



If you would like to share news or information with our readers, please send the unique stories, business

news organization events, and school news to us including your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

For news and information consideration, please send to [News@scdaily.com](mailto:News@scdaily.com) or contact  
John Robbins **832-280-5815**  
Jun Gai **281-498-4310**

TICKETS FOR NEWLY ANNOUNCED SHOWS ON SALE BEGINNING TUESDAY, MAY 1

# DAILY

*Southern* Make Today Different

Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

**Publisher:** Wea H. Lee  
**General Manager:** Catherine Lee  
**Editor:** John Robbins, Jun Gai  
**Business Manager:** Jennifer Lopez  
**Address:** 11122 Bellaire Blvd., Houston, TX 77072  
**E-mail:** [News@scdaily.com](mailto:News@scdaily.com)



Inside C2

Friday, May 4, 2018 | [www.today-america.com](http://www.today-america.com) | Southern News Group

## In U.S. Gulf, robots, drones take on dangerous offshore oil work

HOUSTON (Reuters) - At BP's massive Thunder Horse oil platform in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, a dog-sized robot called Maggie uses magnetic tracks to creep along pipes connecting the giant oil facility to the sea floor.

Before MaggHD, dubbed "Maggie" by BP, the dangerous inspection job was reserved for highly paid specialist technicians who did their jobs while rappelling along the platform.

The energy industry has turned to robots and drones to cut costs and improve safety in some of the world's tougher working environments.

Drones inspect gear high up on floating rigs. Robots crawl underwater to test subsea equipment for microscopic metal cracks. Remotely operated mini submarines can replace divers.

Big oil producers such as BP and Statoil are racing to create the oilfields of the future, where smart devices replace workers. They have the potential to cut costs, save lives, and reduce the scope for human error.

"This is going to change the way oil and gas does business," Carri Lockhart, senior vice president of offshore at Statoil USA, said in an interview earlier this year, referring to the push towards autonomous gear and facilities.

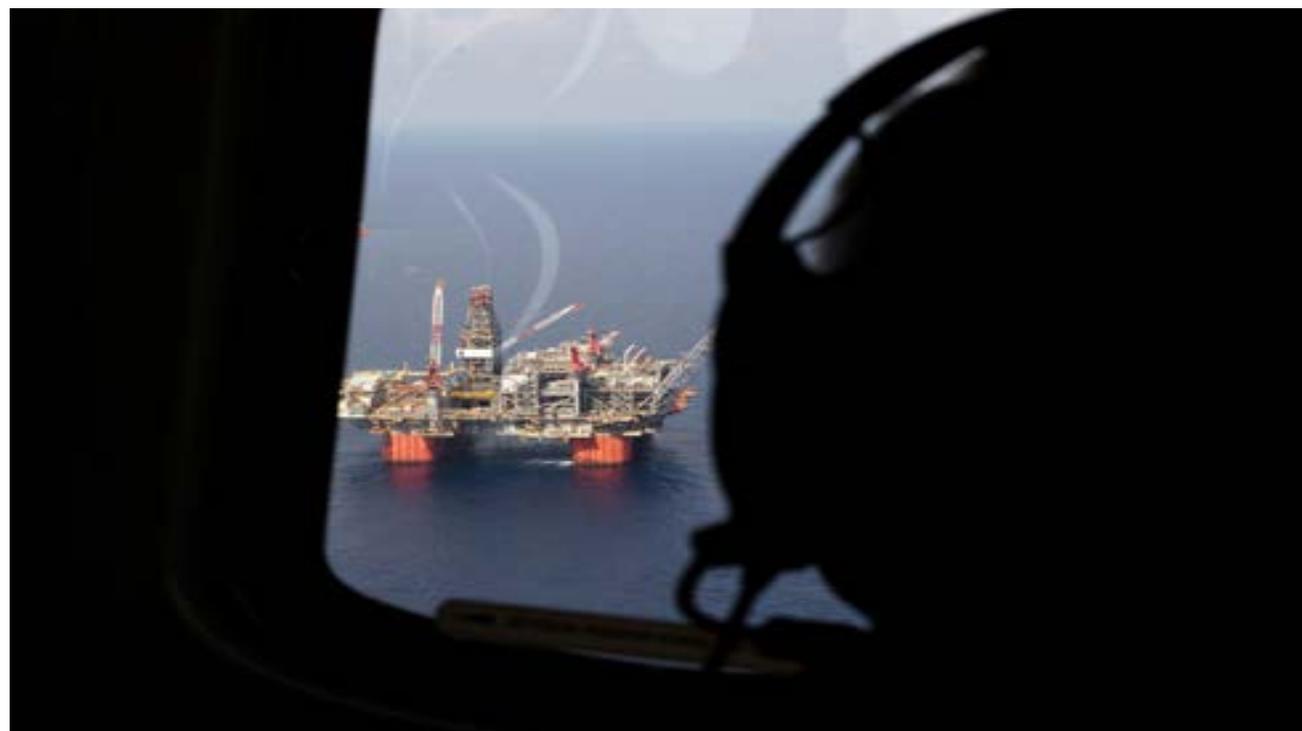
Maggie belongs to a group of devices known as magnetic crawlers, which can move across rigs, platforms, and pipelines above and below water using ultrasonic test devices and high-definition cameras. They can cost \$60,000 apiece.

