

# GVMUN NEWSLETTER



JUNE-JULY 2025 EDITION



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***Thank you to all of our interns who are involved in the creation of the GVMUN  
Newsletter!***

*Jackson Dorris, Journalism Director; Sarah Gbajobi, Journalism Intern  
Anushka Chaudhury, Graphic Designer*



# GVMUN NEWSLETTER

*Hello international delegates and global thinkers,*

We are thrilled to introduce the fourth edition of the GVMUN Newsletter, your source for insights into global issues, international relations, and updates from our Model UN community, especially after our previous hiatus:).

As young leaders, you are at the forefront of creating solutions to the challenges that shape our rapidly changing world. This newsletter is designed to inform, inspire, and empower you to engage with diplomacy, international relations, and global citizenship on a deeper level.

In this issue, we will discuss various key world events that have happened over the past few months that will undoubtedly shape global geopolitics. This newsletter also serves as your gateway to the wider GVMUN experience. Stay tuned for updates on our conferences, workshops, and events designed to enhance your understanding of international diplomacy. We'll also share opportunities for leadership, community engagement, and skill-building to help you grow as a global thinker and change maker in our world.

Thank you for reading the June-July 2025 edition of the GVMUN Newsletter!

*-Kush Dave and Ayushmaan Mukherjee, Secretary Generals*

# Trump Tariffs

## A Timeline & Information

**Jackson Dorris, Journalism Intern**

### Timeline

#### January:

The President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, has made a lot of modifications to the tariff system of the US since he took office on January 20.

Immediately, he threatened to impose 25% tariffs on foreign goods, especially from Canada, Mexico, and China, which were scheduled to begin on February 4.

#### February:

On the Third of February, Trump placed a 30-day pause on those tariffs for Canada and Mexico when they promised to help with drug exports and emigration, but not with China. The following day, China made moves against the United States in reciprocation to the tariffs. On February 25, Donald Trump ordered the Commerce Department to discuss the national security implications without a tariff on copper, and he did the same on March 1 with focus on lumber and timber.

#### March:

March 4 brought the incorporation of the tariffs on Canada and Mexico. At the same time, the tariffs on Chinese imports increased even more, moving to 20%.



Donald Trump posing with a poster on Reciprocal Tariffs on April 2, 2025. Image Credit: REUTERS/Carlos Barria

#### March Cont'd:

All three countries attempted to retaliate in their own ways, and the following day, Trump halted tariffs on U.S. automobile companies Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis. Then, the next day, March 6, he postponed the tariffs on Mexico and some of Canada for a month. On March 10, China put 15% tariffs on American farm products into effect, though the goods already in transport are exempted until April 12.

## March Cont'd

March 12 brought the enforcement of Trump's new tariffs on all steel and aluminum, taxing them at 25% each. In retaliation, the European Union took immediate action by placing new taxes on U.S. farm and industrial products, but they delayed the action until sometime in mid-April. The next day, on March 13, Trump made threats about placing a 200% tariff on European wine, Champagne, and other spirits. On March 24, Trump threatened to place a 25% tax on all oil and gas purchased from Venezuela starting April 12. March 26 brought 25% tariffs on all automobile imports, with the hope of fostering domestic manufacturing, and the imports were to begin being collected on April 3.



President Donald Trump holding up an executive order that he had signed on April 2, 2025. Credits: C.J. Miller, Hoosier

## April:

On April 2, the Trump Administration announced the "reciprocal" tariffs, with a 10% tax on all imports starting on April 5, with even higher taxation on countries that have trade surpluses with the United States starting on April 9. As part of this, Trump increases the tax on imports from China to 34%, the tax on imports from the European Union to 20%, the tax on imports from South Korea to 25%, the tax on Japanese imports to 24%, and the tax on imports from Taiwan to 32%. Trump also promises that the tariffs on the imports from Canada and Mexico will decrease from 25% to 12% once drug trafficking and immigration problems are satisfied. April 3 brought the tariffs on automobile imports in addition to Canada placing a reciprocal 25% tax on vehicles imported from the United States. April 4 brought a statement from China about an increase on the tariffs of imported goods from the U.S. to 34%, matching Trump's actions from April 2. On April 5, the 10% minimum tax on nearly all countries and territories created by the Trump Administration went into effect. April 9 came with Trump's higher "reciprocal" rates, but only a matter of hours later, the Trump Administration suspended most of the higher rates for 90 days, but kept the 10% tax created previously. China was the exception, with Trump threatening to increase the import taxes to a total of 125%, which was to be effective immediately. China responded immediately, promising to increase the tax on American imports to 84%, to be imposed starting on April 10th.

