



*[Video --- At General Assembly \(9.25.18\)](#)*

## Excerpts from President Trump's Speech to General Assembly

(Sept. 25, 2018)

America's policy of **principled realism** means that we will not be held hostage to old, discredited ideology and experts that have been proven wrong over the years. This is true, not only in matters of peace, but in matters of prosperity. **We believe that trade must be fair and reciprocal.** The United States will not be taken advantage of any longer. For decades, the United States opened its economy, the largest by far on Earth, with few conditions.

We allowed foreign goods from all over the world to flow freely across our borders. Yet, other countries did not grant us reciprocal access to their markets in return. Even worse, some countries abused their openness to manipulate their currency and take advantage of our country.

As a result, our trade deficit ballooned to \$800 billion a year. We are systematically renegotiating broken and bad trade deals. Last month, we announced a groundbreaking US-Mexico trade agreement. Yesterday, I stood with President Moon to announce the successful completion of the brand-new US-Korea trade deal. This is just the beginning. Many nations in this hall will agree that the world trading system is in dire need of change.

**For example, countries were admitted to the World Trade Organization that violate every single principle on which the organization is based while the United States and many of the nations played by the rules. These countries use government-run industrial planning and**

state-owned enterprises to rig the system. They engaged in relentless product dumping, forced technology transfer and the theft of intellectual property. The United States lost over 3 million manufacturing jobs and 60,000 factories after China joined the WTO. We have wrapped up \$13 trillion in trade deficits over the last two decades.

Those days are over. We will no longer tolerate it and we will not allow our workers to be victimized, our companies to be cheated, and our wealth to be plundered and transferred. America will never apologize for protecting its citizens. The United States has just announced tariffs on another \$200 billion in Chinese made goods. The total so far of \$250 billion.

I have great respect and affection for the president of China, but I have made clear that our trade imbalance is just not acceptable. The market distortions and the way that they deal cannot be tolerated as my administration has demonstrated, America will always act in our national interests.

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For similar reasons, the United States will provide no support and recognition for the International Criminal Court. As far as we are concerned the ICC has no legitimacy or authority. The ICC claims near universal jurisdiction over the citizens of every country, violating all principles of justice, fairness and due process. We will never surrender America's sovereignty to an unelected, unaccountable body. America is governed by Americans. We reject the ideology of globalism and accept the ideology of patriotism.

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The United States has recently strengthened our laws to better screen foreign investments in our country for national security threats. We welcome cooperation with countries in this region and around the world that wish to do the same. You need to do it for your own protection. The United States is also working with partners in Latin America to confront threats to sovereignty from uncontrolled migration. Tolerance for human smuggling and human trafficking is not humane.

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We believe in self-government and rule of law. We prize the culture that sustained our liberty: a culture built on strong families, deep faith, and fierce Independence. We celebrate our heroes, we treasure our traditions, and above all, we love our country.

Inside everyone in his great chamber today, and everyone listening all around the globe, there is the heart of a patriot that feels the same powerful love for your nation, the same intense loyalty to your homeland, the passion that burns in the hearts of patriots and the souls of nations has inspired reform and revolution, sacrifice, and selflessness, scientific breakthroughs and magnificent works of art.

Our task is not to erase it, but to embrace it, to build with it, to draw on its ancient wisdom and to find within it the will to make our nations greater, our regions safer, and the world better. To unleash this incredible potential and our people, we must defend the foundations that make it all possible. **Sovereign and independent nations** are the only vehicle where freedom has ever survived, democracy has ever endured, or peace has ever prospered. And so, we must protect our sovereignty and our cherished independence above all.

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