BP, the largest operator in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, piloted Maggie on its Thunder Horse platform last year and expects to roll out similar crawlers across all its Gulf of Mexico platforms in coming years.

BP's 2010 Deepwater Horizon rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico, which killed 11 people and was the largest accidental release of oil into U.S. marine waters, underscored the dangers of offshore work. BP wants the robots "to remove individuals from being in unsafe environments. The efficiencies we gain by collecting data this way are significant. The safety factor is obvious," said Dave Truch, a technology director in BP's Digital Innovation Organization.

Drones and crawlers can do inspections in about half the time of rope access technicians, while placing fewer workers in harm's way, executives at BP said this week.

Other gadgets can reduce the need for shutdowns, which are sometimes necessary for safe inspection of equipment by humans. Drones can conduct inspections of flaring equipment, which burn



FILE PHOTO: Representative Steve Scalise (R-LA) views BP's Thunder Horse Oil Platform in the Gulf of Mexico, from the air, 150 miles from the Louisiana coast in this May 11, 2017 handout photo obtained by Reuters June 26, 2017. Chris Bond/Handout via REUTERS

off dangerous gases at oil and gas production facilities, without requiring a shutdown.

Those shutdowns could last anywhere from five to 20 days, said Iain Gault, a business development manager at Stork, an energy maintenance unit of Fluor Corp.

"We still can't do the physical work with a drone or crawler, but the efficiency is gained by only putting people in the field when needed," said Gault, who started his career in oil and gas as a rope access technician, rappelling along the sides of oil structures in the North Sea, nearly 30 years ago.



## LEGENDARILY IRREVERENT COMEDIAN KATHY GRIFFIN IS BACK ON THE ROAD

TICKETS FOR NEWLY ANNOUNCED SHOWS ON SALE BEGINNING TUESDAY, MAY 1

Los Angeles, CA (April 27, 2018) – After a year of national scandal and following a sold-out run of stand-up shows and rave reviews around the globe, Kathy Griffin is returning with the much-anticipated North American continuation of her “Laugh Your Head Off” World Tour. Due to popular demand Griffin is adding more shows throughout the United States. Armed with the story of the now infamous and controversial photo (yes... THAT photo), the fiery redheaded, award-winning, American comedian is bringing the story of the photo heard ‘round the world and the fallout that followed, along with breaking down everything in the pop-culture landscape from Trump to the Kardashians. Griffin tells all in this more than 2-hour no-holds-barred show in the raw, honest, and engaging way fans have always loved about her. The North American stint of the “Laugh Your Head Off” tour begins Friday, May 25th in Toronto, ON with U.S. dates produced by Live Nation.

“Donald Trump will not survive the live and hilarious indictment I will be bringing down on his orange head. Did I say head?” Griffin said. “To all of you in North America who have been sending so much love and support, now’s your chance to show it. Buy a ticket for one of these tour stops and I promise you won’t be disappointed. You’re gonna get the whole story. We will talk about THE photo that sparked a conversation around the world, how my mom Maggie still watches Fox News and thinks I might be in ISIS, and hell, I’ll even walk you through my interrogation by the feds. You’re not gonna get that story anywhere else! Oh, and did I mention that my next door neighbors during this whole ordeal are none other than Kim Kardashian-West and Kanye Kardashian-West?” Griffin continues, “My show isn’t for the faint of heart so leave your kids at home. My motto is ‘Funny First.’ But don’t worry, we’ve got some serious smack talking to do about everything and every-

one,” before adding, “with love, of course.”

