MACROECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF GROWING PROTECTIONISM AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE US-CHINA TRADE WAR

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Abstract
The world economy faces many uncertainties in 2025. Global trade conflicts may further intensify, geopolitical risks, especially the risk of war, will become more pronounced, and global economic growth may slow down. The beginning of Trump's second presidential term has brought more uncertainties to the future international economic and trade landscape. The differentiated economic structures and interests of Western developed countries have led to a certain degree of differentiation in the trends of their economic development. Asian countries generally have enormous growth potential. The expansion of BRICS has further increased their representativeness and increased their influence in global economic affairs. History tells us that if China and the United States work together, both will benefit; if they clash, both will suffer. Strengthening China-US cooperation meets the expectations of the whole world. For the world economy to achieve faster development, it needs a fair, open, transparent and rules-based world market. Without the cooperation of China and the United States, it would be difficult to form such a world market. International trade rules need to be constantly updated to adapt to changes in the world economy, and they also need guidance for China-US cooperation. New technologies and products such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and quantum computing are constantly emerging and being updated. In order to prevent and control potential security risks and ensure the peaceful use of technology rather than abuse, China and the United States must cooperate to establish relevant rules and order.
There are no winners in a trade war and no way out for protectionism. The success of China and the United States will be an opportunity rather than a threat to each other. We hope that the United States and China will meet halfway, follow the direction outlined in the call of the two heads of state, uphold the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation, solve each other's problems through equal dialogue and consultation, and jointly promote the healthy, stable, and sustainable development of China-US economic and trade relations.
Keywords: *trade war, protectionism, macroeconomics, customs, tariffs, tariffs, USA, China*

1. INTRODUCTION

A trade war is a diplomatic stance in which one country raises tariffs on imports from another country. It is also a way of discouraging buying from the international market and protecting the interests of traders from the country. A trade war is a side effect generated by protectionism, and therefore it is a pre-emptive economic policy of protecting producers from other producers by introducing tariffs, quotas on imports of goods, and subsidizing domestic producers. The expectations are that trade wars and protectionism stimulate industry in the country, protect national employment, reduce trade deficits, and at the same time fight against other nations in the global market. Such a form of protection can be achieved by applying duties on imports, limiting quotas on the amount of foreign goods offered on the domestic market, and regulatory barriers such as product classification and endless lists of prohibitions. (Hass, R., Denmark, A. , 2020).

The growing US trade deficit with China, caused by the position of the global leader in high-tech trade and with a large government deficit, Trump decided to implement a policy of protectionism to alleviate this situation. The trade wars between China and the US have further escalated and this is also a very important time in the development of global trade, which is shaped by historical events and contentious economic relations. The aim of this paper is to observe the consequences of US tariffs on Chinese goods and other trading partners of China.

2. THE IMPACT OF TRADE PROTECTIONISM ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

The limitation of international trade within the framework of protectionism is reflected in various forms of trade restrictions in international terms, including tariffs, quotas, subsidies and other non-tariff barriers. Such measures are primarily imposed to protect domestic industry from competition, and the aim is to limit the access of imported goods to the local market. In this sense, tariffs and quotas are the most common restrictive measures that a country imposes on foreign products. Tariffs are widely used as a means of protectionism and can take the form of specific or compound taxes. There is also the application of special tariffs according to the quantity of imported goods, such as a fixed amount per ton or unit. Ad voler tariffs can be calculated as a percentage of the value of imported goods, and compound tariffs are a combination of both methods, with the addition of a fixed amount together with a percentage of the value. The price of imported goods rises when tariffs are imposed and thus becomes less competitive in that market. Consumers are then forced to opt for a more expensive local alternative, and foreign producers are faced with limited access to the market. These measures have the effect of tightening international trade relations, because they often lead to retaliatory actions by other countries.

