

中美贸易合作与竞争对美国制造业和普通人生活的影响

The Impact of Sino-US trade cooperation and competition on American manufacturing and everyday citizens

Brianna Richards

Brianna Richards is a current undergraduate student studying Business, Entrepreneurship, and Organizations (BEO) and East Asian Studies (EAS) at Brown University, class of 2023. Her first formal educational experience with the Chinese language (Mandarin) came when she was granted a scholarship with NSLI-Y China for the summer of 2018 to study abroad at Northwest University (西北大学) in Xi'an, China. Continuing her formal Chinese language education at Brown University (2019~present) and CET's virtual Chinese summer program (2021), she hopes to return to China to study or work abroad following graduation.

Summary: This piece describes how Sino-US trade relations and a growing economic interdependency have affected the US manufacturing industry and the lives of everyday citizens. A general introduction to the development of Sino-US trade relations is followed with a brief discussion on some of the mutual co-benefits of trade cooperation as well as the potential consequences of economic competition and its accompanying high tariffs. There are many reasons for the growing economic tensions between the US and China. However, rather than simply attributing this growing economic competition to the domestic political and cultural environment or language barriers between the two countries, this piece argues that such tensions stem from the growing Sino-US trade deficit, severely impacting the US manufacturing industry and its accompanying job market. In order to revive the U.S. economy and increase U.S. manufacturing jobs, but also to curb China's development and the strengthening of China's hard power, the U.S. government has imposed increasingly higher tariffs on Chinese-made products. To further protect and advance its own global economic position, China has taken a similar position in its own

institution of tariffs on U.S. manufactured goods. This economic competition, however, has only hurt the lives of everyday citizens. Looking ahead, we don't know yet whether the U.S.-China economic relationship will improve or deteriorate further. It will be interesting to follow the future development of these global superpowers and see if China and the United States can finally put the greater interests of the world and everyday people over their own national ambitions.

Author's Note: This piece was written in the summer of 2021 and does not account for major changes in trade relations due to the pandemic. Although the ongoing pandemic is sure to impact the state of Sino-US trade relations, I believe much of which is argued in this piece can still be relevant today.

今天，中国和美国都是世界上最强大的国家。美国的军事力量和中国经济实力是这两个国家硬实力非常强大的最好的证明。改革开放以后，中国不再是一个欠发达的国家，而是一个经济发展突飞猛进的国家。中国加入世界贸易组织以后变得越来越更强大，对其它的国家有越来越多的影响。

现在，中国与别的国家的经贸关系让世界各国经济更加紧密地联系在一起。显然，这种所谓的国家间的亲密关系可以带来深远的影响。一方面，经济合作可以让多个国家互利共赢，但另一方面经济竞争导致很多国家设置关税壁垒。高额的关税会减缓经济发展，减少贸易往来，影响国际关系，甚至于影响老百姓的日常生活。

因为经济竞争带来的负面影响，现在的中美关系日趋紧张。这种紧张局势是由很多原因造成的。然而，在我看来，这些原因不包括中美的国内政治、文化环境和语言障碍，最重要的原因是中国经济的发展给美国、特别是美国的制造业带来的影响。中国加入世界贸易组织以来，美国对中国的贸易逆差大

大增加。所谓的“贸易逆差”就是美国对中国的出口比进口低得多（USTR, 2021）。美国贸易逆差的增加导致美国失去了 370 万个工作岗位，其中四分之三的工作岗位都是制造业的（Scott and Mokhiber, 2020）。对这个数据的一种解释是中国制造业越来越发达，创造了很多新的就业机会；但也有人认为美国制造业的工作机会都转移到了中国。

除了中国有大量人口，劳动力资源充足以外，中国也有其他方面的条件让中国制造业具有竞争优势。比方说中国公司的决策成本效益是一个很重要的方面。为了保持低成本，有些中国公司不按照健康标准和环保规定来制造产品。另外，很多从农村移民到城市的务工人员愿意从事收入比较低的工作，公司也因此可以节省更多钱。这些情况使中国制造业企业可以降低产品的价格（Bajpai, 2021）。这反过来也吸引了更多的跨国公司和客户考虑在中国进行投资。一个很好的例子就是苹果公司（AAPL）等美国公司利用中国供应链的效率来保持低成本和高利润率（Racoma, 2012）。

