

The Impact of the Sino-US Trade War on Studying in the US

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ABSTRACT

This article revolves around the Sino-US trade war that began in 2018, with an increase in enrollment in the US since 2005, driven by Chinese students, during which time the number of Chinese students has increased significantly and high full tuition has provided the necessary funding for American universities. However, with the continuous development of Sino-US trade friction in 2018, the US government adopted a series of policies that led to an increase in the visa rejection rate, and also banned universities from admitting Chinese engineering students and adopted a policy of suppressing Chinese engineering, which also led to the loss of some students and a large part of tuition fees in the United States. This paper uses case analysis and interview analysis to analyze the impact of Sino-US trade friction on foreign students' choice of country and the impact on the life of local foreign students. But in the end, Sino-US trade frictions are mainly due to Sino-US political factors.

KEYWORDS

Sino-US trade war; American university; Chinese student; Political factors

1. INTRODUCTION

The globalization of the world economy has led to increasingly close educational exchanges between China and other countries. Data from China's Ministry of Education shows that the number of Chinese students studying abroad exceeded 600,000 for the first time in 2017, reaching 608,400, an increase of 11.74 percent year-on-year. In recent years, the development of Sino-US relations has been tortuous. With the rapid development of high-tech in China, Sino-US trade frictions have also been deepening. Up to now, the epidemic has been completely open, universities around the world have resumed offline teaching, and the number of international students has gradually recovered in the past two years. However, due to the Sino-US trade war that started in 2018 and the novel coronavirus epidemic that lasted for three years from the end of 2019, the number of international students and the economy of various countries have been affected to some extent, and due to the Sino-US trade friction, The United States has issued a series of policies and regulations affecting international students studying abroad. Therefore, in the current peaceful and open environment, this paper focuses on the Chinese student group, and explores the choice of countries for Chinese students to study today and the trend of future students in connection with the Sino-US trade war in 2018.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Causation

At the end of 2017, the Trump administration issued the National Security Strategy Report of the United States, which regarded China as a strategic competitor and replaced the engagement strategy with strategic competition. The contradictions and differences between China and the United States gradually intensified, and their economic and trade relations also began to deteriorate, from "trade friction" to "trade war". Trump signed the "Presidential Memorandum on Chinese Economic Aggression," which imposed tariffs on Chinese steel and aluminum [1]. The WTO granted China market economy status in 2017, which drew the ire of the United States because it limited opportunities for the United States to target Chinese companies, and the United States refused to recognize China's market economy status [2]. Trump's confrontational policy is embodied in his 2017 National Security Policy, which limits Chinese technology investment in the United States, reduces the number of exports, and expands the list of dual-use products that cannot be shipped to China. Since the tariffs began, Chinese companies have stopped buying agricultural products from the United States. The United States also issued a new tariff list on \$125 billion worth of Chinese imports, and China subsequently imposed a 5 percent tariff on domestic goods.

2.2. Impact

Chinese and American consumers are the obvious victims of trade tensions. Because the costs of the tariffs are largely borne by US importers, the cross-border prices of goods imported from China (before the tariffs were added) have barely changed, and import prices have risen sharply since the tariffs were added, in line with the extent of the tariffs. The tariffs are divided into two parts, one of which is passed on to American consumers, such as on household appliances such as washing machines and televisions. The rest is absorbed by importers through lower interest rates. While the direct impact on inflation would be small, it could have a broader effect by raising prices for domestic competition [3].

3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

This paper analyzes the impact of the Sino-US trade war on the US economy and the changes and reasons of the number of students going to the US, and further studies which other national parks students will choose when the number of students going to the US changes, as well as the impact on other selected countries.

3.1. Case Study -- EIC Education 2023 Study Abroad Report

It contains reports of study abroad in different countries, from which changes in the number of people and the reasons can be extracted. Eic Education is a well-known brand in the field of international education. It is a flagship institution of overseas study consulting and overseas training officially certified by the Ministry of Education of China, and has strong advantages in international education resources. His reports on studying abroad are numerous and universal, which adds credibility.

3.2. Interview Analysis -- Analysis of a Research Interview Conducted by Wang Yiting, a Master from Zhejiang University of Media and Communication

Through interviews, the author found that students who have been in the United States for a long time have less perception of the impact of Sino-US trade frictions. The interviewees who have been in the United States for five years said that the impact is not particularly great. Although some foreigners may ask some political questions, they do not mean to offend. Three years in the United States

interview subjects said that no impact at all; The interviewees who have been in the United States for two months said that they can obviously feel the influence in their lives. For example, when applying for bank cards, if they are Chinese, the process will be much more complicated, and some teachers will stereotype Chinese students in class.

