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# “Buy American, Hire American”?

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Segment Length: 1:50 minutes; 3:55 minutes

## **Videos:**

“Donald Trump Signs ‘Buy American, Hire American’ Executive Order”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_rnrELaNM0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_rnrELaNM0)

“Foreigners Are Our Friends – Econ Chronicles”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXMnAPGY1uE>

## **Guide:**

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

## **Analysis Questions:**

1. Why does President Trump say American projects should be made with American goods?
2. President Trump says federal contracts should employ American workers in order to protect their jobs and wages. How could this work?
3. “Buy American, hire American” would surely help some American workers just as banning the corn-to-cars factory would in Bryan Caplan’s example. But what costs would come with such a policy in Caplan’s example and in real-world America?
4. Who benefits from free trade with other nations? Who benefits from protectionist policies like the ones described by President Trump?
5. Why does Bryan Caplan say foreign trade is like technology? Why does he say it is even better than technological development?
6. President Trump says the United States should no longer allow foreign countries to cheat American producers and works out of federal contracts. What does he mean by that?
7. Economist Henry George said protective policies are like a self-enforced blockade. How so?
8. According to Bryan Caplan, why might politicians like Donald Trump oppose free trade with other nations?
9. President Trump has said that he believes the United States cannot lift its protective tariffs until other countries do the same. How would Bryan Caplan respond?

10. Use Bryan Caplan's arguments to address the following question: Why should the U.S. government employ foreign laborers over Americans when those Americans are unemployed?
11. How do Donald Trump and Bryan Caplan address production and consumption? Which does each emphasize?