

Committee: Economic and Social Council

Chair: Purav Mittal

Topic: Sustainably reducing economic nationalism in the interest of free trade

Background Information

Economic Nationalism

Economic nationalism (also known as economic patriotism) is an ideology that emphasizes control over a state's economy. It imposes restrictions on trade (usually import) and consists of various practices that protect a state's economy with respect to world markets. In most cases, this process is carried out through the establishment of high tariffs, quotas, licensing requirements, embargoes, and subsidies.

Most high tariffs are put in place to make foreign goods more expensive for consumers. This is done by taxing the organization importing goods on the goods they import. Depending on the size of the tariffs and the organization(s) they are imposed on, the organization may either raise their retail prices to yield profits, hence discouraging potential customers from buying their product, or they may stop doing business in the country in question as a whole (e.g. General Motors stopped selling cars in India in 2017).

Quotas (more specifically, import quotas) offer more control than tariffs when restricting trade as the country setting the quota can control their imports rather than simply discourage their importers; however, given that import quotas are completely resistant to the foreign currency depreciating or export subsidies set by foreign governments, they may disturb international trade and affect the global economy depending on the price and domestic demand of the product in question.

Subsidies (not export subsidies) are one of the few constructive mediums of economic nationalism. They reward domestic businesses rather than limit foreign businesses. This obviously helps domestic businesses survive; however, domestic businesses that lower their prices as a result of receiving subsidiary payments (particularly for goods with high price elasticities of demand) may take demand away from foreign businesses that are not subject to these benefits. This may force these companies to lower their price to remain competitive or simply make fewer sales.

The primary reason that countries block trade and favor economic nationalism lies in protecting domestic workers and domestic businesses. For example, if domestic goods were unable to compete with cheaper foreign goods produced overseas, domestic businesses would shut down, leading domestic workers to lose their jobs. In addition, countries may want to shield domestic infant industries from competition until they grow strong enough to compete globally.

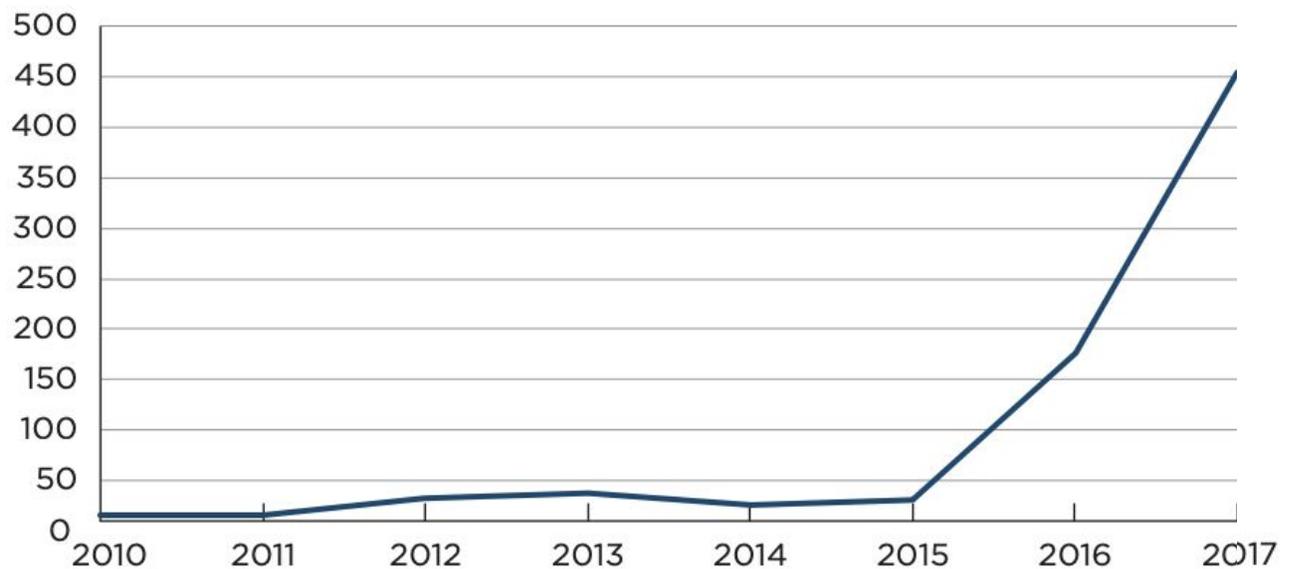
Theoretically speaking, economic nationalism is a modern-day embodiment of protectionism and has multiple parallels with mercantilism as well.