April Cont'd:

The retaliation tariffs on auto imports also went into effect, bringing a 25% levy. The EU also voted to approve retaliation taxes, with many different taxes going into effect in the coming weeks and months. As of April 10th, the tariffs on Chinese goods were announced to be in reality 145%, not 125%, once the fentanyl tariffs were accounted for. The EU also put their steel and aluminum tariff retaliation plan on hold for 90 days, yet again matching Trump, but also issued a threat that if talks do not go well, then they will be enforced sooner. April 11 brought an increased tariff on U.S. goods from 84% to 125%, set to begin on April 12. On April 12, President Trump's actions were reciprocated, with China's government placing 125% tariffs on goods from the United States. On April 14, Trump said that he would put a pause on tariffs for the automotive industry in order to allot time to change supply chains. Mr. Trump and his administration also began investigations on the technology and pharmaceuticals, a public display of likely impending tariffs. In addition, The Commerce Department lifted a 2019 agreement, causing a 20.91% tariff on tomato imports from Mexico on July 14. Then, on April 29, the President eased some of the tariffs on the automobile industry with the signing of an executive order where the Trump administration promised a 3.75% refund on the sales price of US-made vehicles over the course of one year.



Trump announcing Indonesia trade agreement.  
(Al Drago/Bloomberg via Getty Images / Getty Images)

May:

On May 3, the 25% levies on imported vehicle parts took effect. On May 4, President Trump made a threat to place a 100% tariff on foreign-made movies, stating that the industry in the United States is "dying". On May 8, a trade deal between the United States and Britain was announced, relieving Britain of some of the heavy tariffs on cars, steel, and aluminum, while Britain promised to purchase more beef and ethanol from the United States. Then, on the same day, the European Union published a list of the U.S. made goods that would be taxed if a solution to the trade war cannot be found. On May 12, the United States and China agreed upon a 90-day truce on the trade war. The truce involved the United States changing the taxes from 145% to 30%, while China moved their tariffs from 125% to 10%.

## May Cont'd:

On May 23, Trump threatened a 25% tariff on Apple products, especially iPhones, that are not manufactured in the United States. The trade war with the European Union also became more heated, with the President threatening a 50% tariff on all imported goods from the 27 nations it represents that would start on June 1. On May 25, the tariffs on the EU were delayed until July 9th to increase negotiation time. May 28 brought the United States Court of International Trade ruling that the Trump administration overstepped when creating tariffs and import taxes, therefore blocking almost all tariffs that he enacted. On May 29, a federal appeals court temporarily halted the order that the United States Court of International Trade ruled, allowing the tariffs to continue for a short time. May 30 brought an increased tariff on steel and aluminum imports, increasing to 50%, which would go into effect on June 4.

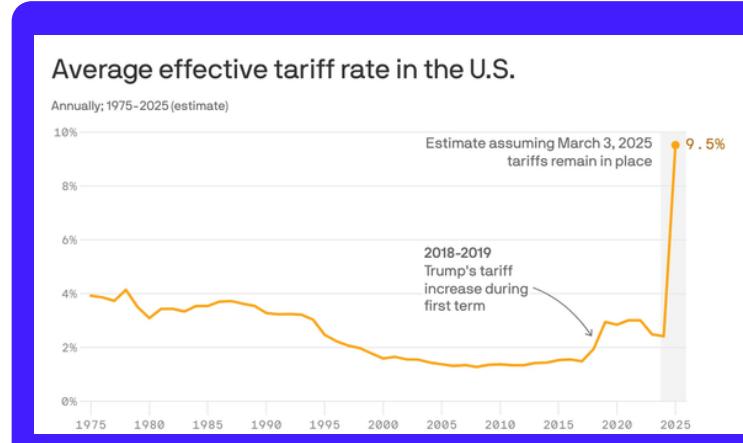
## June:

