

WILLIAM DESHAZER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Aftermath of Deluge That Lasted Days**  
Emergency workers brought electricians to check power lines in Frankfort, Ky., this week after the Kentucky River burst its banks.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Justices Duck  
A Showdown

Skirting Tough Rulings  
on Trump’s Authority

By ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — The court led by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. over the last two decades has not been known for its modesty or caution. Its signature move has been bold assertions of power backed by sweeping claims about the meaning of the Constitution.

It gutted campaign finance laws and the Voting Rights Act, overturned the constitutional right to abortion, did away with affirmative action in higher education and adopted a new interpretation of the Second Amendment that protects an individual’s right to own guns.

But as the first wave of challenges to President Trump’s blitz of executive orders has reached the justices, a very different portrait of the court is emerging. It has issued a series of narrow and legalistic rulings that seem calculated to avoid the larger issues presented by a president rapidly working to expand power and reshape government.

On Monday, the court ruled that Venezuelan migrants who challenged the administration’s plans to send them to a notorious prison in El Salvador had filed their lawsuits in the wrong court, without ruling on the underlying legal issues.

The justices’ new approach appears to have multiple goals: to stay out of the political fray, to maintain their legitimacy and, perhaps most important, to avoid a showdown with a president who has relentlessly challenged the legitimacy of the courts.

Mr. Trump, for his part, has called for the impeachment of judges who ruled against him and has suggested on social media that courts are powerless to tell him what to do. “He who saves his Country does not violate any Law,” he wrote.

The new cases have arrived on what critics call the court’s “shadow docket,” as emergency applications requiring the justices to move very quickly, on thin briefs and no oral arguments. The terse orders that follow typically decide whether

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A big hit to portfolios would affect higher-income Americans, whose spending drives activity. PAGE B1

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Brushing Off Concerns,  
Trump Pushes Forward  
With His Steep Tariffs

Closings and Layoffs  
at Auto Factories

By JACK EWING

President Trump’s 25 percent tariffs on imported vehicles, which went into effect last week, are already sending tremors through the auto industry, prompting companies to stop shipping cars to the United States, shut down factories in Canada and Mexico and lay off workers in Michigan and other states.

Jaguar Land Rover, based in Britain, said it would temporarily stop exporting its luxury cars to the United States. Stellantis idled factories in Canada and Mexico that make Chrysler and Jeep vehicles and laid off 900 U.S. workers who supplied those factories with engines and other parts.

Audi, a luxury division of Volkswagen, also paused exports of cars to the United States from Europe, telling dealers to sell whatever they had on their lots.

If other carmakers make similar moves, the economic effect could be severe, leading to higher car prices and widespread layoffs. The tariffs on cars are among the first of several industry-specific levies that Mr. Trump has in his sights and could offer early clues about how businesses will respond to his trade policies, including whether they raise prices or increase manufacturing in the United States. The president has said he also wants to tax imports of medicine and computer chips.

Applying the new tariff to imported cars could increase their cost to consumers by thousands of dollars, sharply reducing demand for those vehicles. For some Jaguar Land Rover or Audi models, the tariffs could amount to more than \$20,000 a car.

Though much of the initial effect of the tariffs has been disruptive, in at least one case, Mr. Trump’s duties have had the intended effect of increasing production in the United States. General Motors said late last week that it would increase production of light trucks at a factory near Fort Wayne, Ind.

The longer-term impact of the 25 percent tariffs is unclear. Many automakers are still trying to figure out how to avoid increasing prices so much that consumers can no longer afford new cars. Investors are pessimistic. Shares of Ford Motor, G.M. and Tesla have fallen in the past several days of trading.

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U.S. Signals It’s Open  
to Discussing Deals

By ANA SWANSON  
and ALAN RAPPEPORT

WASHINGTON — Punishing Trump’s next round of punishing tariffs on some of America’s largest trading partners was set to go into effect just after midnight on Wednesday, including stiff new levies that will increase import taxes on Chinese goods by at least 104 percent.

Mr. Trump, speaking from the White House on Tuesday afternoon, acknowledged that his tariffs had been “somewhat explosive.” But he continued to defend his approach, saying that it was encouraging countries with what he calls “unfair” trade practices to offer concessions.

“We have a lot of countries coming in to make deals,” he said.

The president and top administration officials signaled on Tuesday that the White House was ready to negotiate deals, saying



HAIYUN JIANG FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Jamieson Greer, the top U.S. trade official, testified Tuesday.

that 70 governments had approached the United States to try to roll the levies back. Mr. Trump said officials would begin talks with Japan, South Korea and other nations.

The president, whose punitive and successive tariffs on China have triggered a potentially economically damaging trade war, also said he was open to talking to Beijing about a deal.

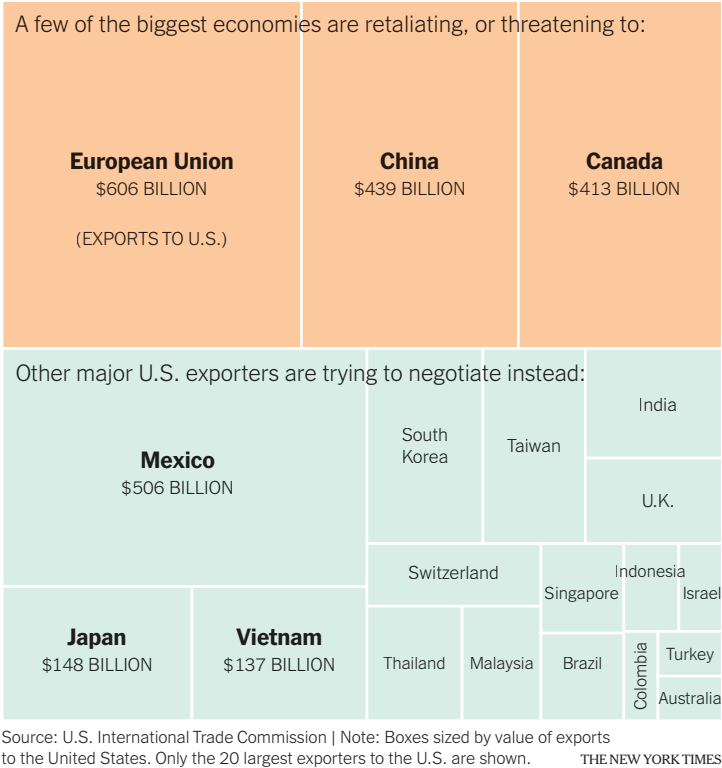
“China also wants to make a deal, badly, but they don’t know how to get it started,” Mr. Trump wrote on social media. “We are waiting for their call. It will happen!”

On April 2, the president imposed a 10 percent global tariff on hundreds of countries and promised far steeper “reciprocal” tariffs.

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Some Hit Back, Most Bend

Just two of the 20 largest exporters to the U.S. — China and Canada — have matched President Trump’s moves with their own tariffs. PAGE A10.



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