Sizing Up the Sino-US Tariff War
The typical framing of the Sino-US trade war
Before the tariff war only 30% of Chinese exports traded freely in the USA

Note: Recently proposed US tariffs do not inflate these numbers.
In 2017 already two-thirds of US exports faced trade distortions in the Chinese market.

Note: Recently proposed Chinese tariffs do not inflate these numbers.
Covert “jumbo” protectionism was the norm before the 2018 Sino-US tariff war

A jumbo protectionist measure affects more than $10bn in trade, is implemented at the national or supra-national level and is not firm-specific in nature.
Most jumbo trade distortions are subsidy-related

272 with trade coverage $10-$100 bn

76 with trade coverage >$100 bn

Letters refer to UN MAST categories for NTMs. P=Export measures (all incentives here) And L refers to subsidies to import-competing firms. TARIFF=import tariff measures.

5/23/19
Threatened US Tariffs Would Not Make It Into the Top 25 List of Largest Discriminatory Steps

5/23/19
How to respond to these gentlemen? Is their diagnosis entirely incorrect?

Secretary of State Pompeo

“The trade war by China against the United States has been going on for years...Here's what's different in this administration. To the extent one wants to call this a trade war, we are determined to win it.”

Fox News, 23 September 2018

Secretary of Commerce Ross

“Trade wars are fought every single day. So a trade war has been in place for quite a little while, the difference is the US troops are now coming to the rampart.”

Davos, 23 January 2018
The Data

For more information see Evenett (2019) obtainable at https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s42214-019-00021-0
Established in June 2009 after fears of a 1930s return to protectionism.

Seeks to document public policy changes that alter relative treatment of domestic and foreign commercial interests.
  - From first G20 Leaders Summit in November 2008.

Interested in reforms not just harmful policy interventions.

Independent. Funded primarily from sources associated with the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Team: 10 part time trained team members plus one full time colleague.

Our data is freely available and can be downloaded at: https://www.globaltradealert.org/data_extraction

If you have any questions please write to contact@globaltradealert.org
Over 20,000 public policy interventions documented

- Database has doubled in size during last 3 years.
- 94.2% of all database entries documented using official sources.
- 94.7% for harmful measures.
- 96.5% for all G20 measures.
- WTO Trade Monitoring Database has 4,766 entries at the moment.
Three-quarters of World Exports Face One or More Trade Distortions (before the Tariff War)

![Graph showing percentage of world exports facing trade distortions over time.](image)
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Source: 24th GTA Report (coming soon!)