On June 2, the EU released a statement describing the progress they have on their reciprocal tax actions that would take effect on July 14th. In addition, China accused the United States of violating its trade truce by regulating AI, as well as revoking Chinese student visas. On June 5, Trump and the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, had a phone call in which a trade deal was reached. On June 6, Trump announced the people who represent will be in charge of negotiations in London that would take place on June 9. On June 10, the discussions in London were said to be fruitful, with nations agreeing upon the agreement between China and the United States.

June 11 brought Trump posting about the new deal, with the U.S. continuing with a 55% tariff and China continuing with a 10% tariff. June 26 came with Trump announcing the signing of the trade agreement. June 27 brought China's ministry of Commerce confirming that the deal had been reached.

## July:

July 2 began with the Trump administration announcing the trade agreement with Vietnam, with a 20% tariff on Vietnamese exports and 40% charge on goods that originate in other countries and are shipped to the U.S. from Vietnam. July 7 brought President Trump extending the reciprocal tariff pause to August 1 instead of July 9. Beginning on July 7, well over 20 letters were sent out to countries detailing the tariffs that each country will be subjected to by the United States. On July 9, the President announced that there is consideration on increasing tariffs on pharmaceuticals up to 200%, but that it likely would not be put into effect for about a year. The 9th also brought Trump's announcement about the imposition of 50% tariffs on the imports from Brazil as well as a 50% tariff on copper imports to be put into effect on August 1.



Data: Yale Budget Lab. Chart: Axios Visuals

## **Global Implications:**

The global implications upon which the Trump Tariffs have created are just beginning. There is no way to fully predict the future issues, conflicts, or implications of the recent spike in tariffs created by the Trump Administration. It seems as if Trump has a plan for the long run, and that the current outcomes were predicted, but is this the case? It seems as if a trade war with China is impending for the United States, with both nations intensifying tensions with escalating tariff policies on imported goods from the other. Tensions are rising, not only with China, but also in the entire global economic system.

It is important to recognize the viewpoints and perspectives of multiple sides for each of these orders, tariffs, and much more that the Trump administration has been doing. Some people appreciate his tariffs because they would like to see an increase in manufacturing in the United States. They believe that goods and products produced and harvested in the United States are stronger and better products than those that are made in other countries. Others argue that people in the United States are marginally far too educated to be working in factories, so relying on other nations for imports and day-to-day products is a better option. They believe that the tariffs will only affect both citizens and the government in a negative way because of reciprocal tariffs.

## **The Stock Market**

The stock market has seen dramatic shifts with the taxes, both when they were levied and when they were put on hold.

Recently, price swings have made stressful times for companies and shareholders, as fluctuations in the market are unpredictable. With stock market change, there has been an increase in the global bond market, which brought even more volatility. Much focus has been placed on the US Federal Reserve, as it has historically balanced severe financial crises by adding liquidity to the financial system. The stock markets today do have technology built in to help prevent crashes and crises, but they still can happen. Over the past month, the market saw a drastic drop, going from almost 5800 to 4800. It has steadily increased since Trump paused the tariffs for 90 days, but what will happen in the future?

## **Inflation**

The tariffs are essentially guaranteed to bring inflation variation, though it is impossible to predict what that may look like and when it will happen. When Trump first was inaugurated, the prices of gasoline and oil dropped over 6% between February and March, but it seems as if prices will rise again with his taxation. The prices of eggs climbed in March with the avian flu, which caused a 60% increase. The problem is, with a trade war, there is a prediction of higher prices, which makes it more difficult for the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates. There is no data yet on the inflation caused by Trump's tariffs, especially with the 90-day pause, but change is bound to happen. Economists predict economic hardship for citizens, especially with a reduction of imports around the globe.

