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Daily Mail editorial: Will next president help create or kill jobs?

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Voters in the 2016 election are faced with both major party presidential candidates opposed to free trade, yet many economists say free trade creates more jobs than it kills.

“Donald Trump attacks the longstanding Republican promotion of trade as an engine of growth,” wrote Robert B. Zoellick in a [Wall Street Journal Opinion column](#) Monday.

As Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton supported the Trans-Pacific Partnership as the “gold standard” of trade deals. But by the time the Democratic convention rolled around and after her difficult battle with leftist Bernie Sanders, Clinton said she opposes the deal.

Is free trade good for the United States?

“In running our personal affairs, virtually all of us exploit the advantages of free trade and comparative advantage without thinking twice,” wrote economist Alan S. Blinder in the [Concise Encyclopedia of Economics](#).

Yet free trade is on the ropes in statements by both major parties — which the Cato Institute’s [Daniel J. Ikenson writes](#) is not unusual during presidential election campaigns. After the election the new president generally supports trade deals.

“Despite the strident anti-trade rhetoric of the 2016 election cycle and the disavowals of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement by both major-party presidential candidates, the next U.S. president will be happy to have the TPP in his or her foreign policy toolbox and will do what it takes to make that happen,” Ikenson wrote in a Forbes commentary.

“Long is the list of presidential aspirants who have used words to foment and exploit voter angst about trade and globalization. ... While the world might be a better place if politicians could be taken at their word, rest assured that it will be a better place if the TPP is ratified and implemented.”

There is a party with a realistic view of free trade: the Libertarians. “We’re the only free trade ticket in the race,” William Weld, Libertarian vice presidential nominee, told The Washington Times two weeks ago.

U.S. citizens have been benefiting from free trade among the states since the U.S. Constitution took effect in 1789.

“Americans should appreciate the benefits of free trade more than most people,” Blinder wrote, “for we inhabit the greatest free-trade zone in the world. ... The fifty states trade freely with one another, and that helps them all enjoy great prosperity.”

The world is a global market. The country will benefit with a president who understands that.