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## CHINA'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AMID DURING IN TRADING ATTACKS WITH THE UNITED STATES

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### Abstract

Protectionist policies towards Chinese trade aim to balance US trade with China. The United States has seen the Chinese economy which has expanded into the world and become a new emerging force, even the United States sees the Made in China plan in 2025. Amid during in a trade war with the United States, China must be able to survive to keep the economy stable and also to save Chinese interests. The purpose of this study is to discuss more the role of China in international trade amid during in a trade war between the United States, whether it will decline or continue to be improved because the two countries are trade partners that are interdependent to each other. The research method used is a qualitative method. The result of this research is the fact that China still has a role in international trade amid during in a trade war with the United States. The role was then carried out by China through a counter policy towards the United States and several collaborative supports with several countries. Thus, China's role in international trade did not decrease significantly amid during in a trade war.

### Keywords

China's Role, United States, Trade War, Protectionist

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### 1. Introduction

During the administration of President Donald Trump, it seems that the United States sees China's economy more increasing and even the economic rise of China is not directly reshape East Asia as an

independent economic entity that has the potential to maintain the dynamism of economic growth ahead (Athukorata, 2017). However, on the other hand, Trump saw the United States, known as a *superpower*, had to experience a trade deficit, with most of the deficit coming from China. In this case, Trump claims China in five ways, including: *First*, The United States claims that China has taken unfair actions against foreign companies, especially those of the United States (Guo, Liu, Sheng, & Yu, 2017). *Secondly*, the United States claims that China has blocked the export market for US companies, which the United States has accused if China has imposed export restrictions only to benefit its domestic companies (Guo, Liu, Sheng, & Yu, 2017).

*Third*, the United States alleged that China had misused intellectual property rights, where US companies were asked to transfer technology as a condition for obtaining investment approval (Guo, Liu, Sheng, & Yu, 2017). *Fourth*, the United States claims that China has conducted an *exchange rate*, in which China seeks to reduce the value of the Chinese currency so that Chinese products can be exported at low prices. *Finally*, the United States claims that China has eliminated jobs in the United States.

The protectionist policy aims to limit China's trade because the United States sees China's economy which *has* expanded throughout the world and become a *new emerging power*. Plus, the United States sees China which always echoes the *Made in China 2025* slogan. *Made in China 2025* is a policy that is intended to transform China into the world economy leader, where Chinese products will completely dominate the global market. Therefore, to hamper the Chinese economy, the United States applies protectionist policies to goods from China (National Bank of Canada, 2018). This was done by the United States because they felt worried that they would be rivaled economically by China.

In this case, the protectionist policy of the United States applies the imposition of import duties on all products *entering* the United States, especially from China by 35% with the except for products such as oil, energy and minerals. The product exclusion is because the United States has strategic interests (Bouet & Laborde, 2017). The US protectionist policy which has indirectly made a trade war with China is actually an implementation of Trump's aggressive attitude to promote the interests of "*America First*" and "*Make America Great Again*" (European Union Policy Department for External Relations, 2018). Also besides, the protectionist policies of the United States were allegedly carried out because the United States felt as a *superpower* that served as the world police to respond to the international trade crisis. However, the US protectionist policy has disrupted the international trade system. In other words, if the high import art imposed by the United States harmed international trade.

In the middle of a trade war with the United States, China should be able to *survive* with the aim that the economy remains stable and also to save the interests of China although in the imposition of high import tariffs that do United States for considering China is the second largest trading partner (Legislative Council Secretariat, 2018). In a speech by President China Xi Jinping in Peru said that China still put forward a firm stance on free trade, even when some major economies such as the United States were more inclined towards protectionism (Sheng, 2016). Xi Jinping also said in his speech that making exclusive regional trade arrangements or in terms of protectionist policies is not the right choice. According to Xi Jinping, trade arrangements should be open which aim to gain broad support (Sheng, 2016).

The trade war between the United States and China does not make China feel limited in its scope to advance its economy. This is strengthened reinforced by Xi Jinping's speech trying to build global trust in international trade that China was able to survive amid during in a trade war situation with the United States, even many countries had raised their hopes for China as the world's second largest economy and the biggest trading partner and almost every economy in the world (Sheng, 2016). This is because these countries cannot depend on the United States because of the protectionist policies issued by President Donald Trump.