Following a wildly successful run overseas including New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, the U.K., among many others, the prolific comic is ready to come home and tell her truth in the only way she can – through fearless and peerless comedy. More motivated than ever, Griffin is ready to deliver the most balls-out and frankly hilarious shows of her stellar career.

Newly announced tour dates and ticket information for the North American leg of the “LAUGH YOUR HEAD OFF” World Tour can be found below. Tickets for these recently announced dates will go on sale to the general public beginning Tuesday, May 1 at 10am local time. For more information on Kathy, visit [www.KathyGriffin.com](http://www.KathyGriffin.com).

“Every era gets the Lenny Bruce it deserves. Ours is Kathy Griffin.” - The New York Times

“Griffin’s show was defiant, fierce and viciously funny.” - The Sydney Morning Herald

“Mouthy? Yes. Vulgar? Frequently. Unforgettable? Definitely.” - London Evening Standard

New Tour Dates Added:

Sunday, June 17, 2018 Portland, OR Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

Thursday, July 19, 2018 Los Angeles, CA Dolby Theatre

Saturday, July 28, 2018\*\* San Diego, CA San Diego Civic Theatre

Wednesday, August 01, 2018 Washington D.C. The Kenne-



dy Center

Friday, August 03, 2018 Charlotte, NC Belk Theater

Saturday, August 18, 2018 Dallas, TX Winspear Opera House

Sunday, August 19, 2018 Austin, TX Bass Hall

Monday, August 20, 2018 Houston, TX Jones Hall

Wednesday, August 22, 2018 Denver, CO Ellie Caulkins Opera House

Wednesday, September 12, 2018 Miami, FL Arsht Center

Thursday, September 13, 2018 Orlando, FL Bob Carr Theater

Friday, September 21, 2018 Atlanta, GA Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

Saturday, October 06, 2018 Philadelphia, PA Merriam Theater

Thursday, October 25, 2018 Minneapolis, MN State Theatre

Friday, October 26, 2018 Detroit, MI Fisher Theatre

\*\*not produced by Live Nation

For a complete list of tour dates visit: <https://www.livenation.com/artists/78352/kathy-griffin>

Editor's Choice



Russian servicemen wash a military vehicle before the rehearsal for the Victory Day parade in central Moscow



Russian servicemen are seen onboard military vehicles before the rehearsal for the Victory Day parade in Moscow



White House counselor Kellyanne Conway chats with other guests after the National Day of Prayer ceremony at the White House in Washington, U.S., May 3, 2018. REUTERS/Leah Millis



U.S. President Donald Trump participates in the National Day of Prayer ceremony at the White House in Washington



Chairman of Inspire Medical Systems, Marilyn Carlson Nelson rings a ceremonial bell with President and CEO of Inspire Medical Systems, Tim Herbert, to celebrate their company's IPO on the floor of the NYSE in New York



Farmer displays wheat grains at field in the Beheira Governorate



FILE PHOTO: A security guard stands guard outside a branch of Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) in Paranaque city, Metro Manila



FILE PHOTO: An electric vehicle charging cable is seen on the bonnet of a Volvo hybrid car in this picture illustration



May 3, 2018; Louisville, KY, USA; An exercise rider works Kentucky Oaks entry Monomoy Girl at Churchill Downs. Mandatory Credit: Jamie Rhodes-USA TODAY Sports



Princess Dato'Sri Maria Amor Torres DK1, D.D., Princess and Home Minister of The Royal Kingdom of Sulu, Princess of The Royal House of Balo-i, recipient of DARJAH KERABAT (highest award for Royalty given to Kings, Sultans, Presidents) will visit the International Trade Center-Houston on Friday, May 4, 2018, from 6-8:00 PM. Media partners for the event include International Focus Magazine, Southern Newspaper, News&Views and Pinoy Houston TV. The dinner will be sponsored by Wheatstone Benefit Solutions.

**About Princess Dato'Sri Maria Amor Torres** Princess Dato'Sri Maria Amor Torres DK1, D.D., Princess and Home Minister of The Royal Kingdom of Sulu, Princess of The Royal House of Balo-i, recipient of DARJAH KERABAT (highest award for Royalty given to Kings, Sultans, Presidents) is the Founder and President of the We Care for Humanity, a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote universal humanitarianism and provide education, health and empowerment to the underprivileged and underserved women and children using various global novel collaboration and projects. We Care for Humanity was founded in 2009 and formalized in 2011.