2.1. Restrictive measures in protectionism

Quotas are also a means of protectionism, limiting the quantity of a particular good that can be imported, thereby helping domestic producers secure a larger market share. Unlike tariffs, quotas limit availability and do not increase prices, although they can lead to shortages or higher prices if local production does not meet demand at a given time. Subsidies are a more indirect form of protectionism. The government provides support and financial support to domestic producers, helping them to compete with foreign producers. Such subsidies can be direct, such as cash grants, or implicit, such as regulatory advantages. Although less confrontational than tariffs or quotas, subsidies can distort competition by giving local companies an unfair advantage, leading to market imbalances. Although they do not have immediate consequences, subsidies are often criticized for undermining the principle of free trade and harming global competitiveness. (Xu, 2024).

Implicit trade barriers are becoming a more popular tool of modern trade policy. They involve government regulation, industry standards, and subsidies, and they allow countries to protect their industries without openly defying a specific international trade agreement or risking retaliation. Implicit measures are favored because they provide more covert ways to achieve protectionist goals. For example, strict environmental or safety standards serve as a hidden barrier to foreign competitors by making it more difficult for foreign companies to meet such requirements. An example of such implicit protectionism is the US CHIPS Act passed in 2022. This law provides more than $50 billion in subsidies to support semiconductor manufacturers. By offering large financial assistance to domestic companies, the US government aims to strengthen its position in the global semiconductor market. Subsidizing this industry gives US companies an advantage over competitors from other countries, especially in research and development. (Xu, 2024).

2.1. Negative impacts of protectionism on a stable domestic economy

Although many protectionist policies aim to protect domestic industries, they can often have negative effects on the stability of the global economy. Such negative effects include disruption of supply chains, loss of consumer welfare, increased inflation in the home country, retaliation, reduced efficiency of the global economy, and negative (harmful) effects on developing countries. (Lin, 2020).

Protectionism can increase the price of imported raw materials, which can then be passed on to the production department, increasing their costs. Certain manufacturers have to look for alternative raw materials, which is both time-consuming and can lead to large losses. The US-China trade war has disrupted supply chains in many industries. As a result, companies can increase the price of their products, which puts high inflationary pressure on buyers. In addition, if a country decides to protect domestic companies, their competition from abroad is reduced. In this regard, they can maintain relatively high prices without worrying about losing market share. The China-US trade war has contributed to US buyers bearing the entire tariff without any burden on manufacturers. (Amiti M, Redding S J, Weinstein D E. , 2019). This is particularly noticeable in industries such as automated manufacturing, which rely heavily on imported materials and involve high technological inputs.

Protectionism can also harm consumer welfare by reducing product diversity. In addition, protectionism can provoke retaliation from the other side and can escalate into a trade war, escalating restrictions. International trade can become more difficult than before and affect the growth of the economies of both sides.

If protectionism occurs not only in two countries, but in large numbers around the world, then the growth rate of the global economy could slow down, because it violates the principle of comparative advantage. This means that countries may no longer be able to benefit from specialized production and trade, and domestic companies are forced to produce what is relatively cheaper in other countries.

Another important factor is the negative impact on developing countries. Many developing countries rely on exports based on comparative advantage to support their economic growth. If protectionism becomes commonplace, the first negative consequences would be for developing countries, as their exports would decrease due to reduced demand. (Barattieri A, Cacciatore M, Ghironi F. , 2021). A decline in exports can slow down the economy. When demand falls, it can also cause companies to reduce the number of workers, which can directly lead to higher levels of unemployment and poverty.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE TRADE WARS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE USA

3.1. Key events in history

The current trade war between China and the United States can be traced back to various important historical events, especially during Donald Trump's first term. The administration of this US president marked a major shift in US foreign policy, which had previously been characterized by a sharp critical stance towards global rivals, primarily China and the European Union. (Larres, 2020). While Trump once sought to engage with China, particularly in containing North Korea, his approach quickly turned confrontational when he launched a trade war against Beijing in late 2017 and early 2018 and imposed steep tariffs on Chinese goods. Such an aggressive economic strategy has been driven by Trump’s growing dislike of China, which he has increasingly criticized throughout his presidency and viewed as a serious threat to U.S. economic interests. The consequences of such actions have extended beyond China-U.S. relations, as they have lacked the interest in maintaining a strong relationship with

Europe and have led to a reevaluation of the transatlantic relationship by a number of EU states, who have come to see it as potentially unfavourable under the Trump administration. (Larres, 2020). Based on this, such events not only contributed to the deterioration of China-US relations, but also significantly strained relations with the most important allies in the EU, which led to a significant weakening of relations between them because they did not agree with Trump's policies. As a result, history indicates that the trade war is intertwined with the wider geopolitical images that have arisen due to Trump's actions and rhetoric.

