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NEGATIVE BRIEF: S. KOREA / US Free Trade Agreement - good

NEGATIVE PHILOSOPHY / OPENING QUOTES

Founding Fathers would love KORUS

Bryan Riley 2011 ( master’s degree in economics from the University of Southern California; Senior Policy Analyst in Trade Policy [Center for Trade and Economics (CTE)](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/departments/center-for-trade-and-economics-cte) The Institute for Economic Freedom and Opportunity at The Heritage Foundation) 3 Mar 2011 10 Myths About KORUS and Free Trade Agreements <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2011/03/10-myths-about-korus-and-free-trade-agreements>

Following the Revolutionary War, this country’s founders wrote the commerce clause of the Consti­tution to establish a U.S. free trade zone. As Judge Robert Bork and historian Daniel Troy have observed, the Founding Fathers wanted to protect citizens from politicians in the states who were engaging in destructive trade wars that threatened the new republic’s survival:  
*In the wake of the American Revolution, nei­ther the Continental Congress nor the states acting on their own could respond effec­tively to the external and internal trade dis­putes that threatened the new country’s prosperity and peace.*Economist Walter E. Williams explains how the commerce clause was drafted to fix this crisis:  
*A key failing of the Articles of Confederation was the propensity of states to erect protec­tionist trade barriers. When the Framers met in Philadelphia in 1787 and wrote the con­stitution that governs us today, they addressed that failure and through the com­merce and the privileges and immunities clauses that created a national free-trade zone. Thus, the original purpose of the com­merce clause was primarily a means to elim­inate trade barriers among the states.*The national free-trade zone that was proposed in 1787 and the U.S.–South Korea Free Trade Agreement that is pending in 2011 each were designed to protect the freedom of individuals to engage in mutually beneficial trade.

KORUS is good for American businesses

US Dept of Agriculture, Foreign Agriculture Service 2013. KORUS at One Year: Expanding Opportunities for U.S. Agricultural Exports 25 Mar 2013 <http://www.fas.usda.gov/data/korus-one-year-expanding-opportunities-us-agricultural-exports>

KORUS, along with other efforts to promote U.S. exports, are helping level the playing field for American businesses abroad and create and sustain jobs in rural America.

INHERENCY

Let’s wait and see: KORUS won’t take full effect until 2021, and safeguards exist to reduce impact on textiles and apparel

Brock R. Williams. Mark E. Manyin. Remy Jurenas. Michaela D. Platzer with Congressional Research Service. 2014.  (Williams-  Coordinator Analyst in International Trade Finance. Manyin-  Specialist in Asian Affairs. Jurenas- Specialist in Agricultural Policy. Platzer-  Specialist in Industrial Organization and Business.) (Congressional Research Service is the public policy research arm of Congress) “The U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA): Provisions and Implementation” 16 Sept 2014 <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34330.pdf>

The KORUS FTA covers a broad range of other areas. According to the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), 95% of U.S.-South Korean trade in consumer and industrial products will become duty-free by 2016 and virtually all remaining tariffs will be lifted by 2021. The two countries agreed to liberalize trade in services by opening up their markets beyond what they have committed to do in the World Trade Organization (WTO). About 60% of U.S.-South Korea trade in textiles and apparel became duty-free immediately, and the KORUS FTA will provide a special safeguard mechanism to reduce the impact of textile and apparel import surges.

Let’s wait and see: KORUS is focused on long-term benefits

Brock R. Williams. Mark E. Manyin. Remy Jurenas. Michaela D. Platzer with Congressional Research Service. 2014.  (Williams-  Coordinator Analyst in International Trade Finance. Manyin-  Specialist in Asian Affairs. Jurenas- Specialist in Agricultural Policy. Platzer-  Specialist in Industrial Organization and Business.) (Congressional Research Service is the public policy research arm of Congress) “The U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA): Provisions and Implementation” 16 Sept 2014 <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34330.pdf>

During the negotiations, South Korean officials and other South Korean proponents of the KORUS FTA tended not to focus on the increased access to the U.S. market. Rather, they emphasized the medium and long-term gains that would stem from increased allocative efficiency of the South Korean economy, particularly in the services industries. This would presumably be brought about by an influx of U.S. investment and technology into South Korea and by the spur of increased competition with U.S. firms. Some, however, raised concerns that an FTA would worsen South Korea’s income gap, and during the talks, there were continuous and often large scale anti-FTA protests, generally led by South Korean farmers and trade unionists.

