economist, "Trade Mission: Taking Stock of America's Flagship Trade Programme for Africa," *the Economist*, February 9, 2023.

- What is AGOA?
- Has it succeeded?
- What interferes with its success?
- Do the preferences require that inputs also be made in Africa?

**Fefer et al., “Section 232 Investigations: Overview and Issues for Congress,”
Summary only, 2019.**

- Under what circumstances does Section 232 of the 1962 Trade Act permit the President to levy tariffs?
- Who conducts the investigation to determine if this is the case? If the answer is yes, must the President levy tariffs?
- Must the tariffs apply to all imports of the product? If not, do we know why not?
- Is the use of Section 232 legal under the rules of the WTO?

Tai, Katherine, “Trade must transform its role in the social contract,” *Financial Times*, May 28, 2024.

- Is her approach to trade policy different from that of her predecessors?
- What feature of the USMCA is she using to benefit workers?
- Does she support free international movement of data?
- Does she trust China?

Tankersley, “Biden’s Trade Moves Raise Tensions Abroad but Draw Cheers in Swing States,” *New York Times*, April 9, 2024.

- Who is more protectionist, Biden or Trump?
- Has Biden gotten any political benefit from this?
- What actions has Biden taken?

Optional to Read:

Rampell, Catherine, "What Women’s Underwear Tells Us About Our Trade System," *Washington Post*, February 9, 2023.

- What are the average tariffs on men’s and women’s underwear? **11.5%; women’s 15.5%**
- What are “pink taxes”?
- Is this true only of clothing and only of the US?
- Why is this the case?
- Is it only women who are discriminated against?