Based on this, amidst the increasing protectionist policies of the United States, China actually has many good opportunities in international trade. This is because the United States, which in this case applies protectionist policies not only increases import tariffs on Chinese products, but also withdraws from several some many multilateral trade cooperation, such as the United States partnership with the *Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)* which is an agreement between two twelve countries on three continents that have been negotiated for about 10 years by the previous president, Barack Obama (Guo, Liu, Sheng, & Yu, 2017). Not only that, the United States also seeks to renegotiate with the *North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)* which is a multilateral cooperation between the United States and North American countries such as Mexico and Canada (Guo, Liu, Sheng, & Yu, 2017). The withdrawal of the United States from multilateral cooperation has opened opportunities for China to be able to establish intensive cooperation with countries that are members of the TPP or NAFTA. China also has the opportunity to expand its role in international trade with Japan which is an ally of the United States. This is because the United States has begun to apply its automatics policies to Japan in the automotive sector because the United States feels that the trade deficit is also with Japan in the automotive sector.

Thus, the protectionist policies carried out by the United States of America were allegedly going to cause many losses, both from the United States and from the Chinese side as victims of US protectionist

policies. However, in the middle attack of the protectionist policy, China still has a role in international trade. In that sense, China's role did not experience a decline after protectionist policies from the United States. Therefore, the authors are interested in raising a study entitled "*China's Role in International Trade amid during in a Trade War attack with the United States*". Based on the title, it will do further assessment to determine the extent of the role of China in international trade in the middle attack trade war the United States, whether downhill or just stay consistent because since both countries are big certainly have an influence respectively and influence on the economic constellation and international politics.

## 2. Research Question

Based on the background of the problem above, the problem can be formulated as follows:

1. What is the role of China in international trade amid during in trade war attacks with the United States?

## 3. Framework

To analyze the role of China in international trade amid during in a trade war attack with the United States, a paradigm will be used international political economy as a big umbrella to analyze the problems that exist in this study. In this regard, international political economy assume that economic strength is an important basis for political power. If economics is about achieving wealth, and politics is about achieving power, both interact with each other. In other words, there is a complex relationship between politics and economics, between the state and the market, which must be mastered in international relations (Sorensen & Jackson, 2013). In a paradigm of international political economy, there are three theories to be able to represent the views of the international political economy, one of which is mercantilism.

Mercantilism is an old theory that sees the economy as an arena of conflict between conflicting national interests, rather than areas of cooperation and mutual benefit. In short, economic competition between countries is a *zero sum game*, where a country's profits are a loss for other countries (Sorensen & Jackson, 2013). According to Gilpin, economic competition between countries can take two different forms. *The first form*, namely the form of survival in which the state maintains its national economic interests because it is an important element in its national security. Such a policy does not hurt harm on other countries (Sorensen & Jackson, 2013). *The second form*, which is an aggressive form in which countries try to exploit the international economy through expansion policies (Sorensen & Jackson, 2013). In this case, mercantilism focuses on the success of developing countries in East Asia, such as China, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. They emphasize that economic success is always accompanied by a strong role for the state in advancing the country's economic development. In other words, the economy is subject

to the political community, especially the government. Economic activity when viewed in a larger context refers to an increase in state power (Sorensen & Jackson, 2013).

Also besides, in this paper also uses a little of international trade theory, namely the *comparative advantage theory* of David Ricardo. *Comparative advantage theory* or comparative advantage is when a country produces goods or services with lower opportunity costs than other countries. The country may not be the best in producing something. However, goods or services from these countries have low costs to be imported by other countries (Amadeo, 2018).

#### **4. Methodology and Data Collection Techniques**

In this study, the authors chose to use qualitative research methods because qualitative research methods are very suitable for understanding complex social interactions, to examine social phenomena that cannot be studied using quantitative research, and to examine an issue more deeply. Also besides, the understanding of qualitative research methods is research based on analytical descriptive. The definition of analytical descriptive is that the data used is descriptive data that is generally in the form of words and images, oral and written, and will later be analyzed using the appropriate theory (Sugiarto, 2015). In other words, the qualitative research method is based on the existence of an explanation and analysis of a problem to produce a conclusion and also subsequently will be arranged systematically so that the problem is more easily understood and meets the point of clarity. The data source used in this study is to use literature by collecting secondary data, in the form of books, scientific journals including electronic journals, both domestic journals and international journals, and international news articles from domestic and international media. Reliable associated with the issue in this study.