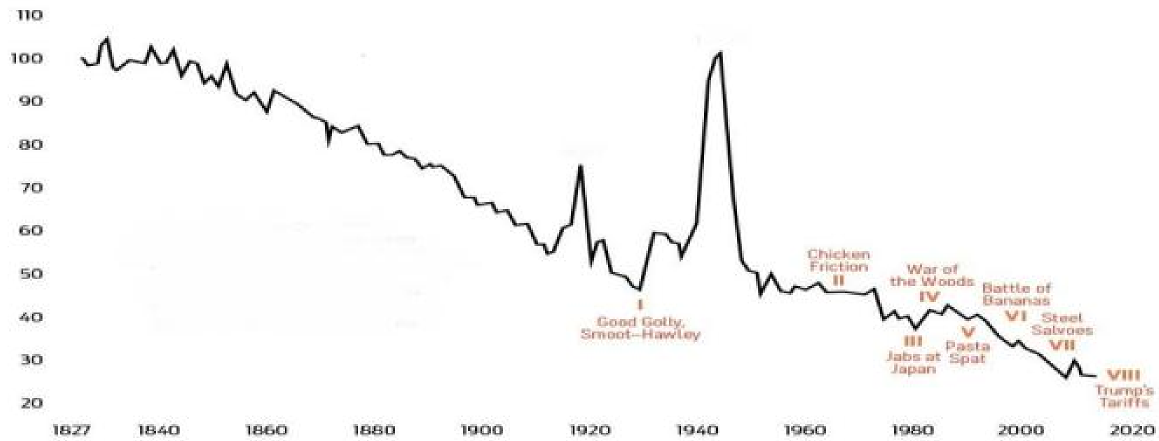

Figure 1. 8 different trade wars started by the US and the latest trade war: Trump's tariffs (Source: (Desjardins, 2018)

Figure 1 shows the eight different trade wars that the United States has launched to date and the changes in average trade costs. Following the Great Depression, the United States increased import tariffs on 900 products by an average of 40 to 48 percent with the Smooth-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930. In subsequent periods, it continued its trade wars by taking emergency measures against imports seven more times. The trade wars have been followed by significant contractions in world trade. The most recent of these wars is the recent trade war known as the Trump tariffs. The products subject to these tariffs include steel, aluminum, agricultural products, automobiles, and some consumer goods. The United States has imposed additional tariffs of 25 percent on more than 800 products imported from China. At the same time, the EU has begun imposing additional tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum coming from Canada and Mexico.

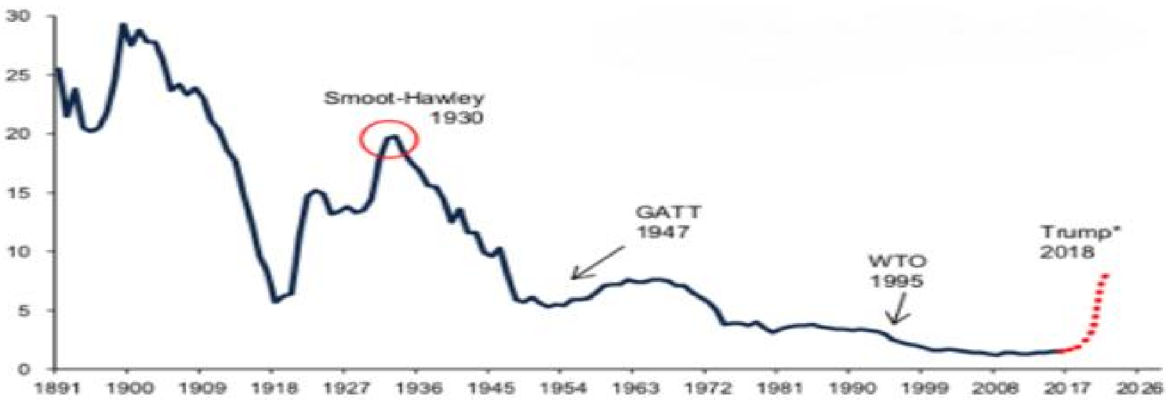

Figure 2. Average tariff rates applied by the US (Source: (MARCUM, 2018))

Figure 2 shows only the tariffs applied by the United States for the periods 1891-2017. One of the striking points in the figure is that although customs tariffs were at their lowest level before the economic crisis of 1929, protective walls were raised again after the crisis. After the Great Depression, the United States started its first trade war with the Smoot-Hawley Act.