“Chinese labeling import fraud” – Response: KORUS allows more inspections to weed out fraud

KOREA TIMES 2011 (journalist Kim Jae­won; note: article is undated, but the date is clear from a reference to an event internally in the text) Busan customs officials keep smugglers at bay, Nov 2011 <https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/common/printpreview.asp?categoryCode=123&newsIdx=99454> (brackets added)

If customs authorities of trade partners examine of Korean products, local companies may suffer from delayed customs procedures for such items as textiles, clothes and steel products, which have enjoyed favorable treatment so far.  Through the KORUS FTA, a customs agency can examine the origin of products directly at the counterpart country. If the U.S. customs authorities investigate domestic companies regarding the matter, it may provoke social outcry. The United States investigates 5,000 such cases annually, while Germany looks into 8,000.  The government is also worried that the dispute over Korean products’ originality may hurt the country’s brand image and credibility. According to the KCS [Korea Customs Service], there are two ways to cheat ― issuing a fake origin certificate or putting false “Made in Korea” labels on products. Marking 1,757 during the January-to-September period, cases of faking goods’ origin is on the rise, up 50.2 percent from 2010. Most items come out of China, accounting for 92 percent during the first nine months. Last year, the portion from the neighboring country reached 99.9 percent.

“Chinese labeling import fraud” – Response: Korean Customs is stepping up inspections & enforcement

KOREA TIMES 2011 (journalist Kim Jae­won; note: article is undated, but the date is clear from a reference to an event internally in the text) Busan customs officials keep smugglers at bay, Nov 2011 <https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/common/printpreview.asp?categoryCode=123&newsIdx=99454> (brackets added)

Geographic Information System  
The KCS [Korea Customs Service] is applying high-end information-technology techniques to combat this illegal transferring. The KCS set up the Geographic Information System, which trails suspected containers in real time. The agency attaches an “e-Seal” on suspicious containers and checks routes and whether the door of a container has been opened through its computer system at the agency. The e-Seal is an electronic seal, which sends the location information of containers and products to the place it was attached. The KCS is also looking to enforce its network with foreign customs authorities by exchanging information and documents on criminal activity. It plans to launch an annual working group conference to share investigation information and strengthen international cooperation.

“Chinese labeling fraud” – Response: Korean Customs is cracking down

KOREA TIMES 2011 (journalist Kim Jae­won; note: article is undated, but the date is clear from a reference to an event internally in the text) Busan customs officials keep smugglers at bay, Nov 2011 <https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/common/printpreview.asp?categoryCode=123&newsIdx=99454> (brackets added)

Hong said that the agency spares no efforts to crack down on criminals to maintain Korea’s international reputation. Ahn Ho­joon, a junior investigator at the [Korean Customs Service] office, said that violating the country of origin is a serious offense that can lead to heavy fines which can shut down companies. “One small clothing company was forced to close its business after being penalized 230 million won a few years ago.”

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

KORUS increases investment in the US, boosts US jobs and brings more money into the US economy

Bryan Riley 2011 ( master’s degree in economics from the University of Southern California; Senior Policy Analyst in Trade Policy [Center for Trade and Economics (CTE)](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/departments/center-for-trade-and-economics-cte) The Institute for Economic Freedom and Opportunity at The Heritage Foundation) 3 Mar 2011 10 Myths About KORUS and Free Trade Agreements <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2011/03/10-myths-about-korus-and-free-trade-agreements>

Myth #8: KORUS Encourages International Investment, Leading to Job Losses through Off­shoring and Outsourcing.  
The Real Story: Foreign investment in the United States has created millions of U.S. jobs, and U.S. investment abroad generates hundreds of bil­lions of job-creating dollars for the American econ­omy. Reasons to expand the freedom of people to invest their money where they choose include:  
1. The United States is a magnet for direct and indirect foreign investment. In 2009, the value of foreign assets in the United States exceeded the value of U.S. assets abroad by $2.7 trillion. Millions of Americans benefit from companies based in other countries that invest in the United States. According to the Organization for International Investment, 5.6 million Americans work for foreign-owned companies.  
2. U.S. investment abroad does not represent a net drain on our economy. In 2009, Americans earned $585 billion from their foreign invest­ments.  U.S. foreign investment generated more dollars for the U.S. economy than any cat­egory of U.S. exports.  
The American economy is more likely to thrive when Americans remain free to invest their money wherever they want, and the government’s role is limited to maintaining an environment that is attractive to all investors.

