

<http://time.com/5383420/trump-world-trade-organization/>

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## President Trump Threatens to Withdraw U.S. From the World Trade Organization 'If They Don't Shape Up'



*President Donald J. Trump delivers remarks to members of the news media in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, on Aug. 28, 2018.*

*By John Micklethwait, Margaret Talev and Jennifer Jacobs / Bloomberg  
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**(Bloomberg) — President Donald Trump said he would pull out of the World Trade Organization if it doesn't treat the U.S. better, continuing his criticism of a cornerstone of the international trading system.**

**“If they don't shape up, I would withdraw from the WTO,” Trump said Thursday in an interview with Bloomberg News at the White House.**

**A U.S. withdrawal from the WTO would severely undermine the post-World War II multilateral trading system that the U.S. helped build.**

**Trump said last month that the U.S. is at a big disadvantage from being treated “very badly” by the WTO for many years and that the Geneva-based body needs to “change their ways.”**

**U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has said allowing China into the WTO in 2001 was a mistake. He has long called for the U.S. to take a more aggressive approach to the WTO, arguing that it was incapable of dealing with a non-market economy such as China.**

**Lighthizer has accused the WTO dispute-settlement system of interfering with U.S. sovereignty, particularly on anti-dumping cases. The U.S. has been blocking the appointment of judges to the WTO’s appeals body, raising the possibility that it could cease to function in the coming years.**