Protectionism is the economic theory or practice of shielding a country's domestic industries from foreign competition by restricting imports from other countries using methods such as but not limited to tariffs and quotas. In spite of the ability of protectionist policies to protect domestic industries, many argue that in the long term, protectionism hurts the people and the entities it is intended to protect by slowing down economic growth and inflating prices.

Mercantilism is an economic practice and policy that encourages the maximization of exports and the minimization of imports. Popularized in the early 16th century before dying out throughout the 18th century, mercantilism is based on the idea that global wealth is static (and hence, finite), leading many European nations to attempt to accumulate the largest possible share of that wealth. Mercantilist ideas are now seen as outdated and despite the similarities in practice between economic nationalism and mercantilism, their motivation and reasoning are very different.

Economic nationalism has also been on the rise particularly in the last few years with the Trump Administration's economic policies and the withdrawal from the United Kingdom from the European Union (Brexit).

Number of non-duplicate articles in which the phrase "economic nationalism" is mentioned *versus* time (in years)



Source: NOW Corpus (News on the Web).

With the recent upsurge in the political popularity of economic nationalism as a trade policy and ideology, it has become a frequently debated economic issue and one that economists and governments alike cannot seem to agree on.

Free Trade

Free trade is a frequently-debated theoretical trade policy under which governments do not restrict imports or exports to any level. It is based on the idea that the division of labor (with reference to the production of goods) leads to specialization and greater efficiency in production. This means that all products and their prices are free from government intervention with the market being based purely on supply and demand, granting consumers of all internationally traded goods with higher-quality, lower-priced goods.

Almost all economists agree that free trade is the key to maintaining a healthy global economy, especially among liberal communities; however, many nationalists and socialists argue that instead, free trade would allow high-income countries (HICs) to destroy jobs in low-income countries (LICs), as larger industries would take domestic businesses and the jobs they provide over. Whether these larger businesses would create more jobs for domestic workers or simply give higher-paying jobs away to foreign workers remains a highly debated issue.

The law of comparative advantage is a law that describes how under free trade, an agent (in this case, a country, and its organizations) will produce more of and consume less of a good for which they have a comparative advantage. A comparative advantage in producing a particular good exists when an agent can produce that good at a lower relative marginal/variable cost (i.e. the change in the total cost that arises when the quantity produced is incremented by one unit or the cost of producing one more unit of a good) prior to the trade, meaning that an agent can produce more of a good at a lower total price, from which they can export unused items.

David Ricardo, the man who first published what is now known as the theory of comparative advantage, used an example to show a comparative advantage in action. In a famous example, Ricardo considers a world economy consisting of two countries, Portugal and England, each producing two goods of identical quality. In Portugal, the independently more efficient country, it is possible to produce wine and cloth with less labor than it would take to produce the same quantities in England. However, the relative costs of producing those two goods differ between the countries.

| <u>Hours of work necessary to produce one unit</u> | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Producing country | Cloth | Wine |
| England | 100 | 120 |
| Portugal | 90 | 80 |

In this illustration, England could commit 100 hours of labor to produce one unit of cloth or produce $\frac{5}{6}$ units of wine. Meanwhile, in comparison, Portugal could commit 90 hours of labor to produce one unit of cloth or produce $\frac{9}{8}$ units of wine. With this, Portugal possesses an absolute advantage in producing cloth due to fewer labor hours, but England has a comparative advantage in producing cloth due to lower marginal cost. In the absence of trade, England requires 220 hours of work to both produce and consume

one unit each of cloth and wine while Portugal requires 170 hours of work to produce and consume the same quantities. England is more efficient at producing cloth than wine, and Portugal is more efficient at producing wine than cloth. So, if each country specializes in the good for which it has a comparative advantage, then the global production of both goods increases, for England can spend 220 labor hours to produce 2.2 units of cloth while Portugal can spend 170 hours to produce 2.125 units of wine. Moreover, if both countries specialize in the above manner and England trades a unit of its cloth for $\frac{5}{6}$ to $\frac{9}{8}$ units of Portugal's wine, then both countries can consume at least a unit each of cloth and wine, with 0 to 0.2 units of cloth and 0 to 0.125 units of wine remaining in each respective country to be consumed or exported. Consequently, both England and Portugal can consume more wine and cloth under free trade, the only issue for many politicians being that Portugal loses some of its advantage over England.

