



### [President Trump Announces a New Trade Deal with China](#)

The United States and China announced they were in agreement over a trade deal that is aimed at defusing trade tensions between the world's two largest economies. The deal is projected to double American exports to China by 2021, and Robert Lightizer, the top negotiator for the Americans, called it a "remarkable" deal. China has pledged to increase its purchases of American energy and farm products, and to stop devaluing its currency. The deal will also reduce tariffs that the United States currently imposes on Chinese products, and will negate a set of new tariffs that were due to be enacted this past weekend. The agreement comes as the trade war between the United States and China dragged into its nineteenth month, and gives President Trump material to campaign on in his upcoming re-election bid.

President Trump lauded the deal from the White House, saying it included manufacturing, farming, and other regulations. Robert Lightizer predicted it would increase Chinese purchases of American goods by over \$100 billion annually. Specifically, the President is hopeful that China will increase its purchases of American farm goods by about \$50 billion per year. The trade war between the U.S. and China has hit farmers particularly hard, and focusing on agricultural purchases was of utmost importance for Lightizer and the team of American negotiators.

After news of the deal broke, observers were quick to point out that the trade war has done near irreparable damage to American farmers. Namely, China decreasing its purchases of pork and soybeans has seen the Trump Administration forced into large-scale bailouts of farmers. Critics accuse the President of using the new trade deal as a political tool to aid him in the upcoming re-election campaign, in which the support of farmers will be key. Scott Kennedy, a scholar at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, criticized the ambiguity of the specific details of the deal, and said the cost of the trade war is unlikely to be offset by the benefits of the agreement. Evan Medeiros, a professor at Georgetown University, said the realities of the deal were far smaller than the grand promises made by President Trump.

Experts have also criticized the agreement over its stipulations on currency manipulation and intellectual property rules. In the trade deal, China has agreed to give American companies more access to its financial services sector, and stop devaluing its currency, but these are changes that China had already promised to implement. Therefore, the inclusion of them in the new agreement is simply to make the deal look better, instead of bringing about fundamental change.

Both countries hope to have the deal signed and ratified by the end of January 2020, although there have been other tentative agreements reached between the United States and China that have not been put into effect. Should the agreement be scrapped at the last second, tariffs from both sides would be enabled again, and the trade war would reignite. However, there is evidence to believe that both sides have it in their best interest to ratify the deal.