# Protests in Indonesia

## The Most Recent Developments - May

***Sarah Gbajobi, Journalism Intern***

Indonesia's parliament had recently passed a controversial law, which had sparked outrage and led to protests outside the parliament, in Jakarta and other towns. President Prabowo Subianto, a former special forces commander and the son-in-law of Suharto, allowed military officers to take government positions without retiring from the armed forces. Hundreds of pro-democracy activists have protested outside parliament since May.



A photo of people protesting in Indonesia. (Ajeng Dinar Ulfiana/Reuters)

The revisions have allowed active military personnel to hold 14 civil institutions up from 10. Furthermore, the retirement age was raised by several years for most ranks. The highest-ranking generals can serve up until the age of 63, which went up from 60. However, this law only reflects Prabowo Subianto's political dominance and his intent to reinsert the military's role within the life of civilians to be able to roll back reforms that had once separated the defence from government. Many fear that this could erase Indonesia's fragile democracy. This could take Indonesia back to what is described as the 'dark days' during the dictatorship of Suharto, which lasted for about 32 years until May 21st, 1998, when he was forced out of government. Although there had been efforts to try to limit the military's involvement with politics/governance, it had been found 2600 active duty officials had been working in civilian roles even before the law had been passed. Ever since Prabowo Subianto took office in October, he already increased the military involvement especially with the flagship of \$4bIn free-school meal programme specifically aimed to children and pregnant woman are now receiving major support from the armed forces.

The defense minister; Sjafrie states that military involvement is necessary if Indonesia wishes to achieve geopolitical changes and global military changes in order to further tackle any conflicts. Yet this may undermine impartially.

As protests continue to intensify, hundreds have dressed up all in black and hold up banners/signs saying to refuse militarism other demonstrators say they should be sent back to the barracks. The demonstrators had attempted to hurl in petrol bombs and firecrackers inside parliament but had been met with security forces and water canons. Human rights onlookers and organizations had raised questions concerning the way the government's handling the protests. International reports stated 344 individuals have been arrested with clear evidence of physical abuse as well as the uses of tear gas. They also raise concerns in regards to the increased levels of threats and assaults in regarding of journalists and activists. Unrest is further compounded by internal political tensions as a group of military officers demand significant changes - the removal of vice president : Joko Widodo as well as the abandonment of a \$32 billion Nusandra project.

As Indonesia navigates this challenging period, those within the international community and within the country closely watch - concerned with the implications for its democracy and human rights within the region of Southeast Asia.

## DID YOU KNOW?

As the world grapples with the ongoing refugee crisis triggered by conflict in Sudan, Ukraine, and Gaza, parallels can be drawn to the mass displacement following World War II—the largest refugee crisis in modern history. In the aftermath of WWII, over 60 million people were displaced across Europe and Asia, prompting the creation of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and later the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to address the long-term needs of displaced populations. Today, the number of forcibly displaced individuals has surpassed 120 million globally, according to UNHCR data, a historic high driven by protracted conflicts, climate change, and political instability. The challenges facing the international community remain strikingly similar: strained asylum systems, xenophobia, and inequitable responsibility-sharing among states. However, the post-war era also demonstrated how coordinated international frameworks and humanitarian commitments could provide not only temporary relief, but durable solutions. As modern crises deepen, the global community must reflect on the lessons of the past to reform current refugee protection systems. Investing in sustainable support mechanisms, equitable resettlement strategies, and regional cooperation is essential—not just to manage displacement, but to uphold the human dignity and international solidarity that formed the cornerstone of the post-WWII world order.



Sudanese Refugees lined up. (Jok Solomun/Reuters)

# Protests in Turkey

## The Most Recent Developments - May

**Jackson Dorris, Journalism Intern**

### Key Information:

A political war in Turkey has broken out, with ambassadors of opposing political parties taking bold actions to decimate opposing political figures and leaders. But now the people are taking sides. Police have been called to put down a number of political protests and revolts. How did it start? The mayor of Istanbul, Ekrem İmamoğlu, was imprisoned with charges detailing corruption.

It is believed that the arrest was commissioned by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who is a known political rival. İmamoğlu has publicly denied his involvement in the actions described by these charges, and has gained quite a following by people who believe that his incarceration was an act of politics, not an act of legal upholding.