Under her leadership, We Care for Humanity has initiated many innovative and important activities in extending care and help to the poor and the needy, building peace projects, strengthening international relations, promoting education and health for all, and empowering women and developing new peace and humanitarian leaders.



Dr. Maria Amor has lectured and a staple invited speaker throughout the United States and Asia on issues of peace, humanity, health and education, human trafficking and international trade. She has received many awards for her works for a more peaceful and humanitarian world, including her appointment as the Minister of Home Affairs of the Rpyal Kingdom of Sulu, (former) Secretary-Of-State of the Federation of the South Kingdoms, Global Ambassador of Goodwill by The Royal House of Baloi of HRH Dr. Datu Camad Ali, World Peace Committee Head Representative for California and International Director of Dignitary affairs by WPC President DjuyotoSuntani, Conferment of Doctor of Divinity by the Order of Hagiasmosin Indonesia. She has been interviewed on major news networks and international television and radio shows on her numerous and outstanding humanitarian and peace endeavors globally.

## The Traveling Princess: In Search Of The Greatest Humanitarians In The World

H.H. Governess Queen Maria IV H.H. Princess Maria Amor, D.D.

### HUMANITARIAN - ENTREPRENEUR - VISIONARY

Speaks At The International Trade Center - Houston Tonight

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Prior to arriving in the USA, she is a highly-recognized beauty queen, youth and women advocate and an entrepreneur in the Philippines where she was born and raised. But it was in the United States where she began honing her crafts and making big dreams turned into business opportunities when she pursued her career in Modeling and Marketing in 2005. She finished Fashion Designing & Merchandising course at Fashion Careers International in 2006.



**His Highness Sheikh Juma Al Maktoum of the Dubai ruling family awarded Princess Maria Amor the Global Champion for Peace & Security Award and Inducted in Women Hall of Fame in Dubai last Dec. 13, 2015 at the SAMEAWS 2015. Special thanks to Ms. Lamis Alkaati for the nomination and to WCH Publicity Ambassador Devani Pascual for the support and assistance. (For video coverage, go here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVRA-JVXkXr4>)**

She is now a multi-awarded and globally-recognized diplomat, philanthropist, education and health advocate, women and children's champion, community leader, artist, television host, businesswoman and most of all, a humanitarian. A book on her philanthropic and humanitarian works will soon be published on her honor. Maria Amor is a Marketing and Branding expert. A modern artist and savvy designer. Her interests include humanitarian works, film studies, book publication, culinary and entertainment skills enhancement activities. Amor has also spearheaded numerous other charitable events over the years, including the following:

- Creator/ Chairwoman, 2nd Global Officials of Dignity (GOD) Awards, United Nations, NY 2014
- International Event Organizer, World Peace Summit, 2014
- Creator/Producer, 1st GOD Awards in Academy of Television arts & Sciences, CA 2013
- Head Representative for CA USA, by the International Peace Committee, Indonesia 2013
- Invited Main Speaker, International Spices Conference in Ambon Maluku, Indonesia 2013
- Recently Invited at the USA Presidential Inauguration in Washington DC, 2013
- Creator/Producer- Miss Globe Ambassador Beauty Pageant 2012
- Producer/Coordinator- Global Independence Day- 2011
- Creator/Producer- Mr. & Ms. Perfect Creature Pageant- 2011
- Creator/Producer- Ms. Exoti-lady World Pag-

eant- 2011

- Creator/Producer- SKINNED Show, 2003
- Copyright © WE CARE FOR HUMANITY™
- All Rights Reserved



#### Related

**A morning with Team PFDA and Princess Maria Amor Torres**

**Philippines' Princess Maria Amor spends time with Bangladesh's special children**



**Filipino social activist Princess Maria Amor Torres has visited the PFDA - Vocational Training Center (PFDA-VTC) in Dhaka and spent time with the children with special needs.**

**The PFDA-Vocational Training Center is the first organisation in Bangladesh that works on capacity-building for persons with neuro-development disabilities.**

It has been almost 78 years since Austrian pediatrician Hans Asperger drew up his case histories and shaped what was then considered clinical insight, into autistic disorders. Concluding from his cases, Asperger viewed the disorder as an exclusively male phenomenon, an argument that has since been thoroughly debunked. By and large, though, Asperger's clinical picture of autism at the more able end of the spectrum still stands. The stereotypes of autism have witnessed a considerable proliferation over the past 20 years or so. Autistic people made it to the central characters of novels and movies and have been featured as subjects of biographies or autobiographies, epitomes in marital guidance books and even in the school textbooks. But little are we able to perceive the true potential and warmth from these representations or stereotypical imagery of people with autism. Before stepping into the modest red brick establishment of Parents' Forum for Differently Ables' Vocation Training Centre, an autistic person to me was just a person of average or below average intelligence, who may struggle with issues related to social interaction and communication. It took only a minute to change my perception forever, and I wasn't alone in this.