With the acceleration of post-war liberal policies and the establishment of GATT and the WTO, tariffs in the United States gradually declined and fell below 5%. However, the increase in tariffs by D. Trump led to an even greater increase in protectionism through tariffs. The radical changes in world trade that began with the election of D. Trump as president have caused uncertainty in the economic and trade policies of countries. Although the United States expects to benefit from the tariff wars it has launched, economic and commercial uncertainty is increasing across the country, which negatively affects the expectations of companies. Institutions such as the IMF, EPU and FRED have developed indices that calculate the uncertainty of countries' economic and trade policies. These indices give an idea of the current situation of trade and economy by showing the changes that many variables such as elections, policy changes, wars, trade conflicts, crises have caused to the economic policies of countries.

3.2. Chinese trade policies and practices and their impact on international trade relations

China's trade policies and practices significantly influence international trade relations and often intertwine economic goals with geopolitical strategies. As China's economic power grows, its ability to influence political decisions in other countries has become increasingly apparent, particularly through trade relations, using economic ties for political gain. (Kastner, S., Pearson, M., 2021). For example, the Belt and Road Initiative is an example of China strategically using trade to expand its global influence while also serving the commercial interests of Chinese companies. However, such interactions are not without their difficulties; as in the case of Malaysia, leaders have warned against over-reliance on Chinese loans and highlighted the potential dangers of such economic ties, which could trigger a backlash. (Kastner, S., Pearson, M., 2021).

The dynamics of China's foreign economic policy are multifaceted, encompassing goals ranging from advancing foreign policy objectives to strengthening the national economy and promoting specific commercial interests. This complexity suggests that China's trade policy is not driven by a single interest, but rather reflects a mix of interests that sometimes leads to misunderstandings about its true intentions, especially against a backdrop of global protectionist sentiment exacerbated by the 2008 financial crisis. (Kastner, S., Pearson, M., 2021). Understanding these complex relationships and the impact of China’s trade practices is key to responding to changing international trade.

The economic impacts of trade wars, particularly the ongoing trade dispute between the United States and China, are profound and multifaceted, significantly altering the dynamics of trade for China and its global trading partners. While the United States and China grapple with the negative impact of rising tariffs, other countries see an opportunity to fill the void left by the two economic giants. For example, some countries are taking advantage of trade tensions to compete in the same markets that China and the United States currently find difficult to enter, with positive spillover effects for these countries. (Masron,T. A., Nor, E., Subramaniam, Y., 2020).

The trade war has had a major impact on the two countries' free trade agreement (FTA) partners, severely affecting key industries such as automobiles, electrical machinery and steel. (Singh, S., Sisodiya, S., 2021). In fact, China’s strong export capabilities in these areas will benefit its free trade partners as they seek to improve their competitiveness in the global marketplace. By accessing markets in the United States and China that face tariff restrictions, free trade agreement (FTA) partners can improve their competitiveness and benefit from changing global trade patterns. This development highlights how the ripple effects of the trade war have spread beyond the major players and reshaped the global economic landscape.