Public Citizen statistics are misleading: US exports are increasing under KORUS using latest numbers from 2014

John Brinkley 2015. (Brinkley is a Forbes contributor) FORBES “Protectionists Disingenuously Attack US-Korea Free Trade Agreement”  18 MARCH 2015 <http://www.forbes.com/sites/johnbrinkley/2015/03/18/protectionists-disingenuously-attack-us-korea-free-trade-agreement/>

A group of anti-trade activists blasted the FTA in a conference call with reporters on Monday. John Hansen, president of the Nebraska Farmers Union said (incorrectly) that exports to South Korea had decreased since the KORUS FTA took effect in March 2012. He said (correctly) that imports from Korea had increased. “The post-Korea FTA decline in U.S. exports to Korea and a new flood of imports from Korea have resulted in a major surge in the U.S. trade deficit with Korea that equates to nearly 85,000 lost American jobs,” said Public Citizen, which organized the conference call. This is disingenuous, to say the least. Exports to Korea declined from 2012 to 2013, but increased in 2014 to a higher level than in 2012. They had a value of $42.3 billion in 2012 and $44.5 billion in 2014, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Public Citizen and Economic Policy Institute claims of job losses are misleading and contradictory

Bryan Riley 2011 ( master’s degree in economics from the University of Southern California; Senior Policy Analyst in Trade Policy [Center for Trade and Economics (CTE)](http://www.heritage.org/about/staff/departments/center-for-trade-and-economics-cte) The Institute for Economic Freedom and Opportunity at The Heritage Foundation) 3 Mar 2011 10 Myths About KORUS and Free Trade Agreements <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2011/03/10-myths-about-korus-and-free-trade-agreements> (brackets in original)

This is what the advocacy group Public Citizen recently said about the impact of trade on employment: “The EPI [Economic Policy Institute] found that implementation of the Korea FTA would boost the U.S. trade deficit with Korea by $13.9 billion over the next seven years. This rise in the trade deficit, in turn, would cost the U.S. economy about 159,000 net jobs.  Many other groups have made similar claims. But, in fact, not one, including EPI, has found that KORUS would cause a single net job loss, let alone 159,000. To the contrary, EPI has explained that trade deficits do not necessarily reduce the total number of U.S. jobs: “As the trade deficit grows, dollars piled up by our trad­ing partners come back to the U.S. economy, and this increases the supply of funds available for U.S. business and households to borrow.”  According to EPI, KORUS would cause 159,000 U.S. jobs to be “displaced,” not lost. Job displacement includes a person moving from one job to another, and is not to be confused with job loss. For example, 10,000 people leaving their jobs as burger-flippers to become surgeons could be considered 10,000 dis­placed U.S. jobs. Public Citizen’s 2008 statement on how inter­national trade affects employment was correct: “Trade affects the composition of jobs, not the total number.”

Public Citizen job loss numbers doubtful: Current economic data does not reflect job loss

John Brinkley 2015. (Brinkley is a Forbes contributor) FORBES “Protectionists Disingenuously Attack US-Korea Free Trade Agreement”  18 MARCH 2015 <http://www.forbes.com/sites/johnbrinkley/2015/03/18/protectionists-disingenuously-attack-us-korea-free-trade-agreement/>

A month ago, Public Citizen said the KORUS FTA had put 70,000 Americans out of work. Now they’re saying it’s 85,000. So, they would have you believe that 15,000 people have lost their jobs in the last month as a direct result of a free trade agreement with the Republic of Korea. Who are these people? Where are they? Why aren’t their job losses reflected in the most recent economic data? The U.S. unemployment rate was 7.5 percent in March 2012 and 5.5 percent in February 2015. The economy has added jobs in every single month of the last three years.