Founded in 2014, the centre is a training institute for the developmentally challenged above the age of 15 and it was the day (April 3) when the bunch of differently-abled youths were waiting for "the travelling princess," Maria

Amor Torres, to visit them in the facility.



To make the Filipino social activist's visit a welcome one, I saw some of the ardent youngsters busy decorating the stage in the ground floor of the building only to showcase their wonderfully undaunted cultural skills later in a short cultural ceremony in the honour of the Princess. The floor also houses a cozy restaurant run by none other than these spry people with special abilities.

We followed the princess, who is also the founder and president of We Care for Humanity; the honorary consulate of Chile in Bangladesh, Asif A Chowdhury; and the founding Chairman of the training Center Sajida Rahman Danny. Upstairs, we discovered a buoyant new world for the youngsters. Guided by a pool of skilled mentors, the youngsters were absorbed in mastering a wide array of life skills. In the Tie Dye Section, they learn swinging, designing, scaling and coloring clothes. They are also quite proficient in blocs, beads and ICT.

The alluring quality of the products they made did not fail to attract the princess, who eventually couldn't resist collecting her share of the curios. Astonished by their professionalism, she said that the products deserve a larger consumer attention "They are better skilled and proficient in vocational works than many of us. The designs and quality of their hand-made products are really amazing and deserves a better treatment." Calling on local actors and celebrities to join hand with the developmentally challenged youngsters, Princess Maria Amor Torres said, "I will surely put my best in promoting their wonderful creations. Local actors and celebrities can make a huge impact by promoting their products."

The VTC, which is the training centre instituted under PFDA, has previously represented Bangladesh in Hong Kong and bagged two international awards- Best visual Effects award and the Excellence Performance, at the Autistic Talent Gala 2017. As we entered the IT room, it seemed quite busy; some youths finalizing on data entry, while others gathered to finalize the greeting card they made for Pohela Baishakh.



The VTC has successfully implemented Bangladesh Skills for Employment and Productivity (B-SEP) Project

for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)' funded by ILO from 11 March 2017 till 10 March 2018 and developed a 360 hours curriculum and module on Baking and on Food Service for the special needs persons. Out of the 205 persons who completed training, 52 are now professionally placed in jobs in government institutes, 3 star hotels, chain shop outlets, coffee and pastry shops etc, while 20 persons are waiting job placements.

The organization also distributed seed money to 21 individuals to develop their own business. Agreements were signed with Shwapno Retail Shop, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) and Signature and Coffee to increase the employability and mainstreaming process of the differently able people. The VTC motivates employers to employ 2/3 special persons in a group so that they can provide emotional support and empathy for each other.

The liveliness and warmth of the youngsters touched the Princess to tears, as was evident in her concluding speech. "I have visited many special education centres in different corners of the world, including USA, Philippines and South Africa, but most of them are focused on serving these people. What makes PFDA-VTC stand out is that it went beyond service and is focused on making them self-reliant. It is in fact nurturing them to build a dignified life," she said.

Princess Torres concluded on a laudatory and optimistic note, saying, "I earnestly believe that the VTC will soon be a role model for global organizations working to ensure the rights of differently able people." And like me, the short tour to the PFDA-Vocational Training Centre "was indeed an equally inspiring and perception-changing experience" for her.



It said the princess visited the centre at Mohakhali on Tuesday along with the Honorary Consul for Chile in Bangladesh Asif A Chowdhury. Chairman of the centre Sajida Rahman Danny accompanied the princess and Asif during the visit and showed them the activities of the organisation.

The princess is also the founder and President of 'We care for Humanity' and she is currently visiting different centres of the special children in the world. The PFDA Centre is dedicated to provide learning opportunities through life and livelihood skills, promote methods to empower young adult and adult with neurological disorders so that they utilise their potentials and take part in mainstream society and in cases, obtain independence.

