

An Epidemic of Tariffs: Infection and the future of Global Trade

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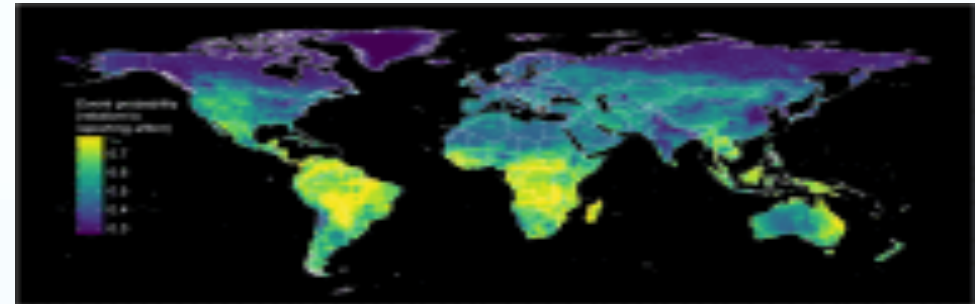
An Epidemic of Tariffs?

- As the International Trade Regime is Disrupted, Is there an Impact for Global Health?
- What shifts are occurring in emergency measures?



Question: Trade and Infection

- Purpose: To examine the current state of trade related embargoes and regimes and how they affect or are impacted by outbreaks of infectious diseases.
- Case study: Ebola W Africa



Two GATT Agreements, One Concern

- Historically infection related embargoes are reported to WTO as Emergency Measures
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary agreement (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) register and communicate such measures to members
- Trade disruption historically is the major indirect cost of outbreaks (hundreds of millions to billions of dollars in cost)

Previous epidemics were very costly, and much of costs were in trade

- 1998-2002 embargo of fish from Lake Victoria countries by EU for cholera. \$330 m.
- 2000 multiple embargoes for BSE cost of \$5.6 b.
- Ebola notifications- not significant 2016.



Tariffs- Tit for Tat 2017-18

Battle # 1
January 2018
Solar

- Solar Panels \$ 8.5 b, Washing machines \$ 1.8b (USA)
- Sorghum 178.6 % duty (China on US)

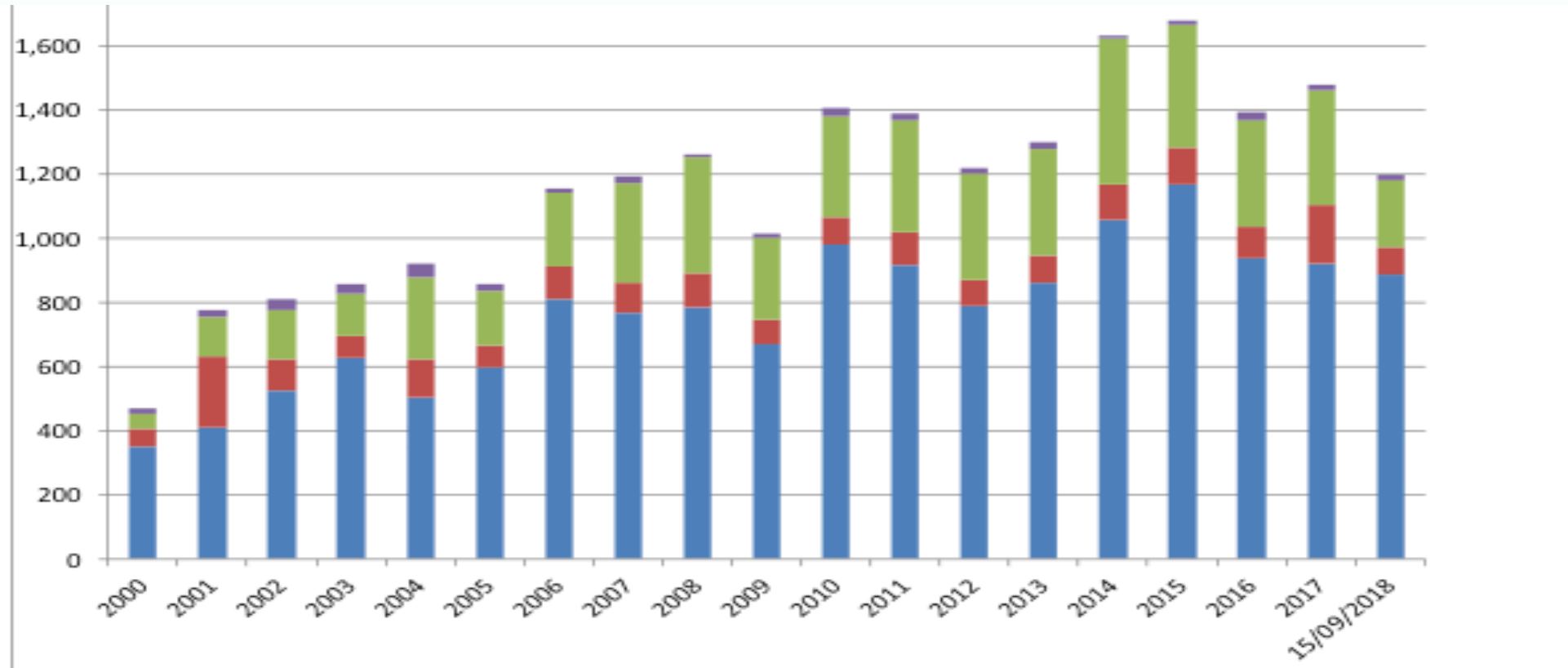
Battle #2 Steel
and Aluminum
March 2018

- Steel 25%, (USA)Aluminum 10% (USA)
- Multiple exemptions
- China Aluminum waste, pork fruits, nuts \$ 2.4 b (China)

Battle #3
Intellectual
Property April
2018

- Multiple products, 25%, \$46.b (USA vs.China)
- Multiple products 25% \$50b (China vs. USA)

NOTIFICATIONS SPS by Year



Findings-

- New strategies in working groups allow regionalization by countries
- WTO workshops for SPS to enhance implementation by member countries
- Small LDC economies less involved in trade and in WTO notification system
- Tariffs may be surprising other notifications through the urgent measures channel
- “Human health” shifting to “animal health” for human pathogen precautions

Trade and Infection

- For poor less trade dependent economies disruption will occur but requires informal systems of inquiry
- IHR implementation may be encouraged by diminished formal disruptions
- Overall GATT system is under stress, continued observation of nexus with health is critical at this time.

THANK YOU.....

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