In spite of this, there are ethical considerations to make, seeing that many argue that free trade allows for foreign countries to make use of immoral practices to produce traded goods. Countries receiving imports cannot control whether or not their trade partners use child labor and sweatshops to produce their goods, or whether or not their workers are paid unlivable wages, or even how environmentally friendly their production practices are.

Important Definitions

Embargo

An embargo is a government-imposed ban that restricts all trade with a specified country or the trade of specific commodities with a specified country. It is usually a result of unfavorable political or economic circumstances between nations.

Subsidy

Subsidies are sums of money granted to businesses or institutions by the government. This may take form as a cash payment or tax reduction. In the context of this topic, subsidies are put in place either to keep the price of a commodity/service low or to keep a declining industry alive. This often helps domestic industries alive and competing with international competition. There are also export subsidies, which are sums of money granted to businesses or institutions that are exporting goods usually by the government, usually to help them pay tariffs set by other countries.

Tariff

A tariff (not to be confused with a tariff quota) is a tax imposed by a country on goods and services imported from another country. They are used to restrict imports from another country and make that country's products less appealing to domestic consumers.

Quota

A quota is a government-imposed trade restriction that limits the number or monetary value of goods that another country can import into the trade-imposing country. This helps regulate the volume of trade,

boosting domestic industries by restricting foreign competition. There are two types of quotas: import quotas and tariff quotas. Import quotas restrict imports absolutely with no more than a set number or monetary value of imports being allowed into a country. Tariff quotas may permit the import of a certain commodity or good duty-free or at low duty until a certain limit (based on the number of goods or the monetary value of goods) is reached, after which any quantities exceeding the quota are subject to a higher duty rate.

Countries and Organizations Involved

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

The main body dealing with free trade is the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), an intergovernmental body founded by the United Nations General Assembly. UNCTAD has divided the 193 member states of the UN into four lists to balance representation based on geographical and economic terms. Most countries wish to keep a balance to a certain extent to generate revenue from tariffs from import while keeping domestic businesses in business but each country has different takes on the matter regarding to what extent action should be taken (most developing countries are in favor of free trade and most developed countries are against it although some developed countries are willing to make sacrifices) and what restrictions should be imposed (in most cases, for their own benefit).

World Trade Organization

As described on their website, “The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world’s trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.” They are an intergovernmental organization that works to make sure international trade runs as smoothly as possible. Free trade and protectionism is a topic that is still highly debated within the WTO and no agreement on the issue has been reached.

Past International Action

- **UNCTAD I - UNCTAD XIV:** The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is a permanent intergovernmental body and a part of the United Nations Secretariat. It deals with trade, development, and investment issues.
- **CPTPP, GATT, NAFTA, CAFTA, and other FTAs (Free Trade Agreements):** Free-trade agreements (FTAs) are multinational pacts between two or more nations that agree to lower or remove all tariffs and trade restrictions among them.
- **China-United States Trade War:** The China-United States Trade War (otherwise known as the US-China Trade War) is an economic conflict, caused by extreme protectionism and economic nationalism from each of the two countries.

- **Brexit:** Brexit is the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, motivated by anti-immigration views and economically nationalist views.

Suggestions for Future Solutions

Delegates must weigh the benefits of free trade globally against the benefits of economic nationalism with respect to their nation's **foreign policy** and **stance on free trade**. In most cases, liberal economies favor free trade while left-wing and nationalist economies favor protectionism. Delegates must ensure their foreign relations are kept with countries inside and outside the conference in mind whilst simultaneously taking advantage of how crucial their relations are to other countries.