4. THE EFFECT OF THE US-CHINA TRADE WAR ON GLOBAL MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS

Customs duties can be considered tariffs applied to all imported goods, which directly affect foreign trade and local consumers (Gordon, 2020). A tariff is similar to a general tax in that it covers a wide range of goods entering the United States. It affects the price of imported goods from producer to retailer. As a result, complex and diverse economic regulations are intertwined and reflected across sectors and regions, and the consequences of a trade war become even more complex. The impact of increased tariffs on American manufacturers is a double-edged sword. For example, high prices for imported intermediate inputs such as raw materials and components can further burden production costs (Chong, T. T. L., Li, X., 2019) . This can lead to reduced profitability. Another factor to consider is that U.S. industries have higher production costs than their international competitors that are not subject to high tariffs. This could affect export-oriented industries by reducing the competitiveness of U.S. products. Amiti et al. The study found that all of the tariffs imposed by the U.S. on China in 2018 were passed on to the prices of goods imported into the U.S., while Chinese exporters did not lower their prices. As a result, commodity prices rose in line with the increase in tariffs at U.S. ports. The study also found that every 10 percent increase in tariffs would lead to a 43 percent reduction in import demand. Complex supply chains create major challenges in relocating exports and changing the origin of imports. As a result, many U.S. industries are tightly integrated into global supply chains and need help to quickly change production and trade routes. Since the various links in the supply chain are interconnected, from time to time there are some disruptions and it becomes difficult for the companies involved to adapt to the new trade reality. Add to this complexity the long-term agreements and relationships within the supply chains and change takes time. As already pointed out, at the beginning of Trump’s last term, he achieved good results in stimulating economic growth by cutting taxes and relaxing regulations, but the trade war that followed objectively slowed down the US economic growth. Between 2017 and 2018, corporate investment in the US increased significantly, and consumer spending also showed an upward trend. During this period, the quarterly growth rate of US GDP once exceeded 4%. In 2019, as the trade conflict between China and the US intensified, US economic growth slowed down, and the GDP growth rate fell to 2.3%. In 2020, due to the impact of the new crown epidemic, the global economy declined sharply, and the United States was not immune. The economy shrank by 3.5% for the full year, the largest annual decline since 1946. This data shows that trade frictions have not helped the United States gain greater economic advantages, but have instead hindered the growth of the American economy. However, Trump's remarks after his re-election show that he still believes that trade protectionism is beneficial for the United States. In February 2025, Trump signed an executive order imposing a 25% tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico and a 10% tariff on goods from China. Trump is also trying to prevent Chinese goods from being exported to the United States via third countries by imposing tariffs on goods from more relevant countries. At the same time, he hopes to continue to strengthen the international status of the US dollar and states that targeted trade friction measures may be applied against the BRICS countries. In addition to the tariff measures, Trump and his team have threatened to terminate China's permanent status as a normal trading partner. If this move becomes a reality, it will have a more serious and far-reaching negative impact on Sino-US economic relations, and will have a non-negligible impact on many aspects of the two sides, including economic stability, trade exchange and industrial development.

If all of Trump’s threats are implemented, Chinese exports to the US could fall significantly, which would have a greater impact on Chinese export-oriented enterprises. Chinese electronics, mechanical equipment, consumer goods and other industries could be relatively more affected. In addition, although Trump emphasizes the “America First” policy, the Biden administration’s strategy may also continue, using the influence of the United States to force allies to adjust their supply chain layout and try to further “de-sinicize”. This will pose a challenge to China’s manufacturing and foreign trade sectors, and will further encourage China to rely more on domestic demand and continue to pursue technological self-reliance. Just as during Trump’s first term, the overall resilience of the Chinese economy is reliable.

Trade wars have a significant impact on major economies around the world. For the United States, if the trade conflict further worsens, its problems such as inflation, fiscal deficit and debt may become more pronounced. Trade conflicts could also have a significant negative impact on the economic development of the EU and Asia. In particular, the EU may be more negatively affected than the United States. This could push the global economy into recession. At the same time, the global trading system represented by the World Trade Organization may find it difficult to function effectively. The United States is currently the world's largest economy. In the early days of the Biden administration, he adopted a large-scale fiscal stimulus policy and a rapid vaccination plan, which led to the US economy growing at a high rate of 6.1% in 2021, the highest level in the United States in 40 years. The growth was driven by strong consumer spending and a recovering labor market. However, in 2022, US inflation quickly rose to a 40-year high, and the Federal Reserve was forced to adopt a policy of rapidly increasing interest rates. This move stifled economic growth, and the US GDP growth rate fell to 2.5% that year. In 2023, inflation eased somewhat, but the high interest rate environment and slowing global demand continued to slow economic growth, with GDP growth at 2.9%. According to the Federal Reserve, the annual growth rate of the US economy is expected to return to a range of 2.6% to 3% in the fourth quarter of 2024, and the annual growth rate of the economy will be around 2.8%. This growth rate will lead the developed economies of the world. In the first year of his last term, Trump used tax cuts and deregulation to stimulate economic growth with good results. In this term, Trump is likely to continue to use fiscal and monetary policy to stimulate the economy, but the overall debt burden of the United States is relatively heavy, so fiscal stimulus may not be too strong, and monetary policy has a lag effect. In addition, the implementation of immigration restrictions, such as tariffs, is likely to have a negative impact on US economic growth. Trump's emphasis on immigration issues is likely to lead the new administration to take stricter measures to restrict and deport immigrants, which will reduce the labor supply and affect the labor market and economic growth. Relevant reports predict that the US economic growth rate will remain around 2.5% in 2025 (Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 2023).

