

The 1844 Wanghia Treaty vs the 2020 Trade Deal

Introduction

The relationship between the US and China has always been complicated. The two countries have interacted through agendas such as trade, military services, and human rights. The Wanghia Treaty was a historic trade agreement made between the US and China in 1884. This agreement helps to demonstrate the relationship between the two countries in the 19th and 21st century.

Similarities

The main similarity between the Wanghia Treaty and the 2020 Trade Deal is the key reason for the agreements. Both deals aimed to balance between exports and imports trading among the two countries. The Wanghia treaty was first formulated to allow the US to export opium drug to China, which would then continue to export goods such as silk, furniture, and tea from the region (Johnson 1). Similarly, the Trade Deal of 2020 was meant to relieve treaties that once blocked imports from China.

Another similarity between the two events is that both deals led to conflicts soon after implementation. For instance, in both periods, the US was dissatisfied by the results of the agreements. During the Wanghia treaty, the US expressed that China did not agree to most of the regulations provided in the policy (Keller, Ben, & Carol 853). Also, in the 2020 trade deal, the US is still dissatisfied by China's extensive subsidies which cause overproduction of exports, thus affecting the world economy. Besides, the current tension caused the two countries blaming each other for the spread of covid-19 pandemic could cause impacts on future relations (Zreik 47).

Differences

One of the main differences between the Wanghia and the 2020 trade deal between China and the US is the challenges that led to the contracts. The Wanghia treaty was formulated to enable the US to also benefit from trading an addictive drug referred to as opium to the country since China was the only beneficiary from exporting its products. On the other hand, one of the agendas of the 2020 trade deal was to eliminate the trade of illegal drugs between the two countries. The US government recognized that Chinese drug traffickers would sell illegal drugs such as methamphetamine and the deadly fentanyl through a dark web and this hindered coordination between the two countries to limit drug abuse (Zreik55). As such, the treaty is also meant to promote the war on drugs. Also, the factors that affect the success of treaties are different. For instance, the need for Americans to dominate the Asian market led to disputes as the Chinese government pointed out the inequalities of the deal. As such, this led to resentment between the two countries. On the other hand, covid-19 pandemic is the main excuse that is currently applied to stimulate rivalry between the two countries (Zreik 47).

Conclusion

The Treaty of Waughia of 1884 is a crucial topic that helps to compare the current trade relationship between the US and China. In 2020, Donald Trump signed a similar treaty to improve the import and export exchange between the countries. However, the new treaty is faced with different challenges, such as threats of the rapid development of China. As such, this tension causes the two countries to use the covid-19 pandemic to express their dissatisfaction with certain aspects in the agreement.

Works Cited

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