Part of this initiative is to ensure employment of persons with disabilities and in 2017, 63 persons have been engaged in paid employment with different companies. (News link: <https://m.bdnews24.com/en/detail/health/1479109>)

## Can The World's Two Largest Economies Agree On "Fair Trade?"

# The Looming US-China Trade War, Explained

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



A US-China trade war is on the horizon if Trump's team and Xi's team can't come to an agreement on trade reforms. (AFP/Getty Images)

President Donald Trump is sending his top economic advisers to Beijing this week for talks to avert a possible trade war with China.

US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, and other senior economic officials will meet with Chinese officials on Thursday and Friday to discuss the two countries' trade disagreements.

Among other things, the US wants China to import more American goods and to stop forcing American companies to hand over their prized intellectual property if they want to do business in China. It already looks like talks are going to be tough. Chinese officials have declared they will refuse to discuss two of the US's biggest demands, and US officials are signaling that they aren't particularly optimistic.

"I'm always hoping but not always hopeful," Lighthizer said at a US Chamber of Commerce event on Tuesday in advance of the China trip. "It's a big, big challenge. There's a very different system over there and a system that, in all honesty, has worked very well for the Chinese."

If the two countries do manage to strike a deal, it could dramatically reduce tensions between the two world's largest economies. But if they don't strike a deal, or at least make serious progress toward one, things could go south fast — perhaps even escalating into a full-on trade war.



President Trump has sent Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to Beijing for "substantive" trade discussions in the wake of tariff threats between the two countries.

What follows is a brief guide to what a trade war is and why it could be so costly for both the US and China.

### What is a trade war?

To understand what a trade war is, you first need to know what a normal trade dispute looks like.

Countries disagree with each other all the time about what counts as an unfair trade practice, clashing over policies like government subsidies for industries. There are a few different ways they handle their disagreements.

Let's say the US finds out that Country X uses gen-

erous government subsidies to make its production of tennis balls cheaper and give them an unfair price advantage over tennis balls made in the US. The US then has a few options for how to respond. Washington can take Country X to the World Trade Organization — the world's supreme court on trade — and complain about its subsidies of tennis balls. The hope would be that the WTO forces Country X to cut its subsidies or gives the US permission to use trade barriers against Country X's tennis balls.

The second option the US has is to initiate direct negotiations with Country X over its tennis ball subsidies and come to some kind of compromise agreement.

If neither of those works or seems desirable, the US could impose tariffs, or punitive border taxes, on Country X's tennis balls and say it won't let up until the tennis ball subsidies are reversed. Country X might then choose to come to the negotiating table to try to find a solution. The problem is that it could also choose to impose its own tariffs on an American export that it thinks the US handles unfairly.

Experts say that what separates a trade dispute from a trade war is the way that third situation unfolds. It's a trade dispute if the US and Country X's tariffs on each other are one-off strikes. But if the initial tit-for-tat causes further escalations, in the form of higher or more tariffs, then it becomes a trade war.

Phil Levy, who was a senior official on President George W. Bush's Council of Economic Advisers, told me that his rule of thumb for characterizing something as a trade war is that the escalation of trade barriers is "uncontrolled."



(AFP/Getty Images)

That is, when disputes veer from the conventional channels for sorting out disputes — and threaten to become the source of serious economic harm for both economies.

Are the US and China heading toward a trade war?

The US and China are already engaging in what

Monica de Bolle, a senior fellow at the generally pro-free trade Peterson Institute for International Economics, calls a "pre-trade war."

First, on April 3, Trump unveiled a list of more than 1,300 Chinese exports — which included flat-screen televisions, aircraft parts, and medical devices — that he said he plans to hit with 25 percent tariffs. The tariffs are intended to punish Beijing for restricting US investment in China and stealing American intellectual property. Combined, they would affect about \$50 billion worth of Chinese exports.

The very next day, China struck back, unveiling its own list of US exports that it plans to hit with 25 percent tariffs. The proposed package could affect more than 100 American-made products, including cars, airplanes, and soybeans — the top US agricultural export to China. Combined, they would cover about \$50 billion worth of US exports, perfectly mirroring the US tariffs.

But it didn't stop there. The day after China's announcement, Trump directed his trade team to identify tariffs on an additional \$100 billion worth of goods, clearly intending to escalate even further after seeing Beijing's readiness to match his initial tariffs.

