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The imposition of additional tariffs on Chinese products by the United States has sparked an ongoing debate since their introduction in July 2018. Supporters argue that these tariffs protect domestic industries and address trade imbalances, while critics raise concerns about their impact on consumers, global economic stability, and business relationships. This essay aims to delve deeper into the topic, analyzing the economic, social, and diplomatic implications of the tariffs, and considering whether the United States should continue with them.

One of the primary arguments in favor of maintaining additional tariffs on Chinese products is the protection of domestic industries and jobs from being outsourced internationally. Proponents argue that these tariffs level the playing field by making imported Chinese goods more expensive, reducing competition for American businesses. Furthermore, they contend that the tariffs provide leverage in trade negotiations, compelling China to address issues like intellectual property theft and unfair trade practices.

The tariffs are expected to shield and stimulate certain sectors of the US economy. Domestic industries that directly compete with Chinese imports may experience a boost, as their products become more price competitive. This could lead to increased production, job creation, and potential technological advancements inside the United States. Proponents argue that by protecting domestic industries, the tariffs contribute to long-term economic growth and innovation. However, critics point out that the tariffs can have adverse effects on the U.S. economy. Firstly, they increase costs for American consumers who rely on imported Chinese goods. This can disproportionately impact lower-income households who spend a larger portion of their income on consumer goods. The increased prices can strain household budgets and reduce purchasing power, potentially leading to a decline in overall consumer spending. Moreover, the tariffs may disrupt global supply chains, affecting industries that rely on Chinese

imports for raw materials or components. According to the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, more than 60% of imports are used by manufacturers in the U.S. in domestic production (“Pros and Cons of U.S. Tariffs in China”). Higher production costs can lead to reduced competitiveness and potential job losses in these sectors. Additionally, as China retaliates with its own tariffs, US exporters, particularly in the agricultural sector, face challenges and potential losses in Chinese market, which is one of the largest consumer markets in the world.

The imposition of additional tariffs can have varying effects on American and Chinese businesses. Some industries may benefit from the tariffs, as domestic competitors to Chinese imports could see increased demand and improved market conditions. This can create opportunities for expansion, job creation, and investment in those sectors. However, other industries that rely on Chinese imports or have significant exports to China may face challenges. For industries dependent on Chinese raw materials or components, additional tariffs can be detrimental to their business. Moreover, businesses with established supply chains and partnerships in China may face disruptions or increased costs due to the tariffs. Such impacts can force companies to adapt their strategies, including seeking alternative suppliers or adjusting their production processes. Many manufacturers and businesses in China that export goods to the U.S. have considered relocating because of the increased costs. There is also an argument to be made that these tariffs are contributing to the record-high inflation that has been recorded over the past year, which is one of the main reasons that the Biden administration considered dropping the tariffs (“Biden Tariffs & Trade Agenda”).

The imposition of tariffs on Chinese products has strained diplomatic relations between the United States and China. Critics argue that escalating tensions could lead to a trade war with far-reaching consequences for global economic stability. The retaliatory measures taken by China have targeted American agricultural products, impacting U.S. farmers and exporters. The resulting trade tensions have the potential to dampen global economic growth and disrupt supply chains that span across multiple countries. On the other hand, proponents of tariffs assert that they are a necessary means to address long-standing trade imbalances and promote fair competition. They contend that a tougher stance towards China's trade practices is essential for protecting American interests and ensuring a level playing field in global trade. Furthermore, some argue that by pressuring China to reform its trade policies, the tariffs can potentially result in a more equitable and balanced global trading system. To mitigate the negative impacts on global stability, it is crucial for the United States to balance its trade objectives with diplomatic efforts. Engaging in constructive negotiations and dialogue, negotiating comprehensive trade agreements, and addressing concerns through multilateral channels can foster more stable trade relations. By pursuing a strategic approach that combines tariffs with diplomatic negotiations, the United States can work towards a more sustainable trade framework that benefits all parties involved.

To determine the best course of action regarding the additional tariffs, policymakers must consider various factors. This includes evaluating the effectiveness of the tariffs in achieving their intended objectives, assessing the overall economic impact on consumers and businesses, and weighing the long-term consequences for trade relations and global stability. An alternative approach could involve engaging in diplomatic negotiations and working towards comprehensive trade agreements that address the concerns raised by the tariffs. This would require a

multifaceted approach, including addressing intellectual property rights, market access barriers, and subsidy practices. By pursuing a diplomatic resolution, the United States can foster a more constructive and stable trade relationship with China.

The question of whether the United States should continue with additional tariffs on Chinese products is a complex and multifaceted issue. It requires careful consideration of the economic impacts, consumer costs, trade relations, and business adaptability. Policymakers must balance the benefits of protecting domestic industries and addressing trade imbalances against potential adverse effects on consumers, global stability, and business relationships. Evaluating alternative approaches, such as diplomatic negotiations, can lead to a more comprehensive and sustainable resolution. As it stands, I believe these additional tariffs should remain in place until a more sustainable solution is negotiated between the U.S. and China. It is currently the best response to China's actions regarding its trading practices that results in the least damage to diplomatic relations and the U.S. economy. As mentioned previously, protecting U.S. industries and the economy while also addressing trade imbalances and international relations is a delicate balancing act that requires defensive action and careful negotiation that aim to benefit consumers and U.S. industries in the long run.

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References

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