

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview. Short Film:
“Are Protective Tariffs Constitutional?” (10–12 Minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

Goal

In this short (5:39) film, speaker Tom Richey discusses the specific limitations imposed upon Congress before it imposes tariffs, and the difference between protective tariffs and revenue tariffs..

Instructions

1. Play the short film above here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GW_R09549x8.
2. Discuss as a class by asking for volunteers for their thoughts.

Debrief Questions

1. What is the difference between protective tariffs and revenue tariffs?
The first protects some producers, enriching them and making the buyers of their good poorer by forcing them to pay higher prices. The latter are usually much lower and are simply to pay for government’s operating costs.
2. How is the phrase “general welfare” once again a real issue in the Constitution?
It’s a phrase that those who favor protective tariffs twist to mean that those tariffs—which are not legal—are acceptable because they supposedly “promote the general welfare” (although they don’t; they promote SPECIFIC welfare).