Levy says that's the moment it switched to a potential trade war. The Trump administration's original proposal for tariffs on \$50 billion worth of Chinese exports was specifically designed to compensate the US economy for the amount of revenue it's lost due to Chinese intellectual property theft. But Trump's rationale for the additional \$100 billion seems to be pure one-upmanship.



The next day, a spokesperson for China's Ministry of Commerce said that China will fight "at any cost" and take "comprehensive countermeasures" to Trump's latest measures.

### Who would win a US-China trade war?

Trump has said he thinks trade wars are "easy to win" if the US exports less to a country than that country exports to the US. The logic is that the US has more targets to choose from to hit with tariffs or quotas (caps on the total amount of the country's exports) than the other country has.

The US's trade deficit of \$375 billion with China

— the amount by which its imports from China exceed its exports to China — is already pretty big, which means the US should have a lot more targets than China.

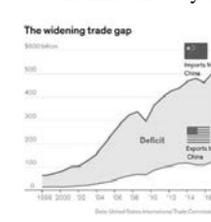
The US released a list of potential Chinese targets that covers more than 1,000 different items, but there's a focus on high-tech materials, including medical devices, machinery, aircraft parts, batteries, and flat-screen TVs. Tariffs on those products will make them more expensive and hurt the Chinese companies that manufacture them.

But experts say that Trump would be mistaken to think the US doesn't have a lot to lose.

One reason is that nearly every tariff Trump places on a Chinese export to the US doesn't just hurt China — it also hurts US producers and consumers. Trade with China saves typical American households up to \$850 a year, and that extra money gets spread across the economy and helps keep people employed in a variety of domestic industries. That could change if higher prices lead more Americans to change their buying patterns.

US businesses could also feel the sting because Trump's tariffs on machinery and high-tech components from China would almost certainly mean US manufacturers of things like aircraft and cars have to spend more than they do now.

The Trump administration hasn't said what new Chinese products could be hit by the additional \$100 billion in tariffs, but analysts say it's going to probably include a lot more essential consumer goods like cell phones, laptops, and furniture. Again, a double-edged sword — it'll deal a blow to the Chinese companies that make them and the US consumers that buy them.



China might not have as many exports to choose from, but the ones that it can hit are going to sting. Beijing is looking to hammer US agricultural exports produced in states that Trump and the GOP consider vital political strongholds. If China imposed its proposed tariffs, it would cause demand for those US exports to slump in China, and that in turn could dent profits and cause layoffs in those industries.

China's threat to put tariffs on soybeans is something the administration will take particularly seriously. China buys about a third of the US's soybean exports, making it far and away the largest importer in the world for the American crop. The biggest soybean producers in the US include Ohio, Iowa, Missouri, and Indiana — states in the heart of Trump country where neither the president nor his party wants to see economic instability or job losses during the 2018 or 2020 elections.

"The fact that Beijing put soybeans on its list is a signal that China is not going to pull any punches," Christine McDaniel, who served as senior trade economist in the George W. Bush administration, told me.

Many of China's other tariff choices are clearly politically motivated as well, like orange juice, much of which comes from the battleground state of Florida. And tariffs on corn crops could hit swing states in the Midwest like Iowa.

On top of that, experts like William Reinsch at the Stimson Center say that China could take some unconventional steps to interfere with US companies that rely on supply chains in China. Chinese government officials could delay shipments of iPhones out of China or use regulatory crackdowns to interfere with the manufacturing of components that iPhones rely on. That could make iPhones more expensive and hurt Apple's share price.

All of which means a sustained trade war could lead to higher unemployment and slower economic growth in the US. Considering that the pace of the economy has been one of the few bright spots in Trump's tenure, that's a big deal.



### So what happens next?

The main thing to watch is the upcoming meeting between Trump administration officials and Chinese officials this week. It's possible they could come to a deal that would result in US and Chinese tariffs being lowered or even taken off the table.

But experts are skeptical that they'll actually manage to come to terms. There's a deep divide within the Trump administration on how to approach the Chinese. Officials like Lighthizer and White House trade adviser Peter Navarro are hawks on China, want big concessions, and favor tariffs, while Mnuchin and National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow are more inclined to strike a deal with more moderate concessions.

"It's worrisome because you don't have clarity and consolidated negotiating strategy," Levy told me. The divisions within the administration could make it harder to settle on an agreement with China, and that in turn means that tariffs could be on the way. The question then will be whether Trump will actually deliver on everything he's threatened — and if China will keep up the fight as well. (<https://www.vox.com/world>)