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World Civilization

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Research & Writing

The United States is the largest economy and largest exporter/importer of goods and services in the world. In this country, the trading system and networks are critical to its prosperity. Throughout history we have seen the importance of network connections and the growth that it has produced in shaping the world as we know it today. Network connections affect multiple aspects of our daily lives. Analyzing my life today, it is difficult for me to imagine my life without the existence of the network connections and the trade system; I can not imagine what my world would be like today.

One of the major imports of this country is machinery; including computers and hardware. In today's society, we are all surrounded by technology. From our cell phones to the vehicles we drive to something as simple as a smart doorbell. We are not only surrounded by technology, it is integrated into every aspect of our daily lives. To know that consistency, year after year, one of the United States top imports is machinery causes you to think. Most of the technology that is imported is from super powers like China, where would that leave us as a country if we no longer imported technology from outside countries and only used USA made technology? For school, I have my Apple Macbook Air, iPad and my cell phone is an iPhone; for all of these products the majority of the pieces are imported from South Korea and Japan and assembled in China. This leaves me to think about my life if the United States was unable to support producing

the necessary materials for my Apple products and unable to assemble all parts. Would this country be able to support any brand of phone or would I risk access to utilizing a cell phone?

The United States is the 2nd leading country in agricultural trade; making it a major contender for analysis. Some of the major imports for the US are tropical fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, wine and essential oils among a few to mention. These imported items are vital to every person's daily diet. Unfortunately, as a whole this country is unable to answer the demand for these items without importing them. If networks were not formed establishing a consistent import of these items how would this effect our daily intake of food? Would there not be a collapse of the supermarkets as we know it? Or would it have the opposite effect and encourage people to grow their own food? Personally, living in the Northeast, we are limited to what we can grow and harvest. Our entire diet and food choices would be different. It is similarly said for clothing. The United States imports the majority of its clothing and textiles from India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, China and Mexico. Unfortunately, clothing made in the United States are more expensive than clothing from outside countries; importing these pieces are more cost effective for this country. Although in the long run, supporting home based businesses will grow the economy, the choice is still made in the spirit of capitalism to simply import clothing.

When looking at the networks established to secure a steady supply of technology, machinery, clothing, food products and other items my world would be completely different. Life as I know it would be different, there would not be an aspect that would not be affected. I appreciate the development of the trade system and the

network connections that have been created and have evolved to what we know today. It helps me appreciate the world as all of us are connected through the sharing of each country's goods.

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