

Chapter 13

Global Trends in Logistics: The Impact of the U.S. Trade War on Supply Chains

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ABSTRACT

Global conflicts are major factors contributing to supply chain disruptions. On the one hand, countries work to improve transport and logistics infrastructure to promote trade and global connectivity; on the other hand, they implement export bans, tariffs, embargoes, trade restrictions, and sanctions, which limit access to essential resources and materials. Trump's tariff measures caused a significant collapse of the multilateral trading framework, revealing the vulnerability of global economic governance and disproportionately impacting developing nations through 'reciprocal' tariffs. The protectionist measures announced by Trump included an increase in customs duties on goods imported from different countries. Therefore, this chapter proposes to study the relationship between logistics and trade. Indeed,

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the objective is to better understand the effect of the logistics sector on trade, and then to study the repercussions of U.S. trade wars, especially the impact of Trump's tariffs on global logistics and supply chains.

1. INTRODUCTION

The literature has widely demonstrated that the efficiency of supply chain, particularly logistics systems, is an important determinant of bilateral trade but the magnitude of the effect can vary depending on the economic and geographical characteristics of the countries. In this context, Gani (2017) mentions that trade volume increases more significantly than the ratio of improvements in logistics infrastructure and services. The development of supply chains and logistics, particularly infrastructure improvements (ports, logistics platform), enables more reliable product distribution and promotes international trade flows, given that international trade depends largely on logistics and transportation services providers. Carruthers et al. (2003) highlighted the role of transportation and logistics infrastructure investments in promoting trade in Hong Kong and Singapore. Chinese exports have increased significantly thanks to changes in its logistics network (Lee & Rodrigue, 2006; Wang et al. 2021).

However, global Conflicts and political instability are major factors contributing to supply chain disruptions. In the one hand countries works to improve transport and logistics infrastructures to promote trade and world connections, in the other hand, they implement export bans, tariffs, or embargoes, trade restrictions and sanctions come into effect, limiting access to essential resources and materials. Additionally, conflicts often obstruct critical trade routes, leading to increased transportation expenses and delays in deliveries. The convergence of trade disputes, economic sanctions, and armed conflicts risks dividing global supply chains, compelling companies to rethink their dependence on particular suppliers and adjust their operational approaches.

Supply chain analytics plays a vital role in addressing these challenges by enabling companies to assess risks, identify vulnerabilities, and refine their supply chain approaches. Then, the rise in trade tensions has been further exacerbated by a surge in military conflicts worldwide (Owsiak et al., 2024). These conflicts severely disrupt international supply chains and generate substantial unpredictability for maritime and air freight and for port and airports flows, resulting in amplified and enduring disruptions to global trade patterns (Ivanov, 2025).

The supply chains, inventories, industries were already disrupted by the Russia–Ukraine war and COVID19 pandemic. Therefore, adopting resilience strategies is one of the solutions to face the supply chain disruptions. It would help mitigate cost

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