

Chapter 5

Fast Track to Lost Jobs

教学目的

通过本文的学习，学生可了解美国“快轨贸易谈判权”的背景含义。本文主要分析了自北美贸易协定生效和世界贸易组织创立以来美国贸易逆差为何加速上升，失业不断增加。文中涉及许多有关经济学和贸易理论方面的知识，如贸易逆差、经济刺激、直接投资、生产能力、贸易自由化等。同时，还会对 NAFTA、FTAA、WTO 等协定和组织有所了解。

教学计划

拟使用六课时完成本课内容。主要分三个步骤：背景讲解、课文讲解和难点讨论、及学生演示课后所搜集和整理的相关案例或针对某一观点阐述自己的看法。

教学方法

将从课文理解入手，逐步引导学生消化知识和语言点并加以运用。采用以学生为中心的互动式教学法。

背景知识

1. About the author - Robert E. Scott

Dr. Scott joined the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) as an international economist in 1996. Before that, he was an assistant professor with the College of Business and Management of the University of Maryland at College Park. His research has been published in *The Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *The International Review of Applied Economics*, and *The Stanford Law and Policy Review*, and he has written editorial pieces for *The Los Angeles Times*, *Newsday*, *USA Today*, *The Baltimore Sun*, and other newspapers. He has represented U.S. industries as an expert witness on the economic effects of imports in several cases before the U.S. International Trade Commission concerning unfair trade complaints. Areas of expertise include trade, NAFTA, global finance, international economic comparisons, trade effects on the U.S. textile, apparel, and steel industries, and so on.

Net job losses have accelerated sharply since 1994 when NAFTA and the World Trade Organization came into being. EPI's Briefing Paper written by Robert E. Scott, *Fast Track to Lost Jobs*, shows that a long-term trend of net job losses in trade-sensitive industries grew largely undetected just under the surface of the recent economic boom, indicating trouble ahead as the economy's downturn deepens.

2. Fast Track

Fast Track (also called "Trade Promotion Authority") is a bill that gives the President authority to negotiate trade pacts with other countries without any input from Congress. The President was granted fast-track authority almost continuously from 1974 to 1994, but the authority lapsed and has not been renewed till 2002.

Legislation to renew the President's fast-track authority (H.R. 2621) reached the House floor in 1998, but was defeated by a vote of 180-243 largely along party lines. The major issue was then, as is now, the role of labor and the environment as objectives in trade agreements. On May 10, President Bush provided Congress with an outline of his 2001 legislative agenda for international trade. The enactment of U.S. Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), or fast track, is at the top of the agenda. The authority would be used for a new WTO round, a Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement, and other regional and bilateral negotiations. The proposal includes 13 negotiating objectives. One objective deals with protection of children and adherence to core labor standards. Another deals with mutually supportive trade and environmental protection policies. Along with the legislative agenda, the President submitted an illustrative list identifying a "toolbox" of labor and environmental actions the United States could take together with trade negotiations. Reaction to the President's proposal has been mixed. The Administration has favored the idea of an omnibus trade bill containing fast-track provisions and other trade measures. Democrats oppose the omnibus bill proposal.

Congress approved Fast Track (also called "Trade Promotion Authority") in summer 2002. This authority will last for five years beginning in 2002, with a two-year extension. The purpose of Fast Track is to transfer most of Congress's responsibility to the President and the people he appoints in

the Executive Branch. Because the Fast Track Bill passed, Congress will now only be able to vote YES or NO on the complete FTAA. Many will be reluctant to turn down the whole package for the sake of a few missing environmental or labor standards. The FTAA will be proposed to Congress in 2003 or 2004.

3. About U.S Trade Deficits

Over the past decade, U.S. trade deficits have grown steadily. As each monthly report of the latest trade statistics is released, the print media and the broadcast news carry commentaries and debates over the causes of the deficit and its consequences. Some take the position that trade deficits are the result of U.S. prosperity and that the inflow of foreign capital and goods have kept inflation and interest rates low and boosted productive investments: they are essential components of American prosperity. Others see a more troubling side to the deficits. They see the deficits as evidence that globalization and the workings of the world trading system pose threats to continued U.S. prosperity.

Democratic and Republican Commissioners hold differing views on the causes of the trade and current account deficits.

In the view of the Republican Commissioners, U.S. and foreign macroeconomic performance primarily cause trade and current account deficits. In the 1990s, the relative strength of the U.S. economy led to substantially increased imports, while the relative weakness of many of their trading partners led to much slower growth in exports. The long-standing tendency for U.S. imports to grow faster than U.S. income adds to this faster growth in imports compared to exports. Trade barriers are objectionable, but not because they are a major cause of trade deficits. International capital flows, in their view, are also a consequence of the relative strength of the U.S. economy. With a higher rate of return on investments here than in other countries, the United States is an attractive target for investment. This brings substantial benefits to the United States. In particular, since total saving in the United States is less than total investment, capital inflows help to finance investment that otherwise could not occur. Furthermore, the large net capital inflows have been keeping the dollar stronger than it would be otherwise. The strong dollar makes U.S. exports less

price competitive and U.S. imports more attractive, contributing to the trade deficit.

In the view of the Democratic Commissioners, the U.S.' large and growing trade and current account deficits are caused by a number of long- and short-term factors.