Difficult to distinguish impact of KORUS FTA from impact of other economic variables

Brock R. Williams. Mark E. Manyin. Remy Jurenas. Michaela D. Platzer with Congressional Research Service. 2014.  (Williams-  Coordinator Analyst in International Trade Finance. Manyin-  Specialist in Asian Affairs. Jurenas- Specialist in Agricultural Policy. Platzer-  Specialist in Industrial Organization and Business.) (The Congressional Research Service (CRS), known as Congress's think tank, is a public policy research arm of the United States Congress.) “The U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA): Provisions and Implementation” 16 SEPTEMBER 2014. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34330.pdf>

With the KORUS FTA now in force for over two years, focus has shifted from the debate over its passage to its implementation, economic impact, and effect on future U.S. FTAs. Some U.S. companies have argued that certain aspects of the KORUS agreement are not being implemented appropriately, citing issues related to rules of origin verification, express delivery shipments, data transfers, and pending auto regulations. In addition, a widening trade deficit with South Korea since the implementation of the agreement has led some observers to argue the agreement has not benefitted the U.S. economy, but it is difficult to distinguish the KORUS FTA’s impact on U.S.- South Korea trade patterns from the impact of other economic variables. In addition, aggregate data on trade flows may not capture the full impact of the agreement. Any significant effects of the KORUS FTA are more likely to be evident on individual firms and industries rather than trade flows as a whole. Moreover, some of the potential benefits of freer trade, which include lower-priced and more diverse goods and services, as well as improved productivity among firms, cannot be easily measured by trade balances.

KORUS  increases international trade and has protections for workers’ rights and the environment

Rep. Steny Hoyer. 2010. (Steny Hamilton Hoyer is the U.S. Representative for Maryland's 5th congressional district) “Statements of Support for the U.S-Korea Trade Agreement” 03 DECEMBER 2010. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/12/03/statements-support-us-korea-trade-agreement>

“I’m pleased to hear the Obama Administration’s announcement that it has reached a deal on the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement. This is an important step forward to expand the reach of American exports, which will help create more American jobs. It also helps strengthen our ties to a dependable democratic ally that fosters prosperity and stability in Asia and enhances our economic and national security. The FTA also includes important changes to ensure that workers’ rights and the environment are protected.”

KORUS benefits US transportation and chemistry industry by boosting exports

*The Embassy of the Republic of Korea. 2013. (The Embassy of South Korea in Washington, D.C. is the diplomatic mission of South Korea to the United States.) “KORUS FTA FACTS AND FIGURES TRADE WORKS: A ONE-YEAR REVIEW” 23 FEBRUARY 2013.* [*http://www.uskoreaconnect.org/pdfs/korus\_one-year-review-brochure.pdf*](http://www.uskoreaconnect.org/pdfs/korus_one-year-review-brochure.pdf)

In the first year under the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA), Korea and the United States have shown positive growth for items that receive tariff reductions. In particular, the United States saw growth in its auto, transportation and chemical industry exports. Additionally, a large number of agricultural products including oranges and cherries saw significant increases.

Imports from S. Korea aren’t a problem – in fact, they help the US economy and benefit consumers

Anthony B. Kim 2015 ( researches international economic issues at The Heritage Foundation, with a strong focus on economic freedom; research manager of the Index of Economic Freedom) 20 Mar 2015 “The KORUS FTA at 3: Strengthening the U.S. Economy, Not Weakening” <http://dailysignal.com/2015/03/20/the-korus-fta-at-3-strengthening-the-u-s-economy-not-weakening/>

Ambassador Froman tends to talk only about exports, but the almost [$70 billion](https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c5800.html) in imports from South Korea in 2014 represent real gains for the U.S. economy as well, providing cheaper consumer goods and high-quality intermediate goods that make our manufacturers more productive and profitable.

KORUS is good for both countries. US industry and agriculture are exporting at record levels, supporting well-paying jobs

Anthony B. Kim. 2015. (Kim researches international economic issues at Heritage Foundation) “The KORUS FTA at 3: Strengthening the U.S. Economy, Not Weakening” 20 MARCH 2015 (ellipses in original) <http://dailysignal.com/2015/03/20/the-korus-fta-at-3-strengthening-the-u-s-economy-not-weakening/>

The truth is that the trade pact between the U.S. and South Korea has been a win for both countries. Since it went into effect in March 2012, the KORUS FTA has been unlocking [enhanced opportunities](https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/fact-sheets/2015/march/fact-sheet-us-korea-free-trade-agreement) for more Americans and supporting well-paying jobs. Mike Froman, President Obama’s trade czar,[pointed this out](https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2015/march/statement-ambassador-michael-froman): We now sell over a billion dollars’ worth of U.S.-made autos in Korea, an increase of 140% over the last 3 years… The numbers are encouraging, but this story is about more than numbers. Because we have made trade with Korea easier, farmers and ranchers are exporting “Grown-in-America” cherries, beef, cheese, and other ag products at record levels; labs and studios are providing Koreans with more “Created-in-America” medicines, apps, and Internet services; and businesses of all shapes and sizes are better able to sell “Made-in-America” goods in Korea.

