



# AMERICA BOXED IN

“It struck me that when freight containers are interrupted, assembly plants stop, employees become jobless, and projects like mine, accumulate costs. When new containers arrived, I was struck yet again. Anything could be shipped in these opaque boxes. Less than five percent worldwide are inspected. It was straightforward that the container cuts both ways. It endlessly moves goods around the world. At the same time, it presents a target for terrorists. An assault on the container shipping system could bring about a crisis in the whole global economy.”

*Lance Hoovestel - “GLOBALIZATION CONTAINED” Palgrave 2013*

A laurel wreath border, rendered in a golden-yellow color, frames the central text. The wreath consists of two branches of leaves that curve upwards and meet at the top and bottom, forming a circular shape around the text.

With  
more than 230 Honors  
and a  
7 day theatrical run in  
Long Beach  
**AMERICA BOXED IN**  
is officially  
**ACADEMY AWARD**  
eligible



It was a special honor to present *America Boxed In* at the 75<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival  
Marché du Film Market



# AMERICA BOXED IN









**"How does world affairs work? What's the engine under the lid? *'America Boxed In'* is a gripping account of the heart of the whole machine, namely, the shipping container. This humble piece of modern technology has revolutionized international trade. It has also facilitated global criminal and terrorist activities, exacerbated the growing divide between populists and globalists, and made possible the explosive 'rise of China'. The latter is bringing with it radical changes in the balance of strategic power, not only in Asia but the world as well. This is big stuff and it's going on right now. Want to be blown away? Want to understand what's really happening? Spend 100 minutes in the highly capable hands of Lance Hoovestal, Montana's own cowboy-corporate-academic. You can't help but come away more engaged and much, much better informed. That I can guarantee."**

**Ralph Pettman**

Professor at Hitotsubashi University  
World Affairs Consultant





## Stupendous Shipping

**Pre-Covid, the container shipping industry earned profits of \$1 billion/quarter. With the arrival of Covid, however, profits soared. During 20Q4 they were \$10 billion, in 21Q1 they hit \$20 billion, by 21Q3 they were \$48.1 billion, and in 22Q1 \$58.7 billion. The Peak, 22Q2 at a mind-blowing \$63.7 billion, 145% more profit than Facebook, Apple, Google, and Netflix combined. In 22Q3 profit eased to \$58.9 billion, still 1% of GDP!**

**Elliot Eisenberg, the Bowtie Economist**

# AMERICA BOXED IN

*"BY DELIVERING MOMENTOUS INSECURITY,  
EXTRAORDINARY POLITICAL DIVISIONS,  
AND UNPRECEDENTED PROSPERITY TO OUR  
GLOBALIZED AGE—THE CONTAINER IS THE  
MOST SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGY OF OUR TIME."*

*- LANCE HOOVESTAL*

PARADIGM MOTION PICTURE CO. PRESENTS  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH LE7 PRODUCTIONS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER LANCE HOOVESTAL PRODUCED BY CASEY WILLIAMS IAN WILLIAMS DIRECTED BY CASEY WILLIAMS IAN WILLIAMS  
BASED ON THE BOOK GLOBALIZATION CONTAINED BY LANCE HOOVESTAL, PH.D. ADAPTED FOR THE SCREEN BY CASEY WILLIAMS IAN WILLIAMS LANCE HOOVESTAL  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER DUANE LOOSE MUSIC BY WILLIAM JOSEPH SOUND BY DAVE EVANOFF



Canon



GoPro



PARADIGM MOTION PICTURE COMPANY in association with LE7 PRODUCTIONS

announce the release of the feature documentary film

## AMERICA BOXED IN

**AMERICA BOXED IN** explores the impact of the intermodal container industry on the political, economic, and strategic landscape of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. From the dispersion of global power to the incredible divisions in political systems to the meteoric rise of China - this simple steel box is dramatically changing every aspect of our globalized world.

**AMERICA BOXED IN** is based on the research and writings of *Lance Hoovestal, Ph.D.*, (University of Melbourne) who is the Executive Producer of the film.

