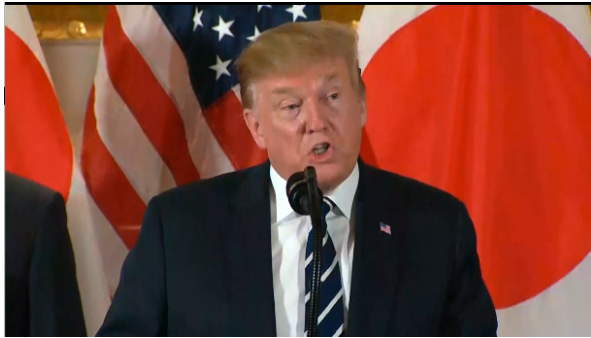




Trump chides Japan over trade imbalance

May 26, 2019

U.S. President Donald Trump urged Japanese business leaders on Saturday to increase their investment in the United States while he chided Japan for having a "substantial edge" on trade that negotiators were trying to even out in a bilateral deal.



U.S. President Donald Trump opened his state visit to Japan by taking a dig at Tokyo over what he calls a "substantial" trade imbalance with the U.S.

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL DONALD TRUMP, SAYING:

"I would say that Japan has had a substantial edge for many many years, but that's OK. Maybe that's why you like us so much. But we'll get it a little bit more fair, I think. I think we'll do that."

Trump arrived in Japan on Saturday for a largely ceremonial visit meant to showcase strong ties between the two countries even though trade relations are problematic.

Tensions are simmering as Trump considers tariffs on Japanese auto exports.

Though a trade deal is unlikely to be finalized during this trip, Trump nonetheless says the two countries are making progress.

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL DONALD TRUMP, SAYING:

"With this deal, we hope to address the trade imbalance, remove barriers to United States exports and ensure fairness and reciprocity in our relationship. And we're getting closer."

Trump also urged Japanese business leaders to increase their investment in the U.S. saying there's never been a better time to do business in America.

Trump will meet Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday for a round of golf, a sumo tournament and a private dinner.