#### **5. Discussion**

United States and China compete to support in international. China and the US compete to support international trade. However, China has a Chinese dream, where the Chinese Dream has the same ideas as Make America Great Again. Make America Great Again was initiated by Trump since he was elected president of United States. The United States has the same ambitions as the Chinese Dream (Napang, Nurhasanah, & Rohman, 2019). However, China is now the de facto leader of globalization and appreciation of the recent enthusiasm for free trade and multilateral diplomacy can say that they do not intend to retreat from such circumstances (Retanan, 2018). Because of that fact globalization has become a key factor in enabling China in its efforts to recover as a great power. And furthermore, it has become a core attribute of

the status of China's main power (Retanan, 2018). Therefore globalization is the source of China's material and ideational strength, and therefore it will never and cannot reverse it again.

The protectionist policy of the United States has indirectly described the attitude of the United States of America in the era of Donald Trump towards US free trade transactions. Seeing this, President Donald Trump implemented a protectionism policy to hinder the implementation of the Chinese Dream. The protectionist policy carried out by Donald Trump is based on the focus of Donald Trump's election campaign on trade transactions that Trump considers to be bad trading and causes weakness in the manufacturing industry and the fate of US workers (Schneider-Petsinger, 2017).

Trump also claims that China has to violate workers' rights to maintain low labor costs, and fail to fulfill the *World Trade Organization (WTO)* commitments (Hughes, 2005). In this case, the growth of imports from China has eliminated 2.4 million jobs in the United States, or about 985,000 of the American people should lose their jobs in manufacturing from 2000 to 2010 (Schneider-Petsinger, 2017). Seeing this, the United States via Trump was started since the presidential campaign had wanted to impose a protectionist policy by increasing the high import tariff on Chinese exports. Through protectionist policies, Trump promised to restore the US economy to 4% growth and Trump also promised to create 25 million new jobs over the next decade (Schneider-Petsinger, 2017).

Protectionist policies carried out by increasing import tariffs have become one of the efforts to realize the slogan "*Make America Great Again*" (Torre, 2017). This was confirmed by a statement from Mc Gwire in his article which said that during Donald Trump's reign, Trump hopes to "*bring back American jobs*" through a series of strategic trade protectionist policies, among others: *First*, the withdrawal of US involvement in *Trans-Pacific Partnersip (TPP)*. *Second*, renegotiate free trade agreements with North American countries namely NAFTA. *Third*, the application of high tariffs on imported goods from China. *Fourth*, the United States plans to withdraw from the world trade organization or WTO which is the result of the initiation of the United States.

With protectionist policy, Trump hopes to contribute to improving employment and income for the domestic United States. Not only that, the protectionist policies of the United States are also due to the emergence of China as a *New Emerging Power country* in the global economy and the Chinese slogan echoed by President Xi Jinping namely "*Chinese Dream*" and "*Made in China 202 5*", which is where the slogan indicates the dream of China to carry out massive modernization and become a big economy (Torre, 2017).

Seeing this, it can be seen if in this case the United States and China have been involved in the competition to realize their slogan through economic improvement, in which the United States carries out protectionist policies to save its economy, while China increasingly becomes a country that controls the global economy. Therefore, two countries with the largest economies in the world have been involved in trade wars with each other to save the economies of their respective countries. In other words, a trade war between the United States and China occurs because the two countries experience dependence on one another which causes conflict between the two countries because one another does not want to be harmed (Hufbauer & Woollacott, 2012) .

According to the international political economy paradigm that economic power is an important element for political power, where economic power is about achieving wealth and politics is about achieving power and both must be controlled by the state in international relations. In this case, the United States is implementing interactions between economic forces and political forces, where the United States seeks to overcome the trade deficit with the aim that the United States can achieve economic wealth. On the other hand, the United States also seeks to achieve its country's political power in international relations by inhibiting China's economic growth through its protectionist policies so that the United States can regain control of the international system .

In this case, the protectionist policy of the United States which is indeed on the one hand aimed at obstructing the Chinese economy, on the contrary can harm the domestic economy of the United States. That is because the trade deficit experienced by the United States and tried to be closed through protectionist policies will not meet with success because the policy is not going to bring back jobs in the United States. It should be communicated by Trump that the impact is far greater than the presence of sophisticated new technology in every field of work, especially in manufacturing. In other words, the understanding Trump should have as president of the United States is that protectionist policies will never bring back jobs in any field, especially in manufacturing, but instead will turn off current work in the future.

