



Written by [Christian Gomez](#) on September 16, 2019

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New Trade Deal, Same as the Old One

“The TPP is a horrible deal. It is a deal that is going to lead to nothing but trouble.” —

Donald Trump

November 10, 2015

If you agree with President Trump that the TPP was a horrible deal, then you should also oppose the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), because it’s just another glob-alist integration scheme.



According to a study conducted by researchers from the University of Ottawa, 57 percent of the text of the USMCA is copied from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Ironically, one of Trump’s first official acts as president was signing an executive order to terminate U.S. participation in the TPP. The study, entitled “How much of the Transpacific Partnership is in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement?” was published on June 26, 2019. It has since received little attention from the media, mentioned only as a blurb in *Politico’s* “Morning Trade” in August.

Comparing the USMCA to existing free trade agreements, researchers found: “The USMCA closely tracks the structure and text of the TPP. 29 out of 30 TPP chapters have equivalents in the USMCA and 72 percent of the articles in the matched USMCA chapters are found in both agreements.” In other words, not only are many of the chapter titles identical, but so are the various articles and clauses contained in them. “Furthermore, when looked at in the context of all U.S. trade agreements, the USMCA and TPP, based on their textual similarity, appear as belonging to the same generation of treaties. In other words, the USMCA, contrary to Trump’s rhetoric, does not mark a fundamental rupture in U.S. practice and has more in common with the TPP than not,” the study stated.

Using a computerized model, researchers compared the text of the USMCA with the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) recently created database of 449 trade agreements, known as the ToTA Corpus (which stands for Text of Trade Agreements). The top 10 results for trade agreements most resembling the USMCA were all U.S. free trade agreements from the last 25 years, with the TPP scoring the highest similarity at 57 percent, followed by the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, and the KORUS FTA (United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement), each being 43 percent similar.

A high-level textual analysis of the USMCA revealed that it “continues rather than breaks with existing practice,” according to the study. This runs in stark contrast to claims by both Secretary of Commerce



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Wilbur Ross and U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer that the USMCA represents a “new paradigm shift” in the way the United States will conduct future trade agreements.

The study further highlighted that “features in the USMCA ... align more comfortably with pre-Trump U.S. policies and ultimately the ‘Establishment Narrative,’” a term coined by Nicolas Lamp, a former dispute settlement lawyer at the Appellate Body Secretariat of the WTO. “Lamp identifies an ‘Establishment Narrative,’ which dominates trade textbooks and — until recently — most trade policymaking,” the study stated. This “Establishment Narrative,” as both Lamp and the study call it, is essentially the globalists’ trade agenda for forging integrated regional blocs and ultimately a one-world government via economic liberalization and “free trade agreements.”

Despite all of Trump’s anti-globalism, pro-“Americanism” rhetoric, his premier trade agreement — the USMCA — for the most part does not deviate from the “Establishment Narrative” that has come to define U.S. and globalist trade policy.

Former Obama-era high-ranking officials have also noted the striking similarity between the TPP and the USMCA. On September 30, 2018, the same day that the initial draft of the USMCA was released, former Obama-era U.S. Ambassador to Canada Bruce Heyman appeared on CNBC’s *Squawk Box*, praising the USMCA. Heyman said, “It’s obviously welcome news. This is welcome news for North America; it’s welcome news for the markets obviously this morning.”

The night the text of the USMCA was released on the USTR website, Heyman reviewed various portions and chapters of the agreement, only to discover that they were identical to those in the TPP. “[From] some of the reads I got over night, two-thirds of this agreement is essentially going back to TPP,” Heyman explained.

If Trump believed that the TPP was as bad as he said it was, then it should be clear, even to him if he’s personally willing to compare the two, that the USMCA would likewise be a disaster, and he should therefore take immediate action to terminate it as well. Also, Trump should consider following through on a previous ultimatum to withdraw from NAFTA and thus not be entangled in a permanent economic integration scheme with Canada and Mexico. Those concerned about the USMCA should not optimistically wait on the president alone to recognize the impending disaster. Pressure should be placed on Congress and Trump to reject both ratification and implementation of the agreement.

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