GLOBAL TRADE FIGHTS

Trade wars manifested through tariffs, quotas, and retaliatory measures have re-emerged as prominent features of the global economy. Globalisation has magnified their effects: when economies are tightly interdependent, disputes over steel, aircraft subsidies, or digital services quickly spill across borders and disrupt global markets. The US-China trade war, for example, reshaped technology flows and forced firms to relocate production, while the US-EU disputes over Boeing and Airbus or steel tariffs show that even advanced economies fight to protect strategic industries. These conflicts demonstrate that globalisation is not a smooth process but one marked by contestation and power struggles.

Within the Great Globalisation Debate, trade wars provide evidence for all three positions. *Hyper-globalists* might argue that disputes are temporary setbacks in an otherwise unstoppable march toward integration. *Sceptics* highlight them as proof that nation-states remain the decisive actors, undermining the idea of a borderless world. *Transformationalists* interpret trade wars as forces that reshape but do not reverse globalisation, pushing firms and institutions to adapt. At the firm level, this translates into uncertainty: companies must reconfigure supply chains, diversify markets, and adapt strategies not only to economic opportunities but also to political risks. For students of the Globalisation of Business, trade wars are thus essential case studies, they illuminate the tension between global economic interdependence and national political sovereignty, the very core of the globalisation debate.

1. **Are Trump's tariffs causing the US to collapse from within? | Four Corners Documentary**
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmClr-GkH7E

2. **Trade Wars: A Look at the Smoot-Hawley Tariff**
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4CvLu8HA7I&t=250s

3. **Content | Slides & Notes**
   https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Lxd-DxIlA0pM07X--oeghRMCcTMNce9m?usp=sharing