The impact also depends on the region. New York University and Columbia University, places with large Chinese populations and high levels of urban development, have less impact; In areas with a lower level of development, such as Missouri in the middle of the United States, international students will more or less perceive some discriminatory colors in daily conversation.

4. RESEARCH CONTENT AND ANALYSIS

4.1. US Immigration Policy Changes

According to the data of the Ministry of Education, the number of Chinese students studying abroad in 2018 has reached 662,100, and China has grown into the world's largest source of international students. However, on June 3, 2019, the Ministry of Education issued the No. 1 alert for study abroad in 2019, and the Ministry of Education data showed that the rejection rate of visas to study in the United States has risen sharply, and the total number of F1 visas issued to China in 2018 was 110,091, a decrease of 11.8% compared with 124,860 in the whole year of 2017. In 2015, before Trump took office, the United States issued 287,595 student visas to China, twice the number in 2018, including 10,313 Chinese government-sponsored students who could not go to the United States as planned because of visa problems, 331 people, accounting for 3.2%, the situation of studying in the United States was very serious. This is also closely related to the study abroad policies and measures introduced by the Trump administration. Since 2017, the US government has introduced a strategy to limit the validity of Chinese students' approved passports and reduce student visas, and the passport approval rate of Chinese students has dropped by 17% in just one year [4].

On July 13, 2018, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) updated its policy to require that all immigrant/non-immigrant applications received by USCIS, beginning September 11, 2018, be submitted to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. If the materials initially provided do not meet the requirements or lack part of the materials, the immigration officer can directly refuse, without sending a replacement or refusal notice in advance. According to the Washington Post, senior officials at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are now considering scrapping the one-time fee of \$200 per international Student to the Student Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), which oversees international students. International students are required to reapply for a U.S. visa each year to stay in the United States, and are required to pay this fee each year. If the proposal passes, it means that students studying in the United States will not only have to pay more in application fees, but will also have to spend time preparing visa materials and undergo greater scrutiny. At the same time, with the epidemic still seriously affecting people's lives, the US government forced universities in some regions to open offline courses, and required Chinese students to attend online classes, otherwise they would cancel their passports, meaning they would be repatriated. Such unreasonable requirements will inhibit the overseas study market, so the number of Chinese students going to the United States in 2020 for the first time has declined (Liu R & Wu W, 2022).

The deteriorating relationship between China and the United States is the biggest factor affecting Chinese students' choice of the United States as a country to study, followed by restrictions on visas for Chinese students. According to the data, China is the largest source of international students in the United States. In 2018, the total consumption of Chinese students in the United States reached 18.9 billion US dollars a year. After Trump took office, a series of overseas study policies have suppressed the enthusiasm of Chinese students to study in the United States, which is negative for

both sides. The study abroad policy of the United States not only affects Chinese students, but also changes the willingness of other students to study abroad.

4.2. America Cracks Down on Chinese Engineering Students

In 2019, it was mentioned in the People's Daily that more than 500 Chinese science and engineering graduate students were rejected by the United States when applying for visas. It is understood that more than 500 students are applying for master's or doctoral degrees in the United States, and most of them are majoring in science and technology such as computer science, science, chemistry and biomedical science. American universities include Harvard University, Yale University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and about a quarter of the students have won American scholarships. On the one hand, the Biden administration tried to comply with the requirements of American universities to absorb a large number of Chinese students and maintain high tuition fees from international students, on the other hand, it still continued the wrong policy of suppressing Chinese graduate students and scholars in science and engineering.

4.3. Interview Analysis - The Impact of the Sino-US Trade War on Students in the US

Through the author's interview, most students in the United States do not know about the Sino-US trade war, mainly in terms of whether it has an impact on visas and daily life. It depends on the time in the United States and the region. Interviewees who have been in the United States for five years said: The impact of Sino-US trade frictions is not particularly great, but foreigners will ask political questions, but they do not mean to offend; Three years in the United States, the interviewee said: It has no effect on me at all; However, the interviewees who have only been in the United States for three months think that they can feel the impact in their daily life: if they go to the bank to apply for a bank card, it will be much more complicated, and the teachers also have stereotypes about Chinese students.

At the same time, it is also found that the impact of trade friction is also related to the location of the region, for example, in New York University and Columbia University, where there are more Chinese and are located in a higher level of development, the impact is less. However, in areas with a lower level of development, such as Missouri in the middle of the United States, discrimination is more or less felt in the chat [5].

4.4. Case Study - Analysis of the 2023 EIC White Paper

According to the 2023 data of the Institute of International Education (IIE) in the United States, the number of Chinese students studying in the United States remains the highest in the 2022-2023 academic year, reaching 289,526, accounting for 27.39%.

