

# An isolationist America will be bad for the world

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Donald Trump at Aston, PA September 13th, by Michael Vadon, under a [CC-BY-2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/) licence

Many things have been said during this presidential campaign and many talked about the bad things we should expect from each candidate, especially Donald Trump. But I will talk about economics – just one thing that was pushed hard by Trump: trade.

America is a big country, the biggest economy in the world and technologically the most advanced. Many countries, including the UK and Europe benefit a lot from the openness that America has espoused in recent decades. America benefits too. The Obama administration has pushed through trade agreements with nations well beyond its borders. Agreements with nations on the other side of the oceans are actively being negotiated. If these come to fruition they will be good for everyone. Especially for Asia, but for us too.

Trump rubbished them as “American job destroyers” and promised to block them. Clinton expressed serious reservations too. Of course, they were both trying to win the votes of the workers who lose their jobs when foreign countries can produce more cheaply the same things that they do. The right response would have been “it’s good for us and we will make sure the workers who lose their jobs will get help from the government to find better jobs”.

But it was not. Instead it was, “keep the foreigners out to protect American jobs”. A more enlightened president, John F Kennedy, once said, a country that has the intelligence to discover technologies that destroy jobs also has the intelligence to find new jobs for its workers. But not the candidates in this election. An isolationist America will be bad for the world. Europe has to impress on the Americans that as the world technological leader it can benefit enormously from free international trade and it can make the rest of the world a better place to live in.

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Notes:

- *This post gives the views of the authors, not the position of LSE Business Review or the London School of Economics.*

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