随着越来越多的公司决定在中国制造他们的产品，中美经贸关系也跟着变得更加紧张。这些情况导致了更高的关税，特别是针对美国和中国制造的产品。为了恢复美国经济的发展，增加美国制造业的工作机会，同时也为了抑制中国的发展和增强中国硬实力的增强，美国政府对中国制造的产品征收越来越更高的关税（Craig, 2020）。这个行动也让中国对美国产品征收更高的关税。这些竞争激烈的经贸政策不仅进一步损害中美关系，而且对美国和中国老百姓有很深远的影响。比方说，高额的关税对普通人有多方面的影响。第一是运费比较贵和关税比较高导致商品价格上涨。在中国，美国制造的品牌产品比中国制造的产品贵十倍。在美国，中国制造的商品已经不知不觉中成了

美国人日常生活的一部分。这是因为中国商品比美国本土生产的商品便宜。几乎什么商品都是从中国来的，玩具、游戏、建筑，甚至于衣服都是中国制造的。虽然中美经贸合作有很多好处，但是美国媒体和政府平常只考虑这个关系对美国的制造业有什么坏处，这样造成美国老百姓对中国政府，甚至中国人，持反对的态度。一方面中国制造业的发展造成美国失去制造业的工作是真的，但另一方面政府和媒体造成了舆论变得更偏颇。更重要的是美国竞争政策和关税并不会给增加美国制造业的工作机会带来那么大的影响。这是因为很大公司还想省钱，所以他们只想把制造业的工厂从中国转移到亚洲其他发展中国家制造他们的产品（Craig, 2020）。这就证明增加关税并不是解决贸易争端的最佳方案。也有人认为，如果中国不接受美国制造业的工作，就会出现自动化（Alden, 2020）。那为什么美国应该与中国抗争，当国际大公司造成这些问题的时候？美中紧张关系带来的影响是巨大的，也是深远的。我希望将来这两个强大的国家和他们的政府可以考虑双方制定的政策带来的后果，还要考虑竞争对世界利益共同体有什么样的影响。

展望未来，中美经济关系是否会改善还是会进一步恶化，我们还不知道。我只希望中国和美国能够将国际各国更大的利益置于自己国家的雄心之上。

Bibliography

Adams, Cathalijne. KeepItMadeInUSA. "U.S. Job Loss to China Swells to 3.7 Million." *Alliance for American Manufacturing*. September 14, 2020.
www.americanmanufacturing.org/blog/u-s-job-loss-to-china-swells-to-3-7-million/.

Alden, Edward. "No, the Pandemic Will Not Bring Jobs Back From

- China.” *Foreign Policy*. May 26, 2020. foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/26/china-jobs-coronavirus-pandemic-manufacturing-trump/.
- Bajpai, Prableen. “China Will Continue To Dominate World Production.” *Investopedia*. Investopedia, June 2, 2021. www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/102214/why-china-worlds-factory.asp.
- Craig, Victoria. “Why Bringing Manufacturing Jobs to the U.S. from China Is ‘Highly Unlikely.’” *Marketplace*. August 28, 2020. www.marketplace.org/2020/08/27/trump-manufacturing-jobs-china-trade-war-deal/.
- Hass, Ryan. “How China Is Responding to Escalating Strategic Competition with the US.” *Brookings*. Brookings, March 3, 2021. www.brookings.edu/articles/how-china-is-responding-to-escalating-strategic-competition-with-the-us/.
- Racoma, J. Angelo. “Why Everything Is Made in China & What It Means for U.S. Jobs.” *CMSWire.com*. CMSWire.com, January 31, 2012. www.cmswire.com/cms/enterprise-20/why-everything-is-made-in-china-what-it-means-for-us-jobs-014306.php.
- Scott, Robert E., and Zane Mokhiber. “Growing China Trade Deficit Cost 3.7 Million American Jobs between 2001 and 2018: Jobs Lost in Every U.S. State and Congressional District.” *Economic Policy Institute*. January 30, 2020. www.epi.org/publication/growing-china-trade-deficits-costs-us-jobs/.
- USTR. “The People's Republic of China.” *United States Trade Representative*. 2021. ustr.gov/countries-regions/china-mongolia-taiwan/peoples-republic-china.