

News and Views 25

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Issue #13 - "But NOT Russia"

Topic - Trump's crazy tariff plan

(Don't miss "When a day equals a year" at the end of this letter.)

Well, Trump kept his promise. He warned us that he would enact tariffs on every country in order to make "America Great Again". Yesterday he waved several charts listing all the countries who are included in the tariffs, showing the amount the countries "charge tariffs" to the US and the amount we will charge them.

There are just a few problems with the process he used.

- The number he showed the other countries are charging us does NOT reflect a tariff charge. But instead represents the percent of trade differential between the two countries divided in half. *(See News quotes below.)*
- There are a number of countries that not only do not charge a tariff, but in fact have no or minimal trade with the US. [Watch Maddow on YouTube](#)

Country	Population	Tariff
Tokelau Island - South pacific	1,500	10%
Kelling Island - Indian ocean	593	10%
Jan Mayen island - Arctic ocean	0	10%
Heard / McDonald island - Antarctica ocea	0	10%
Falkland islands - south Atlantic ocean	3,200	41%

(Note - evidently Trump included these islands so that countries would not ship to them first, reship to US and avoid a tariff.)

Trump appears to have forgotten to include one notable country to the new tariffs
- RUSSIA

- Population 146,119,928
- US exports to Russia in 2024 were \$526 Million
- Russia exports to US in 2024 were \$3 Billion
- Trade difference \$2,474,000,000 - divided by 2 = \$1,237 billion
- Tariff 0%

(Note - Trump stated that the reason no new tariff is imposed on Russia is that it is already subject to significant sanctions. Mexico and Canada already have 25% tariffs.)

In the News

Sara Dorn, Forbes Staff - 4/4/25

Trump's Tariff Formula Slammed As 'Fake' And 'Incredibly Stupid' By Experts

"Trump, debuting rates including 54% for China, 20% for the European Union and 26% for India, said the figures were based on "the combined rate of all their tariffs, non-monetary barriers and other forms of cheating" that was then divided in half because Trump wanted to be "kind."

"China, for example, had a trade surplus of \$295 billion with the U.S. last year, with \$438 billion worth of goods exported to the U.S.—\$295 billion divided by \$438 billion is equal to 67%, and divided in half equals the 34% tariff rate Trump debuted Wednesday." [Read more](#)

AP - 4/3/25

Trump's tariffs aren't strictly reciprocal. Here's how he calculated them.

"The Trump administration has declared an "economic emergency" to bypass Congress and impose a 10% tariff on nearly all countries and territories. It has set even higher levies for about 60 nations that it says are the "worst" offenders."

[Read more](#)

When a Day equals a Year

The Economic Emergency referred to in the above article resulted in an interesting move by Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House.

Basically, Johnson simply declared that "The rest of this year will be considered to be "ONE DAY". Read the following article to see the significance of that move.

Hunter Savery and Daniel Hillburn - March 18, 2025

"The National Emergencies Act requires committees to report a bill to terminate a national emergency within 15 calendar days after its introduction and referral, and a floor vote on passage must occur three days later. But, if the calendar day never turns over, emergency termination measures can be left to die in committees unless brought to the floor under a special rule or discharge petition."

"It's a way for minority members to force a vote in the House, for example, if they don't like tariffs, they could put everybody, every Republican, on the record about Trump's tariffs," said Josh Huder, senior fellow at Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute.

"Now, if you're in the majority and you don't want to vote against Trump tariffs because you think it's politically unpalatable to do so, to look like you're on the opposite side of the president, then you put this sort of thing in which basically negates the privilege purposes of the National Emergencies Act," he said." [Read more](#)

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