The EU is also an important global economy and its economic growth has a crucial impact on the global economy, but its overall economic performance is likely to continue to lag far behind that of the US in the coming year. According to the “European Economic Outlook” published by the European Union in November 2024, after a period of economic stagnation, the EU economy resumed growth in the first quarter of 2024, and GDP is expected to grow by 0.9% and 1.5% in 2024 and 2025, respectively. The EU’s economic recovery still faces many challenges. The current real disposable income per capita in the EU has increased. However, due to factors such as economic policy uncertainty, geopolitical risks and high inflation since the epidemic, consumer confidence in the EU and their willingness to spend have declined, resulting in a further increase in household saving willingness and saving rates. At the same time, household savings have not been flowing smoothly into corporate assets, and EU corporate investment has been low. The recovery in global trade in goods and services has given some support to EU exports. Various studies predict that its current account surplus will be 3.6% and 3.4% in 2024 and 2025, respectively. However, the uncertainty of international demand and the pattern of international trade make EU economic growth subject to many variables (European Commission, 2024).

Inflation in the EU is gradually easing, but there is still some pressure. Relevant reports predict that the EU inflation rate will be 2.6% and 2.4% in 2024 and 2025, respectively, which is a decline compared to the past. However, the economies of EU countries are greatly affected by fluctuations in energy prices, and current energy prices are highly uncertain (European Commission, 2024). Therefore, European inflation will also face pressure in the future. The EU unemployment rate is likely to fall further, and the good performance of the labour market is a reflection of the EU's future growth potential, but some industries and regions still face problems of employment imbalances. The EU's fiscal policy faces a dilemma between supporting a rapid economic recovery and maintaining debt sustainability. According to the EU's official forecasts, the fiscal deficit will be 3.1% and 3.0% in 2024 and 2025. (European Commission, 2024). EU fiscal policy needs to strike a balance between promoting economic growth and ensuring debt sustainability, while responding to the challenges posed by the heterogeneity of economic development across Member States. In this context, issues of fiscal policy coordination and cooperation are particularly highlighted.

Despite the slowdown in global economic growth and rising geopolitical risks, Asian countries have continued to demonstrate their unique strengths and have become an important pillar of global economic stability with their strong economic resilience and growth potential. As the world's third largest economy, Japan is at the forefront of technological innovation, manufacturing and the green economy. Southeast Asia has become an important engine of global economic growth with its demographic dividend, growing middle class and relaxed trading environment.

Japan's economic recovery has been driven by expanding domestic demand and a recovery in investment. The Japanese government's consumption stimulus policies have had a positive impact on industries such as tourism, retail and hospitality. After the epidemic, the Japanese government launched the "Go To Travel" tourism support project to provide people with travel subsidies, which has greatly boosted domestic tourism demand. Japan has also taken measures such as increasing investment in tourism infrastructure construction, promoting tourism, and optimizing visa policies to attract more tourists from abroad. According to estimates released by the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO), the number of tourists visiting Japan in 2024 will reach a record high of 36.86 million, which will have a significant boost to the local economy and employment. The recovery of investment in equipment is another key growth point for the Japanese economy. In recent years, Japanese companies have continued to increase their investment in high-end manufacturing, green technology, and artificial intelligence, with particular growth in investment in automobiles, semiconductors, and energy technologies. For example, thanks to the increase in global demand for hybrid vehicles, demand for Japanese cars has grown rapidly again. According to Marklines, the four largest Japanese automakers accounted for about 55% of global conventional hybrid (HEV) sales in 2023, and this share increased to 63% by the first quarter of 2024. (Marklines, 2025).

