Group

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Project Description

Trade between countries has long been an indicator of both globalization and where each country ranks within this new world order. How agreements are structured, who they are made with, and if they are implemented all play a part in determining a country’s future. Historically, these agreements have been uninteresting, if not unreachable, to the public. However, with the proliferation of social media applications and the increasingly ease with which information can be distributed amongst a population, these agreements have become fodder for public debate.

What does this new paradigm mean for trade agreements? To determine to what extent we can come to answering this question, we will be analyzing the following for countries on either side of a trade agreement:

1. Perception vs. Reality
   * Is there a difference in what a trade agreement says and what people believe it says? (NLP of trade agreement and social media posts about the agreement).
2. Proactive vs. Reactive
   * Is a trade agreement’s future, in terms of both language and eventual fate, shaped by the policy makers? Or are the members of congress taking their cues from the public? (NLP/Timeline of official statements by congressional representatives and that of social media posts by the public).
3. Predictive vs. Redundant
   * Is public sentiment a good predictor of a trade agreement’s acceptance or are other economic factors more suggestive? (Machine learning techniques to predict if a trade agreement is signed and determine the variables that are most predictive of that outcome).

Advisor Information

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