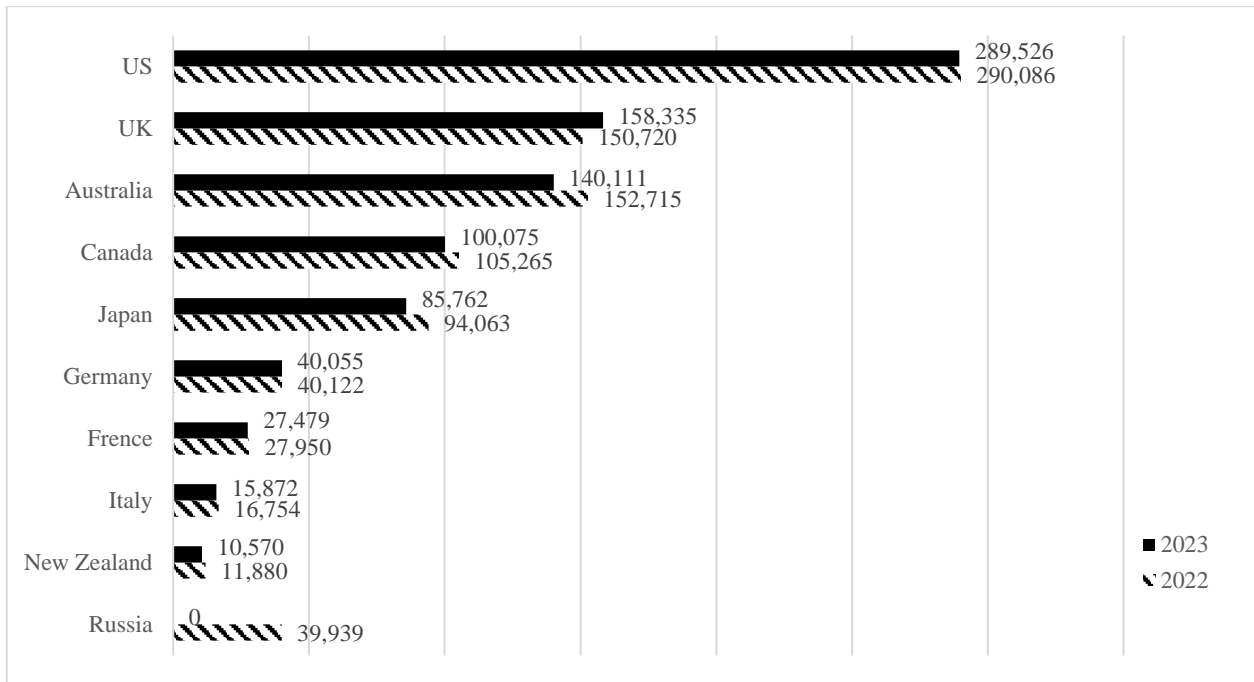


Figure 1. Number of Chinese students in popular study destinations

Fifty-five percent of international students choose STEM majors, with math and computer science remaining the most popular, followed by engineering (19 percent) and business and management (15 percent). The number of graduate students in the 2022-2023 academic year reached 470,000, with a year-on-year increase of 21.3% and an increase of 17% over 2021.

5. CONCLUSION

The trade war between China and the United States has caused the United States to lose part of its full tuition fees, which is a big impact on American colleges and universities, and also requires the United States government to absorb a large number of Chinese students. Because of the change in the visa policy of the United States, some international students have also been reduced, among which Chinese science and engineering students are more affected than other students. However, this can also be regarded as a new opportunity. Both China and the United States regard the high-tech field as the core competitiveness of the country in the future, and both sides attach great importance to personnel training. Even though there are certain restrictions on U.S. visas. However, they are good enough to get a good space for development, and researchers in related fields said that the possibility of further expansion of the Sino-US trade war is unlikely, and the competitive relationship between the two countries will tend to ease.

After the start of the Sino-US trade war, there may be a period of time when the country of interest of overseas students has changed from the United States to other countries, but choosing the United States is still the first choice of people. After the 2022 academic year, the number of students studying in the United States is still the first place, and the number of people choosing other countries is also gradually rising, because of the openness of the epidemic, the number of students choosing to study abroad is also gradually rising, in addition to the United States, the number of international students in Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom is also gradually rising, which is a choice after the epidemic. It is also a good recovery for the economies of these countries.

In fact, studying abroad is also a kind of cultural exchange and economic support of many countries, which is a way for international students to broaden their horizons and better integrate into the world, and should not be affected by international politics and international conflicts.

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