Not only that, the protectionist policies of the United States can also cause economy when the United States experiences a recession, where the United States economy will experience a decline due to declining GDP conditions and an annual growth rate of almost 1% slower for 5 years (KPMG Economic and Tax Center, 2018) . Thus, protectionist policies carried out by Donald Trump, which initially aimed to limit competition that was deemed unfair from foreign industries, were protectionist policies that would harm the United States in the long run. This is because a domestic item will not have efficiency in the quality of the goods because there is no competition with goods from abroad. Domestic goods will have an efficiency

value if there is competition from foreign goods, which in the future will indirectly increase the quality of domestic goods with the quality of foreign goods. With the same quality as foreign goods, the people will choose domestic goods. However, the condition is reversed if a country has applied protectionist policies. Domestic goods do not have the same quality as foreign goods so that foreign goods will be preferred by the public even though the price is expensive and domestic goods will decrease more.

Thus, according to one theory in the international political economy paradigm, the mercantilism theory says that the economy is seen as an arena of conflict between conflicting national interests rather than the arena of cooperation and mutual benefit. In other words, the economic competition between countries is a *zero sum game*, where gains of state at a loss for the other countries. The situation seems to be happening in the international system, where the international economy is becoming an arena of conflict for the United States and China because the two countries have conflicting national interests. In this case, between the United States and China are in a *zero sum game* situation, where the United States feels that the economic benefits obtained by China are a loss for the United States economy.

China as a victim country and the protectionist policy targets of the United States did not make the policy an obstacle to the progress of China's economy, although indeed a trade war has made China's exports to the United States decreased 73% (Guo, Liu, Sheng, & Yu, 2017). In other words, China still has a role in international trade amid the situation of trade war attacks with the United States. China saw a good chance of their protectionist policies, which China will attempt to fill the void global market economy that China will still maintain its role in international trade.

### **5.1 China's Role in International Trade Amid a Trade War with the United States**

China has two roles in international trade amid during in trade war attacks with the United States, among others: *First*, China seeks to take advantage of the vacant role of the United States to cover losses due to the imposition of high import tariffs on the United States. *Second*, China is trying to provide a way for other countries, especially developing countries, to suffer losses due to US protectionist policies.

These two roles were then implemented by China through a counter-policy towards the United States and several some many strengthening cooperation with several some many countries, including: *First*, the rate of import of Chinese counterparts towards US products. *Second*, strengthening of China's trade cooperation with Japan, where Japan is an ally of the United States which in this case also experienced trade wars with the United States. *Third*, strengthening China's trade cooperation with ASEAN and Asia-Pacific countries, where the United States has withdrawn from the TPP and that means there is a vacuum in the Asia-Pacific region so that China seeks to fill the vacancy in the Asia-Pacific region. *Fourth*, strengthening

of cooperation of China's trade with Russia, which is where China and Russia will strengthen the FTAAP as a substitute for the creation of TPP.

Based on this, it can be seen if the trade war between the United States and China has provided benefits for China to be able to more easily and freely spread its economic influence throughout the country and region. Whereas the main objective of the protectionist policy that causes trade blows between the United States and China is that America wants to hamper China's economic trade (Forsby, 2016). The advantage gained by China amid during in trade war attacks with the United States is that it increasingly opens up opportunities for sources of export destinations other than the United States, such as Japan, Russia, and ASEAN member countries and in the Asia Pacific region.

### **5.1.1 The Application of Tariffs for Import Replies to US Products**

In this case, China announced a reciprocal import tariff for US products of US \$ 60bn or 25% including aircraft and coffee (Partington, 2018). The implementation of tariff replies was carried out by China because China considered that this trade war would be detrimental to the United States because China's exports to the United States had a smaller value on the value of US exports to China. China's exports to the United States amounted to US \$ 130bn, while US exports to China reached more than US \$ 500bn (Partington, 2018).

The implementation of counter-import tariffs was carried out by China because China tried to save China's trade interests and also to keep the circulation of free trade. According to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that countermeasures from China were solely to maintain free trade (Hidayat, 2018). In other words, China seeks to remain an important role in international trade amid during in trade war attacks with the United States. Also besides, China's move is also due to considering the interests of the Chinese community and indeed China adheres to WTO rules (Hidayat, 2018).

Seeing this, the role of the international political economy in the trade war between the United States and China is seen. In this case, China seeks to protect economic and political interests, in which China's economic interests are trying to minimize losses from the high import tariffs of the United States so that China also imposes the same tariff or called *Tit for Tat*. China also protects its political interests, namely to become the largest economy in the international world by realizing *Made in China 2025*.