Although Japan's economic growth is showing a good trend, it still faces multiple internal and external risks. First, geopolitical risks and global trade protectionism will affect Japanese exports. After taking office, US President Trump may protect the US auto industry through tariffs and other means, and the pressure on Japan's automobile-based export model is likely to continue to increase. Second, Japan's rapidly aging population has increased the pressure on its labor market and social security system.

In the new year, Southeast Asian countries are likely to continue to be bright spots in global economic growth. The rapid economic growth of Southeast Asian countries stems from their strong domestic demand, good regional economic cooperation, and rapid development of the manufacturing industry. The expansion of domestic demand is an important driving force for economic growth in Southeast Asia. The rapid rise of the middle class in Southeast Asia has led to growing consumer demand. Take Vietnam as an example. Its retail and service industries have developed rapidly in recent years, and consumer demand for medium- and high-end products and branded products has increased. Vietnam's tourism industry, as an important part of the consumption structure, has also performed well. According to relevant reports, Vietnam received 17.5 million international tourists in 2024, an increase of 38.9% over the previous year. The Vietnamese government has announced that Vietnam's tourism industry aims to receive 25-28 million international tourists by 2025, which will significantly promote the rapid development of Vietnam's domestic hotel, catering and cultural industries. Good regional economic cooperation provides new impetus to the growth of Southeast Asia and helps strengthen economic and trade vitality within and outside the region. Through the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Southeast Asian countries have created a friendly and stable economic and trade environment for their trade and investment, thus gaining more development opportunities. Manufacturing is an important growth point for the economies of Southeast Asian countries. Southeast Asian countries have become a preferred destination for global production transfer due to their cost advantages and stable political environment. For example, the Vietnamese government has attracted multinational companies such as Samsung to establish several large-scale manufacturing bases by providing policies such as tax breaks and land subsidies for the production of smartphones and electronic components for export to countries around the world, while also encouraging the development of local supporting industrial chains. The economic growth prospects of Southeast Asian countries are optimistic, but there are some issues that deserve attention. First, inflationary pressures are exacerbating social inequality. Against the backdrop of global fluctuations in energy and food prices, inflationary pressures persist in some Southeast Asian countries, which may increase the cost of living for low-income people and further exacerbate inequality in the region. Second, uneven infrastructure development in Southeast Asia may limit further development of the regional economy. While Southeast Asia’s demographic dividend and preferential policies are attractive to foreign investment, the relatively high costs of its transportation and logistics networks may raise some concerns for foreign investors.

4. CONCLUSION

Although the Sino-US trade war has not yet posed a major threat to both sides, and Trump's restrictive measures against China in the field of investment have been relatively restrained, the United States has positioned China as a long-term strategic competitor. Sino-US economic and trade relations are of great significance to both countries and have an important impact on global economic stability and development.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States 46 years ago, bilateral economic and trade relations have continued to develop. The trade volume between China and the United States has soared from less than 2.5 billion US dollars in 1979 to nearly 688.3 billion US dollars in 2024. The scale of Sino-US economic and trade cooperation has continued to expand and the level has continued to improve, making important contributions to the economic and social development of the two countries and the improvement of people's well-being.

However, in recent years, the rise of US unilateralism and protectionism has seriously hindered the normal economic and trade cooperation between China and the United States. Since the Sino-US economic and trade disputes in 2018, the United States has imposed high tariffs on more than 500 billion US dollars of Chinese products exported to the United States, and has continued to introduce policies to contain and suppress China. China has no choice but to take strong countermeasures and resolutely defend its national interests. At the same time, China has always adhered to the basic position of resolving disputes through dialogue and consultation, has held multiple rounds of economic and trade consultations with the United States, and has worked hard to stabilize bilateral economic and trade relations.

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