

**Questions for PubPol/Econ 541**  
**Oct 2**

**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, "FACT SHEET: USTR Releases 2023 Trade Policy Agenda and 2022 Annual Report," Office of the United States Trade Representative, March 2023.**

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

**Swanson, Ana, "Biden's Reluctant Approach to Free Trade Draws Backlash," *New York Times*, April 3, 2023.**

- What is the role of free-trade agreements in the green subsidies of the Inflation Reduction Act?
- Why is this a problem?
- How is the Biden administration trying to deal with this?

- On what basis does USTR Tai defend not pursuing more FTAs?
- Is she right that new FTAs are not part of the world we live in?

**Boot, Max, “Biden is making the same mistake as Trump on China,” *Washington Post*, November 30, 2022.**

- What, according to this, did Biden do right on trade?
- What was largely right, if it can be limited properly?
- What has he done wrong, much like Trump?

**Foroohar, Rana, "America Is Telling a Very Different Story About Trade," *Financial Times*, June 18, 2023. [**

- Why is the new policy not “America First”?
- What are the “chokepoints” mentioned by USTR Tai?
- What is Tai’s objection to free trade agreements?
- Tai wants to help workers, here and abroad. How?

**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?

### **Optional to Read:**

**Zumbrun, Josh, “The \$67 Billion Tariff Dodge That’s Undermining U.S. Trade Policy,” *Wall Street Journal*, April 25, 2022.**

- What does the “de minimis rule” say?
- By how much have US de minimis imports risen?
- What forces have caused this?
- What is the role of “bonded trucks” and “bonded warehouses” in this?
- Why do we have only uncertain data on the value of de minimis imports and the nature of the goods imported?
- Does it seem likely that the US Congress will change this?

**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?