

CHINA CROSSROADS

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With Friends Like These: Canada's Policy Options for US Trade War

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The Trump administration's tariffs and trade war against Canada have been a shock to Canada, threatening to tear up the North American economy. They are also the most serious actions so far in Trump's incipient trade war with much of the world. This talk will discuss some background to where we are, US actions and counteractions by the Canadian government, as well as the politics and possible economic consequences for Canada. The talk will also discuss the policy options for Canada, including the geopolitical and trade alternatives aside from the US. Finally, the talk will discuss how all this relates to China, effects on Canadian companies in China, as well as future China-Canada relations, e.g. the recent Chinese tariffs on Canada.

[Mark Kruger](#) is based in Shanghai and holds Senior Fellow appointments at the Yicai Research Institute, the Centre for International Governance Innovation and University of Alberta's China Institute. Between 2020 and 2023, Mark was the Opinion Editor at Yicai Global. Previously, he had a 30-year career with the Bank of Canada in the course of which he served as a Senior Advisor to the Canadian Executive Director at the IMF and the head of the Economic and Financial Section of the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. He began his career at the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission. You can find Mark's short, data-driven insights into China's economy here: <https://www.yicaiglobal.com/opinion/mark.kruger>.

[Matt Whately](#) is Executive Director of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai. Hailing from Ottawa, Canada, Matt studied History and Political Science at the University of Ottawa, graduating with honors. After gaining experience in the public sector at Indian & Northern Affairs Canada, Industry Canada, and the Department of National Defense, Matt moved to the private sector, working with Bell Canada, and later with Adjump, before relocating to Shanghai in 2012. After a stint as an English educator, an entrepreneur at heart, Matt soon founded Boar, a sports gear and apparel sourcing company. Then in 2015, he co-founded Five:IT, a creative tech agency. In 2019, he joined the Canadian Chamber of Commerce as Deputy Director, and in 2020 he was named Executive Director. In 2024, Matt completed an MBA with Manchester University.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.