

# THE NEW YORKER

## Free Trade and the Poor

**The Mail: Letters respond to Tad Friend’s article on artificial intelligence, Casey N. Cep’s history of Zora Neale Hurston’s “Barracoon,” and Caleb Crain’s essay on authoritarianism.**

Simon Lester

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In Caleb Crain’s essay about whether capitalism poses a threat to democracy, he discusses Robert Kuttner’s views on the impact of free trade but leaves out a key consideration (Books, May 14th). Beyond the impact that free trade has on Americans, its benefits for the developing world should not be ignored. Hundreds of millions of people have been helped out of poverty by an American-led system of trade liberalization. Perhaps this will not convince American voters, but it should count for something.

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