

China Warns American Tariffs Are Opening Fire on the Entire World, and Itself

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China: Commerce official Gao Feng said that US measures are essentially attacking global supply and value chains and that China will not bow down to threats and blackmail. US Customs and Border Protection officials are due to collect 25% duties on a range of products including motor vehicles, computer disk drives, parts of pumps, valves and printers and many other industrial components. China has threatened to retaliate with tariffs on hundreds of US goods, including agricultural products from states that backed Trump in the 2016 election, in a strategy to turn his base against him.

China's Commerce Ministry warned on Thursday that new American tariffs amount to the United States "opening fire on the entire world, including itself" in a trade war.

"U.S. measures are essentially attacking global supply and value chains. To put it simply, the U.S. is opening fire on the entire world, including itself," Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng said.

"China will not bow down in the face of threats and blackmail and will not falter from its determination to defend free trade and the multilateral system," he added.

Reuters [reviews](#) the measures due to take effect on Friday:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials are due to collect 25 percent duties on a range of products including motor vehicles, computer disk drives, parts of pumps, valves and printers and many other industrial components.

The list avoids direct tariffs on consumer goods such as cellphones and footwear. But some products, including thermostats, are lumped into intermediate and capital goods categories.

China has threatened to respond with tariffs on hundreds of U.S. goods, including top exports such as soybeans, sorghum and cotton, threatening U.S farmers in states that backed Trump in the 2016 U.S. election, such as Texas and Iowa.

"An American chemical company has been rushing its shipments to China to beat the clock. A Beijing steakhouse has dropped U.S. beef from its menu. And China has been shifting soybean purchases to Brazil, from which it bought nearly 30% more beans in May than it had a year earlier, according to research firm CEIC," the *Wall Street Journal* **adds**, noting that Chinese importers have "mostly stopped buying U.S. soybeans."

Bloomberg News **reported** on Wednesday there was "little sign of a last-minute deal" to avert tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese goods, making investors nervous about a crossfire of retaliatory measures between the U.S. and China. If the dispute escalates as predicted, it could ultimately affect half a trillion dollars in Chinese products, combined with a presumably comparable value of American goods sanctioned by China.

"The dispute is expected to ripple through global supply chains, raise costs for businesses and consumers and roil global stock markets, which have been volatile in anticipation of a prolonged trade fight between the United States and almost everyone else," the *New York Times* **wrote** on Thursday.

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