

# The Motives Behind Trump's Tariffs

June 1, 2018



Hanna Barczyk

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## To the Editor:

Re "[Mr. Trump's War on American Allies](#)" (editorial, June 1):

Your in-depth critique of why President Trump is placing tariffs on our closest allies gives him more credit than is due. Instead of evidence of an understanding of economics, starting a trade war is more likely simply another example of his acting the thug. He seems to delight in destroying alliances, abrogating international agreements, lauding dictators and racists, threatening nuclear war and pardoning unrepentant criminals.

Rather than revealing thoughtful analysis, his in-your-face malevolent incompetence could be a sly diversion to keep our attention off accusations of his criminality. Or, more plausibly, it simply shows the sheer joy he takes in creating havoc and basking in the attention it brings him.

CARL MEZOFF, STAMFORD, CONN.

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**To the Editor:**

Re "[U.S. to Put Tariffs on Its Key Allies, Risking Reprisal](#)" (front page, June 1):

The president has abused his authority in declaring national security as the justification for imposing tariffs on our closest allies. The real reason is the fulfillment of a campaign promise, not national security. An angry Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pronounced Mr. Trump's claim that he is protecting national security an "affront" to Canadians who have fought alongside American G.I.s from World War II to Afghanistan.

Congressional leaders know that the president is dead wrong. Verbal objection will have no useful effect on this president. Congress must do the one thing it can do: Rescind presidential authority to impose tariffs and put that authority back where it was originally — under congressional control.

WILLIAM GOLDMAN  
PALOS VERDES ESTATES, CALIF.

**To the Editor:**

With Canada and its allies being hit once again with punitive trade measures by the Trump administration, maybe it's time for a little bolder action other than just trade retaliation. The Canadian government, which is hosting the G-7 economic summit next week in Quebec, should disinvite the irrational and unstable American president.

Canada and America's other allies need to send a message to President Trump that they are tired of being bullied.

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ANDREW VAN VELZEN, TORONTO

**To the Editor:**

So President Trump has placed tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum imports because we are a security risk!?? So I guess we now sell our surplus steel and aluminum to China to build its fighter jets and warships.

Crazy, eh?

TOM GRIFFITHS, ORILLIA, ONTARIO



[https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/01/opinion/trump-tariffs.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fopinion-letters&action=click&contentCollection=letters&region=stream&module=stream\\_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=1&pgtype=sectionfront](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/01/opinion/trump-tariffs.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fopinion-letters&action=click&contentCollection=letters&region=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=1&pgtype=sectionfront) Acesso em 02/06/2018