US-China Trade War Measure Dataset Guide

General Information: This data set compiles measures taken by the U.S. and China to escalate the trade war between 01-01-2018 to 15-11-2023. To collect these measures, we have utilised lists and timelines, and articles of the U.S.-China trade war from several academic sources, credible news outlets, primary sources, and reports from established research institutes (for a list of sources consulted, please see source document). A measure in the trade war is defined as an action by China or the U.S. targeting only - or primarily - the other party with the aim of disrupting trade or other flows of money and/or commercial goods between the countries to further a political goal. This is an expanded definition adapted from a similar approach by Ewa Stawasz-Grabowska and Justyna Wieloch.[1]

Column A: Date – Date of the measure in Y%M%D-format. For most measures this signifies when they came into effect. If this date is not available, sometimes it signifies when the measure is announced. For legislation, the date signifies the date a piece of legislation is signed into law, this also applied to the signing of executive orders.
Column B: Country – What country has created the measure, USA, or China. If both countries apply a measure on the same date, these are separated into two measures.
Column C: Type of Measure – What type of measure is enacted? We categorize three types of measures: 'Tariff', 'Ban', and 'Sanction'. We use the term 'ban' rather expansively. We have categorised any measure that completely blocks an avenue of trade as a ban. This includes import or export bans of certain goods products or industries, bans against trade with certain companies, and additions of companies to various entity lists that bans them from certain trade activities. The exception to this definition is what we have classified as sanctions. A sanction here is determined by the claimed purpose as outlined by Johan Galtung in 1967: "sanctions, firstly, work as a punitive measure against the recipients, and secondly, induce compliance with certain norms that the senders deem significant".[2] In our dataset this largely applies to restrictions in trade of certain companies or officials involved in human rights abuses, bans of products associated with forced labour, or Chinese sanctions against American officials over alleged discriminations against China. Whereas a 'ban' might constitute America blocking the sale of certain military goods to China, an example of a 'sanction' would be America prohibiting the ability of certain Chinese officials and companies in breach of human rights to trade. This distinction is somewhat important as both bans and sanctions, in our dataset, can be achieved through similar means such as the addition of companies or people to certain blacklists. 'Tariff' simply signifies an increase by US or China on trade tariffs against the other.
Column D: Justification – This variable denotes what we deem is the primary justification used for enacting a measure. We considered each measure and categorised them by justification. This categorisation was attained by qualitatively examining each measure in context. Three types of underlying justification were identified: trade, human rights, and security. For example, the Trump administration's original tariffs, as well as China's retaliations, were primarily justified as protection of trade and domestic markets. Therefore,

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[1]Ewa Stawasz-Grabowska and Justyna Wieloch. "The United States–China Trade War: Timeline, Consequences, and Prospects for the US Economy. an Analysis Based on the Textile Industry," Comparative Economic Research. Central and Eastern Europe 26, no. 1 (2023): 152-156.

[2] Johan Galtung, "On the Effects of International Economic Sanctions, with Examples from the Case of Rhodesia," *World Politics* 19, no. 3 (1967): 379, https://doi.org/10.2307/2009785.

the early Trump tariffs are considered here to be mostly justified by trade-related concerns such as IP-theft, currency manipulation, and trade deficit. The laws concerning Hong Kong and Xinjiang as well as sanctions on Chinese companies and products following these laws are on the other hand primarily justified by human rights concerns (if China retaliated to one of these specific measures, we also coded that as being justified by a human rights-dispute). Finally, if a measure was justified by a need to protect national security, such as the American ban on sale of crucial technology, it was designated as a measure taken justified by security concerns.

Column E: Import/Export – Did the measure primarily restrict incoming goods (import), or or outgoing goods (export).

Column F: In Response – Measure that were found to be a direct response to another measure in the data set was coded as "Yes", others as "No".

Column G: Method of Measure – The mechanism used to apply the measure.

Column H: Class of Limited Good – When the source mentioned a type of economic good primarily targeted it is classified here.

Column I: Limited Trade good – Example of what trade good is limited (according to the source).

Column J: Information (Quote from reference) – Direct quote from the source describing the trade measure.

Column K: Information – Reference – The source cited in column J. Note that several sources are used to corroborate the findings, the sources cited in column K simply directs to the source from which the description of the measure is taken (for full list of references consulted, see document: "Source Document US-China Trade War Measure Dataset".

Column L: Reference URL – Link to the source.

Column M: Last Accessed – Date the source was last accessed by the researchers.