For many countries, there is no middle ground to be taken in a matter of this much economic significance. Countries with highly nationalist (or socialist) governments (e.g. United States, United Kingdom, etc.) are unlikely to be willing to take away opportunities from their own domestic workers. LICs (e.g. East African countries etc.) cannot afford to let foreign competition take over their domestic businesses either, while geographically isolated countries (e.g. Australia etc.) that rely heavily on imported goods (and would resultantly prefer low taxes on exports) would see little to no benefit in economic nationalism.

Additional Links/Resources

- <https://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/FreeTrade.html>
- <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/free-trade.asp>
- <https://www.piie.com/sites/default/files/documents/wp19-15.pdf>
- <https://sites.google.com/a/menloathertonhs.com/senigaglia/economics/15-apr-11-15>
- <https://sites.google.com/a/menloathertonhs.com/senigaglia/economics/15-nov-22-24>
- <https://thebalance.com/multilateral-trade-agreements-pros-cons-and-examples-3305949>
- <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/aboutus.aspx>
- <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/Home.aspx>

Committee: Economic and Social Council

Chair: Abhinav Tripathi

Topic: The issue of femicide in Argentina

Background Information

Femicide (also known as femicide) is a term used to define a gender-centered hate crime. Although the definition of this term can change based on its cultural context, the most common definition is “the killing of a woman or girl, particularly by a man, on account of her gender.” The need for this term to specifically define the murder of females, with a pre-existing term such as homicide or gendercide is often questioned. However, the term femicide came into existence to raise female resistance against gender oppression. The term was also coined by radical feminists to bring to a political light the violence against women. The term femicide is only applicable when the killing of a woman or girl, by a man, is done solely based on the fact that the victim is female.

Causes/types: Femicide also includes intimate partner femicide, femicide due to race, sexuality and honor killing related femicide. Basically any act that results in death with causes as mentioned above (sexual terrorism) is femicide. Other forms of femicide are the intentional spread of HIV/AIDS, illegalization of abortion leading to the death of the pregnant woman.

Statistics show that the most prevalent form of femicide is committed by an **intimate partner**. Findings of an ongoing study by WHO and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine show that more than 35% of all murders of women globally are reported to be committed by an intimate partner. The same study estimates that only about 5% of all murders of men are committed by an intimate partner.

Racist femicide is defined as femicide that is caused by racial factors and is committed by men of a different race. When talking about racist femicide, both sexism and racism can be the root causes. Furthermore, media coverage of femicides allegedly shows bias when it comes to race. Moreover, police investigation and case priority may differ based on the race of the victim.

Sexuality is also a major cause of femicide. This basically means the killing of a woman due to her sexuality. It is often called ‘lesbicide’ by feminists. This form has existed legally throughout history. For example, the Roman civilization or the witch-hunt of the 15th century (witchcraft was often linked with homosexuality). However, lesbianism is no longer considered a crime in many countries, it is still illegalized by many governments and is condemned by most religions. This can also be defined as corrective rape.

Honor killing related femicides consist of as defined by an information sheet by the WHO; “a girl or woman being killed by a male or female family member for an actual or assumed sexual or behavioral transgression, including adultery, sexual intercourse or pregnancy outside marriage – or even for being raped”.

This is often seen as a method of conserving family reputation, tradition or following incorrectly construed religious demands. Femicides under the false pretenses of ‘honor’ are also used to cover up cases of incest.

Non-intimate femicide is femicide committed by a person without an intimate relationship with the woman/girl. These killings are often random, but the WHO states that “such killings can be random, but there are disturbing examples of systematic murders of women, particularly in **Latin America**”.

Factors that increase or decrease the risk of femicide: the most widely used model for understanding any form of violence is the ecological model, which proposes that violence is influenced by factors operating at four levels: individual, family/relationship, community, and societal or structural (which relates to laws, policies and wider societal influences). This model outlines the risk factors at these levels for both, perpetrators and victims.

Femicide in Argentina increases each year. The Council on Hemispheric Affairs reports that 2,638 women were killed/have died for the sole reason of being women. “Every 29 hours a woman is killed in the country,” said Raquel Vivanco, President of the Observatorio Ahora Que Sí Nos Ven at a press conference. Moreover, 17% of the female victims of femicide had already filed a complaint against the assailant and 11% had also acquired judicial protection. The Observatorio reported that this issue was persistent in all age groups, Forty-one percent were between the ages of 21 and 40 years old, 25 percent between the ages of 41 and 60, 13 percent older than 60, and 10 percent between the ages of 16 and 20. Furthermore, around eighty-eight percent of the perpetrators (since 2015) were known by the victim either intimately or as an acquaintance. This shows that the main cause/type is intimate partner femicide in Argentina.

