

## Foreign Trade

As the upcoming election nears, the importance of positions taken by the opposing Candidates on several key issues become more prevalent. Particularly in the Midwest, one of these issues standing at the forefront of the discussion revolves around the future of global trade. As globalization continues to grow in its dominance of America's free market system, the issue of global trade centers around not only the future of America's economy, but also directly effects our nation's job security problems, the national debt, and America's ability to remain an international superpower in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Incumbent President, Barack Obama, and the Republican nominee, Mitt Romney, have set a definitive focus on delving into the global trade sector of foreign policy during their candidacy platforms, leading to a showdown between the two focused on their differences between dealing with China and the institution of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Ultimately, it is essential that Midwesterners analyze the varying positions of the two candidates to develop an understanding of which platform provides the most favorable future for the Midwest. President Obama's view is very different from Romney's.

President Obama has a very different viewpoint on trade than his opponent Mitt Romney does. Obama believes that Mitt Romney made money off these foreign trades and outsourcing jobs to our now largest competitor, China. Obama says that he is trying to keep these jobs in America while Mitt Romney is forcing them out. President Obama believes that China has very unfair trade policies such as currency manipulation, illegal export subsidies, and counterfeiting and piracy; these results are consistent across liberals, moderates, and conservatives. (Navaro, Huffington Post Politics). President Obama wants to get away from trade with China and keep more jobs here in the United States and get away from the reliance we have on China since their boom. Cracking down on China's trade policy this will open up new trade opportunities for the

United States such as creating new jobs for Americans. Obama's view is the complete opposite than that of Romney's.

Mitt Romney's view on global trade has a lot to do with China. Since Obama has taken office, Romney believes that President Obama is being treated like a floor mat by China. "According to an article from [cnn.com](http://cnn.com), Obama vs. Romney on China, Romney pledges to increase funding for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to enforce the rules of fair trade." He believes by increasing funds that it will make a bigger and better difference for global trade for the United States. If elected Romney plans on labeling China as a currency manipulator, doing this will begin diplomatic action. By doing this Romney thinks that will stop us from getting taken advantage of by China.

Foreign trade has affected the Midwest in a big way. But more specifically foreign trade has affected our immediate area. Galesburg, 15 minutes east of Monmouth has lost over 7,000 jobs in just 7 years. Maytag, Butler and Gates all took major hits and that is just a few of the major impact spots. NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) has impacted this shift the most. The biggest chunk of workers lost was from Maytag, nearly 1,600, and after it left for Mexico. This not only affects Galesburg but the surrounding communities as well as the worker pool is drawn from many miles.

The internet made it easier for companies to hire workers in different countries where "workers are skilled and wages are low". Companies can market, manufacture and design products overseas more rapidly than ever before due to the internet. Longworth states "why buy one of something in Ohio when you can buy three from China for the same price?" From a money standpoint they are just taking advantage of opportunities but it is hurting us back home

in the heartland. President Obama and candidate Mitt Romney have two very different views on global trade, but one has a more favorable position to the United States and to the Midwest than the other.

President Obama has the more favorable position when it comes to foreign trade. Obama would rather keep jobs in the United States and in return there would be more jobs created for the people in the United States, and the Midwest will have a big effect on who wins the debate. The Midwest is known for their hardworking, blue collar culture. This topic has a big effect on the Midwest, the people from this area would much rather know they are safe at their jobs, and create more jobs for their children so they can continue to work hard and provide for the country. The farmers in the Midwest are the top leader in food produced for the people of the United States, if they lose their jobs where will we get our food from? And with Romney trying to outsource these jobs overseas many farmers will lose their jobs and their way of life. Romney believes that if he outsources these jobs to other countries we will become allies with many of these countries. And if he does this he believes we will become a stronger nation and in the end the world will be a safer place. We do not believe that is true. Not only will we lose jobs in the United States these countries will control what we export and import and have control over our money, we feel that is a cause for disaster not a safer world. Obama does not agree with the trading policy most of the countries we have been trading with have. Obama wants to cut trade with China and keep as much money in the United States as he can by keeping the jobs here in the states rather than overseas. Romney just wants to force the jobs out of the states and increase the trades to try and bring in more money, but in the long run this will eliminate a lot of jobs in the United States. This will not win over many American states; Americans want to know that they will have job security and that many more jobs will be introduced to the states. Obama has

the favorable position to win in this category in that he plans to cut the foreign trade and in the long run that will allow for the United States to keep more jobs here and to create more jobs for the people of the United States as well.

Navaro, Peter, Autry, Greg. "Why Obama Has Turned on China Trade Policy." *Huff Post Politics*. 2012: Web. 26 Sep. 2012. <[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-navarro-and-greg-autry/why-obama-has-turned-on-c\\_b\\_1895096.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-navarro-and-greg-autry/why-obama-has-turned-on-c_b_1895096.html)>.

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