KORUS success example: Hawaii Exports International, Inc.

Y.J. Choi. 2013. (Choi is the ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United States) “TRADE WORKS U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement Business Success Stories” Spring 2013. <http://www.uskoreaconnect.org/pdfs/trade-works.pdf>

For HEI, the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) lifts tariffs on many of the products that it exports to Korea. To capitalize on opportunities for its clients, HEI is currently talking with a major retailer interested in selling and marketing Hawaiian coffee and nut products throughout Korea. HEI also began collaborating with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Commercial Service, the Western United States Agricultural Trade Association and the Korean Chamber of Commerce in Hawaii to identify new tools and opportunities to expand its clients’ business in Korea.

KORUS success example: Texas Instruments

Y.J. Choi. 2013. (Choi is the ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United States) “TRADE WORKS U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement Business Success Stories” Spring 2013. <http://www.uskoreaconnect.org/pdfs/trade-works.pdf>

There is robust competition for technology, electronics and telecommunications in Korea. This competition, spurred by the free flow of products resulting from the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA), increases the demand for semiconductors as companies work to provide better products and services. The KORUS FTA also reduces tariffs for these companies, allowing them to do more business. These factors benefit TI’s business and help it continue to grow its presence in Korea.

Even imports from Korea under KORUS benefit U.S. economy

Anthony B. Kim. The Heritage Foundation.  2015. (Kim researches international economic issues at The Heritage Foundation) “The KORUS FTA at 3: Strengthening the U.S. Economy, Not Weakening” 20 MARCH 2015. <http://dailysignal.com/2015/03/20/the-korus-fta-at-3-strengthening-the-u-s-economy-not-weakening/>

Ambassador Froman tends to talk only about exports, but the almost [$70 billion](https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance/c5800.html) in imports from South Korea in 2014 represent real gains for the U.S. economy as well, providing cheaper consumer goods and high-quality intermediate goods that make our manufacturers more productive and profitable. The KORUS FTA has increased economic linkages between the United States and South Korea, one of Asia’s fastest growing and most dynamic economies. Both countries across the Pacific are benefiting significantly from the trade and investment ties.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Lose other FTA (Free Trade Agreement) opportunities

Link: AFF cancels KORUS FTA

Link: KORUS motivates other countries to join FTAs like the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) with the US

Brock R. Williams. Mark E. Manyin. Remy Jurenas. Michaela D. Platzer with Congressional Research Service. 2014.  (Williams-  Coordinator Analyst in International Trade Finance. Manyin-  Specialist in Asian Affairs. Jurenas- Specialist in Agricultural Policy. Platzer-  Specialist in Industrial Organization and Business.) (Congressional Research Service is the public policy research arm of the US Congress) “The U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA): Provisions and Implementation” 16 SEPTEMBER 2014. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34330.pdf>

Many Asia-Pacific countries are also pursuing non-U.S. led trade initiatives in the region, including bilateral and plurilateral FTAs. South Korea’s decision to negotiate and implement a comprehensive FTA with the United States may also influence these other region-wide trade policies. As a participant in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations, South Korea will help determine the structure and disciplines included in that potential regional FTA. RCEP includes the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as Australia, China, India, Japan, and New Zealand, and is the other major Asia-Pacific trade initiative in addition to the TPP. Some observers note that the KORUS FTA may have sparked the interest of other Asia-Pacific countries to negotiate FTAs with the United States, such as Japan’s entry, in July 2013, into the TPP negotiations.

Impact: Lose 700,000 new jobs. Free Trade Agreements expand markets for American companies

US Chamber of Commerce 2014 (world's largest business organization representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes) 30 Apr 2014 TPP Could Create 700,000 New U.S. Jobs <https://www.uschamber.com/blog/tpp-could-create-700000-new-us-jobs>

The facts are in: the [Trans-Pacific Partnership](https://www.uschamber.com/issue-brief/trans-pacific-partnership) has the potential to be a big winner for American workers, farmers and business owners. Based on the methodology and outcomes used in the Peterson Institute’s study, [The Trans-Pacific Partnership and Asia-Pacific Integration: A Quantitative Assessment](http://www.piie.com/publications/interstitial.cfm?ResearchID=2146" \t "_blank), we calculated that the United States will create an additional 700,000 new jobs as a result of the increase in trade and investment from the TPP agreement. And that growth is spread all across the country; every state will see net gains in employment. Why? Because outside our borders are markets that represent 73% of the world’s purchasing power, 87% of its economic growth, and 95% of its consumers. When we negotiate trade agreements, we give our companies and workers the opportunity to compete and succeed on a global scale.