Ni una menos: Is Spanish for “not one (woman) less”, is an Argentinian fourth-wave grassroots feminist movement. This has also influenced and spread across Latin American countries. It protests against gender-based violence and killings (femicide). In its official website, Ni una menos defines itself as a “collective scream against machista violence.” The campaign was started by a collective of Argentine female artists, journalists, and academics, and has grown into “a continental alliance of feminist forces”. The movement regularly holds protests against femicides, but has also touched on topics such as gender roles, sexual harassment, gender pay gap, sexual objectification, the legality of abortion, sex workers' rights and transgender rights.” According to the Buenos Aires Times “from the start of 2019 to May 20, 133 femicides have been recorded, of which 121 were deaths of women and the other 12 were children related to them...A majority of the murders, 52, occurred in the province of Buenos Aires, followed by Cordoba, with 12. These crimes left 84 children orphaned.”

Important Definitions

Feminism: Feminism is a range of socio-political movements and ideologies that aim to achieve equal rights and opportunities to all the sexes.

Gender oppression: Gender oppression is when a certain gender is privileged over the other, with no other apparent reason other than gender.

Corrective rape: Also known as ‘curative’ or homophobic rape is a type of femicide/hate-crime where one or more people (women in the case of femicides) are raped because of their seeming or existing sexuality.

Countries and Organizations Involved

Argentina: Argentina being the main focus of the agenda when it comes to the geographical aspect, Argentina will be extensively involved.

The UN and the European Union: Argentina being one of the five elected in Latin America, together with El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras for the Spotlight Initiative, and will be the only one in South America to benefit from Spotlight. This Initiative will have the State work hand-in-hand with civil society, to focus on eliminating femicides.

Past International Action

- Micaela Law
 - The key six key points of the Micaela Law are as follows:
 - Everyone in public service must go through training on “gender and violence against women.”
 - The National Institute of Women (INAM) will enforce the law. It will also be responsible for directly training high officials.
 - The training will be conducted in collaboration with gender offices. New materials and programs will be produced for training.
 - The INAM will control the quality of the said materials and the training must be imparted within a year of the law coming into force.
 - INAM will also publish information regarding the degree of compliance of each state agency and do follow-up reports on its impact.
 - If any public employee refuses to attend the training “without just cause”, they would be subjected to a disciplinary sanction.
- Brisa Law (Ley Birsa)
 - It ensures that the minor children of femicide (or of the murder of one of the parents at the hands of the other) will receive economic support from the government.
- Spotlight Initiative
 - The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030.

Suggestions for Future Solutions

A major alleged problem in Argentina, when it comes to tackling femicide is the poor distribution of funds within the government and lack of funding for specific government programs and organizations

such as National Institute for Women (INAM), delegates must keep this mind when discussing possible funding towards Argentina to solve the issue.

Furthermore, an information sheet on femicide by the World Health Organization states the following for possible solutions:

1. Strengthen surveillance and screening of femicide and intimate partner violence
2. Train and sensitize health staff
3. Train and sensitize police
4. Increase prevention and intervention research
5. Reduce gun ownership and strengthen gun laws
6. Strengthen surveillance, research, laws, and awareness of murder in the name of 'honor'

Delegates should keep all six points in mind while discussing possible solutions.

Additional Links/Resources

- <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1055452>
- <https://www.batimes.com.ar/news/argentina/155-femicides-in-argentina-in-first-half-of-2019.phtml>
- <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-in-argentin-as-fight-against-femicide-progress-is-in-sight-but-not/>
- <https://www.un.org/en/spotlight-initiative/index.shtml>
- https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77421/WHO_RHR_12.38_eng.pdf;jsessionid=2338B9541D136C89C8E917B7A6953A03?sequence=1
- <http://niunamenos.org.ar/>
- <https://www.thebubble.com/ley-brisa-approved-children-of-femicide-victims-to-receive-state-financial-support>