### Implications Felt by Citizens:

There are multiple sides that people have taken in regards to this political and legal dispute. Due to this, many have been arrested at rallies. They will likely face charges due to their actions, whether they were violent or not. According to Human Rights Watch, the penalties of the charges include a wide range of six months to five years imprisonment. Furthermore, most of the charges lack substantial evidence to rule a fair conviction, with much of the actions taken by the rioters being alleged, not proven. Most of those arrested were college and university students, in addition to the arrest of eight journalists.



A depiction of the teams designed to hold protesters off (Kemal Aslan/Getty Images)

The arrests of the journalists have stirred discussions and called for criticism due to the fact that they have a constitutional right to report on events and protests. The likelihood that they were participating in the protests is slim, even though that is what they were arrested for. İmamoğlu had been projected to have a high chance of beating Erdoğan in the upcoming presidential election, and many believe that Erdoğan took matters into his own hands to ensure that he would win the election yet again, as he has held the presidential office since 2003. Citizens of all ages believe that this is an unfair move taken by Erdoğan and that justice must be served.

### What's Next:

Theoretically, there will be a mix of prosecution results, with some people getting incarcerated, while others are set free with regard to their perceived innocence. The arrest will likely continue to stir and foster unrest amongst citizens, especially parents who believe that their child was wrongfully charged. The chances of Erdoğan getting elected by those who were undecided about who to vote for would likely drop, but only time will tell.



The protesters in an attempt to expose what is perceived to be corruption. (BBC/Reuters)

## DID YOU KNOW?

As nations race to regulate artificial intelligence, the global discourse bears striking resemblance to the Cold War-era negotiations that led to the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Just as the NPT aimed to limit the spread of nuclear weapons while promoting peaceful applications of nuclear energy, today's discussions around AI governance revolve around balancing innovation with the mitigation of existential risks. In 2023, the UN Secretary-General proposed the creation of a global AI watchdog, reflecting similar international efforts to establish oversight mechanisms like the IAEA. Key issues such as transparency, dual-use technology, and unequal access to resources mirror concerns voiced during early arms control debates. The historical precedent set by the NPT underscores the importance of multilateralism, trust-building, and enforceable international norms. As world leaders convene to define the future of AI, history reminds us that responsible governance of powerful technologies is not unprecedented—but it is urgent.



Ambassadors signing the NPT in 1968. (Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library)



# GVMUNEC V REGISTER NOW

## Calling All Aspiring Writers and Changemakers!

Are you ready to share your ideas on global policymaking and share your vision with the world? GVMUN is proud to launch the fifth **Global Virtual Model United Nations Essay Competition** (GVMUNEC)—an exciting opportunity to showcase your ideas on pressing international issues.

### ***Choose Your Topic:***

- What role should global youth assemblies play in decision-making on issues like AI, climate, and bioethics?
- To what extent can museums and institutions be held responsible for returning looted cultural artifacts, and how should reparations be negotiated?

*Submit a 600–800 word essay that discusses the topic chosen as comprehensively as possible, including citations. Deadline to submit is December 31, 2024.*

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# GVMUNC IX

# REGISTER NOW

Our next conference, GVMUNC IX will be held on September 20<sup>th</sup>, and will feature two committees:

### **Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee - Beginner**

- Topic A - Addressing food insecurity in post-conflict regions
- Topic B - Combating gender-based violence in militaries

### **Harry Potter Crisis Committee - Intermediate/Advanced**

*Following the death of Albus Dumbledore, Hogwarts has become a fractured battleground. With Voldemort yet to fully reveal himself and the Ministry weakened, power struggles erupt within the castle. Professors, students, magical creatures, and former allies now find themselves divided—some vying for control, others fighting to preserve unity. As alliances shift and loyalties are tested, delegates must navigate a rapidly escalating conflict where no side is entirely good or evil. Will you defend Hogwarts tradition, lead a student revolution, or forge an uneasy alliance to secure magical Britain's future? This committee blends political intrigue, magical strategy, and dynamic crisis updates, challenging delegates to balance ideology with survival in the most iconic fortress in the wizarding world.*

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