Key long-term factors include:

- Unequal relationships with America's major trading partners. The U.S. market is more open to imports than any other country in the world. High non-tariff barriers to trade in foreign markets are an important cause of this problem.
- Predatory practices, such as dumping, that have increased U.S. imports.
- Foreign government subsidies to foreign companies for research, development, and production that have not been effectively challenged or countered by the U.S. government.
- Multinational corporations driving globalization. U.S. firms have been world leaders in eliminating jobs at home and moving production technology and production offshore.
- The loss of competitiveness of U.S. firms on the one hand, with developing countries that depress workers' rights, environmental standards, and workers' wages so as to lower costs and unfairly compete for larger shares of the U.S. market, and, on the other hand, with those from Europe and Japan because they often have higher levels of productivity growth than the United States.
- The failure of other nations, especially in developing countries, to enforce their labor and environmental laws and observe internationally recognized labor standards.
- Low rates of saving in the United States, which have also contributed to trade and current account problems.

Short-term factors have also contributed to the growth of the trade deficit. These include: (1) higher oil prices, (2) the increase in the value of the dollar since 1995 that has made imports cheaper and the price of their exports more expensive to foreign buyers, and (3) slow economic growth in other countries. We also found that the U.S. manufacturing sector accounts for most of the U.S. trade deficit. Manufacturing industries will have to expand significantly if the United States is going to respond effectively to trade deficits and globalization. To do this, the United States will need new trade and development policies that will help rebuild manufacturing and reduce unfair barriers to trade around the world. They also need new tools to encourage U.S. multinationals to maintain

jobs, technology, and production here in the United States.

课文讲解

概念讲解

trade deficit	贸易逆差
economic stimulus	经济刺激
production capacity	生产能力
balanced trade	平衡贸易
globalization	全球化
inflation-adjusted	扣除通胀因素的
boom-and-bust cycle	盛衰周期
stock market bubble	股市泡沫
value-added taxes	增值税
trade liberalization	贸易自由化
fair trade	公平贸易、互惠贸易

课文注释

1. Yet despite substantial evidence that current trade policies have resulted in massive trade deficits and job losses, the Bush Administration is pressing Congress for “fast track” trade negotiating authority, by which the President could submit trade agreements to Congress for a yes or no vote with amendment. (p.95)

一方面要注意本句中两个分别由“despite”和“by which”引导的从句。另外要理解“快轨”贸易谈判权的含义。总统拥有快轨权意味着总统向国会提交贸易协议时，国会只进行通过或否决的投票而不做任何添加。支持者希望快轨权能促进北美自由贸易协定和世界贸易组织的扩展。总之，作者认为快轨权可加速贸易谈判的进程，从而也间接地应对美国巨额贸易逆差负责。

参考译文：然而，尽管大量证据表明目前的贸易政策导致了巨额贸易逆差和大量失业，但布什政府仍敦促国会批准“快轨”贸易谈判权。根据这项授权，总统向美国国会提交贸易协议，国会只能批准或否决而不能对协议进行任何添加。

2. The sustained appreciation of the U.S. dollar also encouraged investors around the world to build new and expanded production capacity at home to export more goods to the U.S. As a result, U.S. markets have been flooded with imports from Asia, Europe, Central and South America, and Africa since 1994. (p.96)

“sustained”意为“kept up, prolonged”，表示持续，长时间。“appreciation”意为升值，与之同义的词有“evaluation”。这里主要掌握为什么美元的持续升值促使国外投资者扩大生产以增加向美国出口这一知识点。原因是美元的升值意味着国外产品以美元表示的价格降低，因而其在美国市场上更具价格竞争力。

参考译文：美元的持续升值也鼓舞全世界投资者增加和扩大国内生产能力以向美国出口更多的产品。结果，自 1994 年以来来自亚洲、欧洲、中美和南美洲、以及非洲的进口品充斥着美国市场。

3. Rather than putting new trade deals on a fast track, policy makers should step back for a strategic pause, during which they can review the structure, enforcement, and effectiveness of U.S. trade policies. (p.97)

本句中“put ... on track”意为“将...放入轨道；付诸实施”，同时“fast track”又有“快轨权”这一层含义，所以作者巧妙运用了双关手段。另外“step back for a strategic pause”与军事语言中“a strategic retreat”（战略性撤退）同义。

参考译文：政策制定者应该停下来稍作战略性撤退，重审美国贸易政策的结构、执行情况和有效性，而不是将新贸易协定纳入快轨方案之中。

4. Many U.S. firms, especially makers of aircraft and other high-value industrial machinery and equipment, maintain that these laws are essential to counteract EU's WTO-sanctioned rebates of value-added taxes on their own exports. (p.100)

本句中容易产生歧义的地方是“WTO-sanctioned”，易被理解为“受 WTO 制裁的”，但实际含义应为“得到 WTO 批准的”。另外学生需要掌握“出口产品的增值税退税”的概念。

参考译文：许多美国企业，尤其是飞机和其他高价值工业机械和设备制造商坚持认为这些法规对于抵制欧盟实施的经 WTO 批准的出口增值税退税来说是必要的。

5. There is no doubt that, in the long run, a system of both freer trade and fair trade which ensures that all participants play by a well-defined set of humane, market-based rules can maximize incomes for most, if not all, countries around the world. (p.100)

本句知识点应注意“free trade”和“fair trade”两个概念之间的区别。与自由贸易主张者(free traders)不同，互惠贸易论者(fair traders)主张贸易保护主义。另外句子结构方面，注意由 which 引导的定语从句修饰的是“a system of both freer trade and fair trade”。

参考译文：毫无疑问，从长远来看，一个既能够保证所有参与者遵照一整套完善而人道的市场规则且又包含自由贸易和互惠贸易两者的体系将给世界大多数国家（虽不是所有国家）带来最大化利益。