**Issue 17: Has the North America Free Trade Agreement Benefited the  
Economies of Canada, Mexico, and the United States?**

Trade with foreign countries has been a very touchy subject within our country since its founding in 1776. The United States tries to create and maintain the strongest relationships it possibly can with the foreign nations, but the country is essentially a massive business. When trading with these outsiders, we not only want the goods, but we try to keep the price as low as possible, which can mean minimal profits to losses of profit for the supplying countries. Not only should this be treated as a business-related subject, but it should also be treated as a matter of morality and ethics. Has the North American Free Trade Agreement benefited the economies of Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

From an optimistic standpoint John M. Melle believes that the free trade agreement has indeed had numerous benefits for the North American continent. Melle believes that the three countries have become stronger and more influential because of the vast amount of trade that occurs. The partnered countries' economies have significantly expanded due to the rapid increase in imports and exports. At the same time the relationships have become stronger. Because each country trades its unique goods with the neighboring ones they have become reliant on each other's success. Through the trading process we have essentially become one huge economy that relies on the cooperation of all of its parties. Based in the conclusions presented it appears that the Free Trade Agreement is working efficiently and properly as the local and foreign parties involved are happy and their economies have flourished.

As a strong advocate of the NATO agreement, Sandra Polaski believes that the free trade agreement is not helping any of the economies. She believes that the agreement has caused a huge rise in wage inequality in the US due to the reduced cost of importing some resources and products from the foreign countries.In addition to this, the Mexican population has felt the brunt of the adverse effects. The Mexican government is not able to support its population and help them adapt with the new changes and the people are getting "left in the dust". As the economy progresses the well-off citizens are flourishing, while the poor just get poorer. This is a huge setback as it causes more severe poverty that can drag down an economy. It seems as though the NATO agreement isn't living up to its high standards of benefiting the common people and helping bolster the economy.

In today's highly dynamic and interconnected world it is necessary to work well with your neighboring countries and promote trade. This will help grow economies and help increase production of a specific product or service to better the people. The big question now is whether the NATO agreement has lived up to the standards of which it was created. In my personal opinion it has. The countries are working together as one massive, powerful economy, our relationships have grown strong, and each individual economy has begun to strengthen and increase in power. I honestly believe that the North America Free Trade Agreement has benefited the economies of Canada, Mexico, and the United States.