
Japan's Trans-Pacific Partnership

— U.S. and Asia Relations —

What is the Trans-Pacific Partnership?

- In 2016 the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TTP) was set to become the largest free trade deal in the world, consisting of 40% of the world's economy.
- The Partnership would have consisted of 12 countries (Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, Brunei, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, Chile, the U.S, Canada, and Peru).
- Under the Obama administration, the U.S was set to be part of the deal but in 2017, when Trump came into office, he pulled the U.S. out of the deal.
- With the United States on the sidelines, the remaining TPP countries have moved forward with a new version of the pact, known as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), keeping most of the original intact.

The Obama Administration and the Trans-Pacific Partnership

- The Bush and Obama administrations supported the TPP, citing lower consumer prices, economic growth, an increase in diverse jobs, and stronger ties with Asian countries.
- Based on economic studies and reports, U.S government agencies believed that by joining the Partnership, the U.S could have expected a \$130 billion increase in the U.S GDP by 2030.
- In an overall pivot to Asia, the Obama administration expressed the importance of the TPP for U.S. geopolitical interests in Asia along with stronger alliances between Asian countries.

The Trump Administration and the Trans-Pacific Partnership

- The Trump administration withdrew from the TPP, citing the negative effects it will bring to the U.S workforce. They predicted a loss in manufacturing, lower wages, and an increase in inequality, and losing more jobs overseas. .
- U.S citizens in the labor industry also fought against this deal because they believed it would lower environmental and labor standards.
- Critics also predicted similarities to NAFTA(North American Free Trade Agreement), which they blame for U.S job loss.
- The remaining members of the trade pact have forged ahead with a new version, leaving the U.S. role in the Asia-Pacific in question.
- The U.S. and Japan are continuing to engage in diplomatic talks. Phase 1 of a bilateral US-Japan deal focused on agricultural tariffs and digital trade. Phase 2 will likely shift to COVID recovery and medicine supply chains.

Sources

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