### **5.1.2 China Trade Cooperation with Japan**

In this case, President Donald Trump will continue to make the trade deficit in the United States a reason to protect the US domestic market. Japan, the target of the United States trade war after China, the European Union, Canada and Mexico (CNN Indonesia, 2018). According to Assistant Editor of *The Wall*

*Street Journal* editorial, James Freeman said that Trump was disturbed by the performance of trade between the United States and Japan. Negotiations regarding the Japanese automotive industry are still the main topic in the long relationship between trade negotiations between the United States and Japan. United States concerns about Japanese companies that will dominate the car and semi-conductor industry have made relations between the two countries unstable. Even though Japan has become the number one foreign market for the United States, while, the United States is Japan's biggest trading partner (Shank, 2018). Japanese companies such as *Sony* and *Panasonic* have started buying *chips* from US semi-conductors (Shank, 2018).

Seeing this, President Donald Trump threatened to impose high tariffs on imports from Japan. This is done by Trump, of course, to overcome the trade deficit in the automotive sector with Japan (CNN Indonesia, 2018). In this case, the United States alarmed by the automotive products of Japan into the United States has threatened the industry nationwide the United States and United Series is also trying to get away themselves from dependence on imported goods that fundamentally threatens the ability of the domestic industry, United States (Ventura, 2018). To deal with the threat, through Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that Japan wants to further strengthen Japan's trade relations with China. This was marked by Shinzo Abe's visit to China in October 2018 yesterday and Abe will also invite Chinese President Xi Jinping to Japan (CNN Indonesia, 2018). In other words, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping are committed to re-strengthening relations between the two countries and discussing closer trade cooperation to face an alarming regional and global economic situation amid during in a trade war situation between the United States and China (CNBC Indonesia, 2018). Japan and the United States are always seen together, both in economic and political matters, but seeing Japan as a target for the United States trade war, China feels that the situation is very supportive because China has the opportunity to approach Japan and can jointly face trade war situation with the United States.

China and Japan will work together on the *Belt and Road* or *New Silk Road* project initiated by Xi Jinping in 2013. The *Belt and Road Initiative* will later build a Modern Silk Road network that connects China by sea to Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and the European Union (Koran Sindo, 2018). By strengthening trade cooperation through the construction of *Belt and Road*, China and Japan in particular will continue to have a role and international trade because the *Belt and Road Initiative* will become a place to accommodate and expand the capacity of Chinese products and domestic purchasing power so that later the two countries will continue to expand the economy to all regions of the world.

### **5.1.3 The Trade Cooperation of China with ASEAN Countries and Asia-Pacific**

Associated with the protectionist policies of the United States indirectly threaten the continuity of global trade and the liberal financial environment that has been formed as the fundamental foundation of relations between the United States and ASEAN (Lianto, 2018). For ASEAN countries, the protectionist policies of the United States will hamper deeper trade integration with the United States because the United States is also the strongest trading partner for ASEAN countries. Not only that, the withdrawal of the United States from the TPP is also part of the protectionist policies of the United States. Though the TPP used to be carried out and negotiated for a long time by the United States government before Trump. TPP is considered as the economic foundation of Barack Obama's *rebalance strategy* and is the power of Asia and the second largest economy in the world (The Straits Times, 2017). Seeing this, the role of a vacancy occurs United States in the area of the countries of ASEAN and Asia-Pacific. Therefore, China seeks to take the opportunity to fill the role of international trade in ASEAN and Asia Pacific countries.

In this regard, China seeks to strengthen trade cooperation with ASEAN countries and the Asia Pacific through strengthening the formation of the *Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)* and the *Free Trade Area Asia Pacific (FTAAP)*. RCEP involves 10 members of ASEAN countries plus regional trade partners such as Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and India (The Straits Times, 2017). Since uncertainty about the fate of the TPP, RCEP has new hopes to fill the vacancy in the United States. RCEP has an arrangement to cut tariffs to protect local authorities. Meanwhile, FTAAP has a long-term goal of connecting China's economy to the Asia-Pacific region and China implementing it through RCEP (The Straits Times, 2017). In other words, the withdrawal of the United States from the TPP made China use FTAAP and RCEP as the main pathway towards the realization of the trans-Pacific free trade agreement.

