

## Term Paper Topics

Your term paper should be on a topic that was not one of the 24 topics of that we dealt with in class. The following are topics that we are not covering in class, and you may select any one of these without clearing it with me. You are welcome to select a topic not on this list, but in that case you will need to get my approval.

1. **APEC:** Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is an organization of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, launched in 1989 and devoted to promoting open trade and practical economic cooperation. What does it intend, and what has it accomplished?
2. **Carbon tariff:** A tariff that would be levied on the basis of the carbon dioxide that an imported good's production emits into the atmosphere. Has this policy been used, and if it were used, would it be beneficial or harmful to the international economy and to the environment?
3. **China investment in Africa:** China has invested large amounts in recent years, buying and developing land and natural resources in Africa. How much of this has happened, in what sectors, and what effects might result from it?
4. **COOL:** The Country of Origin Labeling law of the U.S. has been a source of friction with other countries, especially Canada, since it went into effect in 2009. How have the US, Canada, and other countries responded to this law, and how has it affected international trade?
5. **Currency war:** This refers to recent attempts by countries to reduce the values of their currencies in order to make their exports more competitive, something that other countries then object to and may respond to by doing the same. Which countries have been accused to doing this, and what effects has this had on their economies and on international trade?
6. **Doha Round:** The round of multilateral trade negotiations that began in 2001 in the World Trade Organization and that has mostly failed to reach agreement. What was the Doha Round intended to achieve, what are the current prospects for its success, and how will it matter if it fails?
7. **Geographical indications:** A name given to a product that is associated with the location where it was produced or grown and that may be claimed as the exclusive right of that location. What are the major geographical indications claimed internationally and to what extent are they, and should they be, accepted by other countries?
8. **Government procurement:** The purchase of goods or services by government, which if biased in favor to domestic products may constitute a

- trade barrier. What international agreements exist to limit this as a trade barrier, and to what extent are these agreements successful?
9. **Investor-state dispute settlement:** A provision of a trade agreement that grants to foreign investors in a country the right to initiate complaints against their host government to be settled by a process specific to that agreement rather than by the courts. What are the arguments for and against including this provision as part of the TTIP and other trade agreements?
  10. **Japan's tariff on rice:** A tariff on imports of rice into Japan that is said to be 778%. Why has Japan insisted on retaining this tariff, and what would happen both at home and abroad if Japan were to reduce or eliminate the tariff?
  11. **Multi-Fibre Arrangement:** An agreement among developed-country importers and developing-country exporters of textiles and apparel to regulate and restrict the quantities traded, in effect from 1976 to 1995. Who benefitted from and who was hurt by the MFA, and what have been some of the effects of its termination?
  12. **NAFTA trucking:** The NAFTA agreement required the US to allow Mexican trucks and drivers to transit into and through the US, but for many years, and perhaps still, they were not allowed. How did US truckers argue against admitting Mexican trucks and truckers, and what is the evidence for and against their arguments?
  13. **Nixon import surcharge of 1971:** On August 15, 1971, President Nixon announced several surprising policies to deal with inflation and the balance of payments deficit, one of which was a surcharge (tax) on all imports. Why was the surcharge proposed, was it ever implemented, and what effects did it have (or would it have had)?
  14. **Rules of origin:** Free trade agreements, because they retain their member countries' unequal tariffs on products from outside, include rules of origin that must be satisfied in order for products to pass tariff-free between members. What form do rules of origin take, and what effects do they have on international trade?
  15. **Seattle Ministerial:** This meeting of the member countries of the World Trade Organization, in Seattle WA late in 1999, prompted disruptive protests by many groups opposed to the WTO and globalization. Who were the groups who protested in Seattle, what did they want and why, and what was the impact of their protests?
  16. **Shrimp-Turtle case:** This case was filed in the WTO against the United States for restricting imports of shrimp from countries whose shrimp were

caught by means that endangered sea turtles. Did the US win or lose the case? Why? And what were some of the aftereffects of the decision?

17. **The Byrd Amendment:** This was a US law enacted in 2000 requiring that revenues from anti-dumping and countervailing duties be given to the US domestic producers who had filed the cases. How did other countries respond to this law and what was the result of this response?
18. **Trade facilitation:** This refers to the need to expedite the movement of goods in transit in international trade, especially at borders, and it was the subject of a WTO agreement in Bali Indonesia in 2013. What are some of the impediments that the Bali agreement was intended to address, and what has happened as a result?
19. **TRIPs:** This is the WTO agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights, which requires member countries to enact and enforce laws on patents, copyrights, and trademarks. What are arguments for and against the TRIPs agreement, and what effects has it had?
20. **Tuna-Dolphin dispute:** A pair of cases filed under the GATT against the United States due to its ban on imports of tuna from countries that did not effectively prohibit tuna fishers from killing dolphins. Did the US win or lose the case? Why? And what were some of the aftereffects of the decision?