

# Trump, Trade, and the Fed

Such statements horrify traditional Republicans. “Hearing this demagogue talk about a 45 percent tariff on Chinese imports is arrogantly insane, a clear path to the results of the old Smoot-Hawley Tariff of the ‘30s — which made sure the Depression lasted for a decade,” said Bill Brock, a former Republican National Committee chairman and U.S. trade representative.



Written by [Charles Scaliger](#) on February 24, 2016

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In other words, Donald Trump wants no part of the TPP, wants to get the United States out of NAFTA, and wants to begin levying (shudder!) tariffs, those bugbears of free traders that the American Founders intended be the principal source of revenue for the federal government. These are positions that ought to warm the heart of any principled constitutionalist and opponent of global government. It is doubtful that Trump is supporting such positions out of fealty to the Founding Fathers; he is much more a pragmatist than a constitutionalist. But regardless of motive, he is shining the light of public scrutiny on the extremely secretive TPP and on the baneful effects of our 20-year membership in NAFTA, and for that he deserves kudos.

And Trump isn't only making trade a front-burner issue. Taking a page out of Ron Paul's playbook, The Donald has begun calling for an audit of the Federal Reserve. On February 22, he tweeted: "It is so important to audit the Federal Reserve, and yet Ted Cruz missed the vote on the bill that would allow this to be done." In an [interview with Alex Jones](#), Trump campaign insider Roger Stone said of Trump:

He's not a big fan of the Fed. He is scaring the central bankers; he is scaring the Washington/Wall Street/D.C. consultant/lobbyist class. He's deeply suspicious of the Fed and I think he is open-minded about the Fed.... I'd suspect you'd get an audit of the Fed [with Trump].

We do not expect Donald Trump to become a full-fledged acolyte of Ron Paul anytime soon, but at this point, he is the only presidential candidate to even pay lip service to auditing the Fed or scaling back American participation in international trade bureaucracies. Should he be elected president, we hope that his words are prelude to actions.



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