

**MEMORANDUM****TO:** Interested Parties**FROM:** DNC War Room**DATE:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020**RE:** Trump Didn't Get Tough On China, He Got Played

Trump said he'd get tough on China, but he didn't. He got played. Trump clamored for a trade war with China and said that it would be easy to win, but he lost and we paid the cost.

Trump's go-it-alone tariffs inflicted pain on American workers, not China. U.S. farm bankruptcies increased 20% last year to reach the highest level since 2011. The trade war resulted in job losses and higher costs for U.S. manufacturers, and Trump's tariffs on Chinese imports added \$800 in annual costs for each American household. As Americans suffered, Trump dug the knife in by telling them everything was okay and falsely claiming that China's purchases were pouring in.

Not only did Trump's "phase one" trade deal fail to boost purchases of U.S. exports to China, it failed to even stop the bleeding by getting exports back to where they were before his damaging trade war. And China won't come close to purchasing the \$50 billion a year in U.S. agriculture that Trump promised.

Trump lost the trade war he started. He got played by China. And he betrayed American workers and farmers who put their trust in him. Americans can't afford another four years of losing.

Trump clamored for a trade war with China and said that a deal would be easy.

- On the campaign trail Trump said "who the hell cares if there's a trade war" and promised that China "[will give us everything we want. That won't even be a hard negotiation.](#)"
- As president, Trump claimed that "[trade wars are good, and easy to win.](#)"

Trump's reckless trade war tanked the economy, hurt consumers, and cost American families hundreds of dollars a year.

- Trump's trade war [cost tens of billions](#) of dollars, [slowed](#) economic growth, destroyed nearly [\\$2 trillion](#) in stock market value, and hampered [business investment](#).

- Trump's tariffs on Chinese imports added [\\$800 in annual costs](#) for each American household.
- Retaliatory tariffs from China repeatedly caused the stock market to tank and disproportionately targeted areas that helped elect Trump.
- Trump's tariffs hurt U.S. exports to China more than they've reduced imports from China — U.S. imports from China declined by [12.5 percent](#) while American exports fell nearly [21 percent](#).

Desperate to stop the bleeding from his trade war, Trump sold out America's health, national security, human rights credibility, and economic future.

- Trump [admitted](#) he didn't press China on their coronavirus response because he needed them to bail him out by signing a trade deal.
- In pursuit of a trade deal, Trump granted [personal favors](#) to Xi by reversing sanctions and intervening in criminal cases on [ZTE](#) and [Huawei](#) despite the national security risks.
- Trump [held off](#) on imposing Treasury sanctions to punish China for forcing [Uighurs into concentration camps](#), and [failed to stand up for](#) democracy in Hong Kong.
- Instead of making a trade deal with China that would [actually benefit](#) the U.S., Trump [put concerns about his reelection first](#) and settled for a [limited deal](#) that China's [failed to fulfill](#).

Trump finally signed a “phase one” trade deal with China, but it didn’t address any of the major issues he had sought to resolve.

- Trump signed a “phase one” trade agreement with China that [failed](#) to address the structural issues that sparked his trade war in the first place.
- Trump’s “phase one” trade deal only secured [vague](#) pledges to buy U.S. products that haven’t panned out, and [won’t](#) boost growth.

Trump downplayed the economic harm of his trade policies. He said we were okay, and farmers were over the hump, but they weren’t.

- Trump said the only impact of his China tariffs was “billions of dollars are pouring into the Treasury.”
- Trump said “no one’s feeling” the effects of his tariffs on China and that “we’re not being affected” by his trade war.
- Trump claimed he was “[making the farmers more than whole](#)” and that there was “[very little hurt](#)” from what he’s done on trade even as farm bankruptcies [skyrocketed](#) in 2019, and farm debt hit a [record high](#).

Trump did irreparable harm to farmers with his reckless China trade policy, and his “phase one” trade deal failed to undo the damage.

- China [targeted](#) farmers with retaliatory tariffs on agriculture export, causing long term damage that [wouldn't](#) be recovered.
- Trump repeatedly lied to farmers that China had already begun significantly increasing its agriculture purchases, but the purchases [won't make up for](#) what farmers had lost and are [way behind schedule](#).
- Trump’s own agriculture department projected that farmers would get [barely any boost](#) from his “phase one” trade deal. It forecast that China would only buy [\\$14 billion](#) of the \$50 billion in ag purchases Trump promised.