2. Lost US influence

Link: KORUS boosts US political influence in S. Korea and balances against China’s increasing power

*Steven C. Denney and Brian D. Gleason 2012. (Denny is a Doctoral Student at Univ of Toronto. Gleason has a Masters degree in International Studies from Yonsei University) “” 31 MAY 2012.* [*http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/ideas/2012/05/the-political-economy-of-trade-policy-in-the-korus-fta/*](http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/ideas/2012/05/the-political-economy-of-trade-policy-in-the-korus-fta/) *(ellipses in original)*

It is clear that the KORUS FTA is not simply a matter of economic costs and benefits. South Korean president Lee Myung-bak reinforced this notion before his October 2011 visit to Washington, stating: “… the FTA is not just simply a trade agreement or an economic agreement. It really is much more than that … [It] will play a very important part of the Obama administration’s new Asia policy as well.” In reality, the KORUS FTA is part of the US strategy to use its asymmetric trading relationship with South Korea as a means to maintain its political influence in Seoul while simultaneously balancing against China’s increasing power and influence in the region.

Brink: Asian countries are worried about U.S. retreat from engagement with Asia, trade commitments are key

James McBride. 2015. (Former Financial Times Washington bureau chief. Co-directed the Independent Task Force on U.S. Trade and Investment Policy and directed the Independent Task Force on U.S. Immigration Policy) “The Future of U.S. Trade Policy” 12 June 2015. [Edward Alden is a CFR Senior Fellow] [brackets added] <http://www.cfr.org/trade/future-us-trade-policy/p36422>

From the perspective of the United States, the question is whether East Asian integration will be based on U.S. initiatives, or led by China. The Chinese government has supported a separate FTA for the region, the [Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)](http://csis.org/publication/asean-and-partners-launch-regional-comprehensive-economic-partnership), which would bring together sixteen countries, not including the United States. Some in the region have expressed similar concerns: Former Singaporean leader [Lee Kuan Yew](http://www.theatlantic.com/china/archive/2013/03/interview-lee-kuan-yew-on-the-future-of-us-china-relations/273657/) argued in 2013 that “without an FTA, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and the ASEAN countries will be integrated into China's economy—an outcome to be avoided.” [Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow Edward] Alden says the TPP, as the biggest U.S. initiative in Asia, has acquired a major geopolitical dimension. “Asian countries are all looking to this as a symbol of whether the U.S. is committed to the East Asia region,” he says. “If it fails, it will be seen as a significant U.S. retreat from engagement with Asia.” Others, like the [Financial TimesAsia editor David Pilling](http://next.ft.com/fabfd8ac-d6c1-11e4-97c3-00144feab7de), say that the TPP, if mishandled, has the potential to alienate the United States’ Asian allies.

Impact: US disengagement and increased Chinese influence lead to authoritarian repression in Asia

John J. Tkacik, Jr. 2007. (Senior Research Fellow in China, Taiwan, and Mongolia Policy in the Asian Stud­ies Center at The Heritage Foundation) 17 Mar 2007, “China's Quest for a Superpower Military” HERITAGE FOUNDATION, Backgrounder #2036 <http://www.heritage.org/Research/AsiaandthePacific/bg2036.cfm>

America could engage and strengthen the cur­rent robust trans-Pacific alignment, knitting the democracies of the Americas with their counter­parts along the Western Pacific Rim, or a disengaged America could allow a Sino-centric axis to crystal­lize as ASEAN, Taiwan, Korea, and eventually Japan, Australia, and South and Central Asia band­wagon with China. The latter would make Leninist-mercantilist China the rule-maker in Asia, not just for transnational trade and financial structures, but also for a new Asian security architecture and a new ideology of authoritarian state-mercantilism that defends repressive "development models based on national conditions."

