

“America should Write the Rules. America should Call the Shots” says Obama: Invokes China Threat in Defense of TPP Trade Deal

By [RT](#)

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Region: [Asia](#), [USA](#)

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The rules of trade in the Asia-Pacific must be written by America, not China, US President Barack Obama has argued in an opinion article that called for a swift ratification of the controversial TPP free trade deal.

“America should write the rules. America should call the shots. Other countries should play by the rules that America and our partners set, and not the other way around,” the president [wrote](#) in a piece published by the Washington Post.

Obama was defending the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a free trade deal signed in February by 12 Pacific Rim nations. The US legislators are yet to ratify the deal, and the president said it must be done as soon as possible.

“The Asia-Pacific region will continue its economic integration, with or without the United States. We can lead that process, or we can sit on the sidelines and watch prosperity pass us by,” he warned, pointing a finger at China as a major threat to the TPP.

“As we speak, China is negotiating a trade deal that would carve up some of the fastest-growing markets in the world at our expense, putting American jobs, businesses and goods at risk.”

China is advocating an alternative treaty called Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which includes some of America’s closest allies in the region like Australia, South Korea and Japan. The RCEP does not follow the US interests the way the TPP does, Obama said, describing TPP as “a trade deal that puts American workers first and makes sure we write the rules of the road for trade in the 21st century.” The TPP has been criticized for protecting the rights of big corporations at the expense of nations and their citizens. Once the deal is in place, it would lead to deregulation of many areas of business, including some crucial for people’s wellbeing and human rights, such as pharmaceuticals, or enforcement of digital copyrights. It would also compromise labor and environmental standards, critics say.

TTIP risks to health, environment, ‘US pressure on EU’ revealed in docs leaked by Greenpeace <https://t.co/c10iIFLH4>

— RT (@RT_com) [May 3, 2016](#)

The signing of the deal was accompanied by mass protests in affected countries, including the US. Similar concerns exist over other free trade deals that the Obama administration is pushing for, such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the US and the EU. This week Greenpeace Netherlands revealed leaked classified negotiation texts, which, the organization said, exposed the TTIP as a deal “*about a huge transfer of power from people to big business.*”

European officials earlier complained that Washington wants the deal to provide preferable conditions for American companies and would not compromise.

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