#### **5.1.4 China's Trade Cooperation with Russia**

The increase in trade tariffs carried out by Trump has led China to seek alternative suppliers in agricultural products such as soybeans. This causes China to start importing more soybeans from Russia and invest in soybean production (Mata Mata Politik: Dunia Politik Berita, 2018). Also besides, Russian President Vladimir Putin and China President Xi Jinping have agreed to make joint efforts to encourage the process of forming the FTAAP and strengthen coordination and cooperation in APEC and other multilateral mechanisms (Sheng, 2016). Not only that, according to President Xi Jinping said that there was a change deep and complicated that is happening internationally, where political power, a unilateral approach, and protectionism are increasingly echoed. Therefore, Xi Jinping said that China and Russia must

strengthen cooperation by investing in the energy sector, agricultural projects, tourism, infrastructure, and education.

Xi Jinping also said that China is very open to international cooperation and wants to learn about other opportunities with other countries amid protectionist policies (Natalia, 2018) . The two countries are also trying to push trade in Chinese and Russian local currencies amid US protectionist policies (Natalia, 2018). In other words, the protectionist policies of the United States indirectly function to accelerate and deepen the strengthening of trade relations between China and Russia. China and Russia will further enhance trade cooperation amid a trade war attack.

Based on this, it can be seen if the two roles of China in international trade are to take advantage of the vacant role of the United States to cover losses due to high US import tariffs and provide a way for other countries to suffer losses due to US protectionist policies implemented through one application of tariffs for counter-import from China to US products and three strengthening of China's trade cooperation with Japan, ASEAN and Asia Pacific, and Russia is China's effort to deal with situations of trade war attacks.

In the international political economy paradigm, there are two different forms of efforts to overcome economic competition, namely the endeavor to maintain national economic interests and aggressive efforts to exploit the international economy through expansionary policies. In this case, China made two forms of these efforts. Implementation of China's import tariff reply towards United States and strengthening trade cooperation with Japan, Russia, and the countries of ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific is an efforts to survive amid a trade war attack with the United States with the aim of maintaining China's national economic interests. This enduring effort does not hurt harmother countries. Then, strengthening trade cooperation with Japan, Russia, ASEAN countries and Asia Pacific is also a form of aggressive effort in which China seeks to exploit the international economy through trade policy expansion into these countries.

Thus, through these two forms of power, China's role in international trade did not decline amid the trade war attacks with the United States. Also besides, through these two forms of efforts China is trying to take over international trade which is experiencing turmoil because the United States as an initiator state firmly applies protectionist policies. Not only that, China is doing the role of the jug a indirectly implement international political economy, where China is trying to make its economy by expanding and on the other hand China also aims to strengthen political by encouraging Japan and Russia.

Japan, which is an ally of the United States and Russia, is a country that has tidal relations with the United States. In this respect, China is at once embrace allies and enemies of the United States coincide in the middle attack a trade war with the United States. The two countries have become key for China to reach

political support in the middle attack a trade war with the United States that China does not feel alone in the face of the economic situation is volatile. In other words, China's economic activity amid during in a trade war attack with the United States will indirectly improve the Chinese economy, If the economy increases, it will refer to an increase in China's political power.

If the role of China is to strengthen trade cooperation with several some many countries such as Japan, Russia, and ASEAN and Asia Pacific countries which are then linked to *comparative advantage theory*, then this form of effort is carried out by China because China has a *comparative advantage*. In this case, China can produce an item at a lower cost than other countries. In that sense, goods from China have a low cost to be imported by other countries. To that end, China has carried out several some many strengthening trade cooperation with several some many these countries to offer Chinese goods that are low cost to be imported by these countries, and this is also a form of effort to divert goods that should be exported to the United States. , but because the United States sets high tariffs for Chinese goods, then China must have a *second plan* to distribute its goods. So that China's economy amid during in a trade war attack did not decline significantly.

## 6. Conclusion

Based on the explanation above which was elaborated with the paradigm of international political economy, mercantilism theory, and *comparative advantage theory*, it can be concluded that there are two Chinese roles in international trade amid during in trade war attacks with the United States. *First*, China seeks to take a good opportunity on the vacant role of the United States to cover losses due to high US tariffs. *Second*, China seeks to provide a way for countries to lose out to US protectionist policies. Both of these roles are implemented through use tariff retaliation from China towards products the United States and strengthening of trade cooperation with Japan, Russia and ASEAN and Asia-Pacific member countries. In other words, China's role in international trade amid trade war attacks with the United States did not decline significantly and this is evident from the existence of these two Chinese roles. The implementation is carried out by China because China still has a *comparative advantage* as a *bargaining position* to strengthen trade cooperation. Thus, China's role in international trade did not decline significantly amid the United States attacks on trade wars because China tried to divert its trade routes to other countries.

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