3. Lost business opportunities

KORUS increases US market opportunities, with over $19 billion increase in US exports between 2011-2014

Office of the US Trade Representative 2015. Fact Sheet: U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, March 2015 <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/fact-sheets/2015/march/fact-sheet-us-korea-free-trade-agreement>

The U.S.-Korea trade and investment relationship is substantially larger and stronger than in 2011, and KORUS has contributed to a strong and successful 2014 for American exporters. Since entry into force of the agreement in 2012, the U.S. and Korea have carried out four rounds of tariff cuts and eliminations, creating significant new market access opportunities for U.S. exporters.  The agreement has also expanded opportunities for our growing services trade, improved transparency in Korea’s regulatory system, strengthened intellectual property protection, and leveled the playing field for key U.S. exports, including autos.  Overall, U.S.-Korea goods and services trade has risen from $126.5 billion in 2011 to $145.2 billion in 2014.

US exports of cars and agricultural products going up rapidly thanks to KORUS

Office of the US Trade Representative 2015. Fact Sheet: U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, March 2015 <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/fact-sheets/2015/march/fact-sheet-us-korea-free-trade-agreement>

Sales of “Detroit 3” cars in Korea rose by 24.1% in 2014, outpacing both the overall growth of U.S. exports to Korea and worldwide exports of U.S. passenger vehicles.   Korea reduced its tariffs on U.S. autos by 50% (from 8% to 4%) on the agreement’s entry into force, and will eliminate the remainder of its tariff in 2016.  The lower tariffs resulted in an increase in auto exports to Korea of 140% by value between 2011 and 2014, more than five times faster than U.S. auto exports to the world (up 26%).  Korea is now our tenth largest export market for autos, with annual exports exceeding $1 billion in 2014. U.S. vehicle exports have more than doubled, increasing from 16,659 vehicles in 2011 to 37,914 vehicles in 2014.  
More Exports to Korea of Grown-in-America Agricultural Products  
U.S. exports of key agricultural products benefiting from tariff cuts and the lifting of other restrictions under KORUS continued to post significant gains.  Last year’s 31.2% growth in farm exports to Korea was nearly 7 times faster than U.S. agricultural export growth to the world at large.

Impact: Jobs. Exports are key to jobs

US Dept of Commerce, International Trade Administration 2015. “EMPLOYMENT AND TRADE” June 2015 <http://www.trade.gov/mas/ian/employment/>

U.S. goods and services exports support American jobs. In 2014, U.S. exports to the EU supported 2.6 million jobs, exports to NAFTA supported 2.9 million jobs, and exports to Asia and Pacific supported 3.5 million jobs.  
[Jobs Supported by State Exports 2014](http://www.trade.gov/mas/ian/build/groups/public/@tg_ian/documents/webcontent/tg_ian_005411.pdf" \t "_top), April 2015  
[Jobs Supported by State Exports Excel Data](http://www.trade.gov/mas/ian/static/state_jobs_2014_final_Latest_tg_ian_005414.xls" \t "_top),  
[Jobs Supported by State Goods Exports Infographic](http://www.trade.gov/mas/ian/build/groups/public/@tg_ian/documents/webcontent/tg_ian_005412.pdf" \t "_top),  
[Jobs Supported by State Manufactured Exports Infographic](http://www.trade.gov/mas/ian/build/groups/public/@tg_ian/documents/webcontent/tg_ian_005413.pdf" \t "_top)  
In 2014, exports of goods and services directly and indirectly supported an estimated 11.7 million U.S. jobs. Nationally, goods exports consisting of manufactured products, agricultural products, natural resources and used/second-hand products supported 7.1 million jobs, of which 6.2 million jobs were supported by exports of manufactured products. The export of services accounted for the remaining 4.6 million jobs supported.

4. Less individual freedom

KORUS and other FTAs increase personal freedom, because freedom to trade is a human right

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Advocates of Freedom Should Support Free Trade Agreements  
Although the proposed U.S.–South Korea free trade agreement is not perfect, it would reduce or eliminate most barriers to trade and investment between the two countries, putting the United States closer to the free trade ideal recommended by Adam Smith and David Ricardo. The agreement would strengthen individual freedom and property rights in the United States and in South Korea. KORUS, along with the pending Colombia and Panama trade agreements, will likely be opposed by those who want a powerful central government with the authority to cut off trade, dictate individual investment decisions, and seize private property. Everyone else should support them.