*For more information, please visit <http://boxedin.paradigmmpc.com/>*

### Contact

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# AMERICA BOXED IN

<i>Running Time</i>	102 minutes
<i>Aspect Ratio</i>	16:9
<i>Shooting Format</i>	4K Red Raw
<i>Executive Producer</i>	Lance Hoovestal
<i>Directed by</i>	Casey G. Williams Ian S. Williams
<i>Written by</i>	Lance Hoovestal Casey G. Williams Ian S. Williams
<i>Produced by</i>	Casey G. Williams Ian S. Williams
<i>Production Company</i>	Paradigm Motion Picture Co. In association with LE7 Productions
<i>Composer</i>	William Joseph



**AMERICA BOXED IN** exposes the profound contradictions that lie at *the heart of globalization*. Today, the container stands between two critical issues. On the one hand, is *"open market freedom."* On the other hand, is the defense of sovereign "security." In between is *globalization's "Pandora's Box."*

## SYNOPSIS

**AMERICA BOXED IN** examines the world-changing shifts that the "heart of the global economy"-the freight container has brought. The first upheaval is marked by the diffusion of power from governments to non-state actors that operate with no regard for national borders. The global connectivity that defines the 21st century has given rise to a second radical conversion—the extraordinary division of political systems worldwide, particularly between the opposing camps of populism and globalism. Finally, our globalized age is witnessing an extreme wealth and power transition among states from West to East, most notably, from the United States to China. This transformation calls attention to what will be the most important relationship of our time. *America Boxed In* spotlights these critical strategic, economic, and political issues that loom on the global horizon of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

# OUR STORY

The freight container transformed the entire world into next-door neighbors and impacted the global economy in ways never experienced before. It is the core element in a system that has sharply reduced the cost of moving goods globally and drastically shortened the time it takes to do so.

At the same time, the container helps facilitate the activities of sinister actors without borders, like Al Qaeda and ISIS. Thwarting their activities without disrupting international trade has become a vital issue of our time.

But that is only part of the story. While destroying barriers to global trade, the container integrated national economies, inspiring an international re-examination of the effects of rampant globalization. Particularly its extraordinary uniting of economies and its potent impact on national independence. The linking of economies has supercharged the political discord sweeping across the globe, predominantly witnessed through the seismic divisions between the opposing camps of populism and globalism—most notably in the Trump and Brexit votes.

This ubiquitous steel box dramatically elevated the U.S. to its role as the lone global superpower by crushing roadblocks to worldwide trade. In so doing, the container reshaped the strategic, economic, and political landscape of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and fortified its place as a momentous force for global change.

Today, China is using the container to transform the topography of world affairs. It is the fundamental element in China's meteoric rise from communist isolation to an emerging superpower. They are redrawing the geopolitical map by using the One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI) to construct, acquire, and operate container ports that increasingly link established and rising trade lanes throughout the world. China's investments will have significant consequences for the U.S. as they build powerful loyalties while breaking down those the U.S. spent many years forging—creating what will be the most significant clash of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



# OUR MESSAGE

The shipping container has not only impacted the global economy in ways never experienced before and *brought the World closer together*, but it has also profoundly *exacerbated our divisions*.

Manufacturers and *consumers demand* that *goods* be moved at speeds that do not allow for strict security, resulting in less than five percent of all containers are ever being inspected. Consequently, *the container has become a prime instrument* that helps facilitate sinister activities of lawless actors. Thwarting their activities without disrupting international trade has become a critical issue of our time. Though each country addresses this as a sovereign concern, no real solution can be achieved without the support of mutual considerations.

At the same time, the container crushed roadblocks to global trade. In so doing, it blurred borders and made true sovereignty increasingly difficult to maintain. Today, the worldwide movements of populist sovereignty and borderless globalism have deepened the political and ideological fractures between us that may never heal.

Yet there is hope. We can learn from the tragedies of history and overcome the hostile rifts between us and construct a new age of peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. When Planet Earth is viewed from space it appears as a beautiful, fragile, blue marble devoid of borders and differences—a place where cooperation and peace can genuinely flourish.





# Executive Producer Lance Hoovestal

*Dr. Lance Hoovestal* is the author of the acclaimed book *GLOBALIZATION CONTAINED: The Economic and Strategic Consequences of the Container*. He currently serves as *Director of Business Development* in Australia and Asia for Greenway Enterprises, Inc. He holds a *Ph.D.* in *International Relations* from the University of Melbourne, Australia; a *Master of International Relations* degree from the University of New South Wales, Australia; and a *Master of Business Studies* Degree from the University College Cork, Ireland. As part of this degree, Lance completed a one-year *internship in Singapore*. Through St. Bonaventure University, New York, he studied at the *International College of Seville*, Spain, for one semester. Lance did his undergraduate work at *Montana State University*, Bozeman, Montana, and *Carroll College*, Helena, Montana. He is also a *contributing author* to the Handbook of International Political Economy and an enrolled member of the *Gros Ventre American Indian* tribe.





# Executive Producer Statement

**“On May 7, 1999, five US bombs hit the People’s Republic of China’s Embassy in Belgrade during the Kosovo war. U.S. President Bill Clinton apologized for the bombing, stating that it was ‘accidental’ and a ‘tragic mistake.’ Nevertheless, three Chinese citizens were killed.**

**Demonstrations erupted throughout China. Tens of thousands of irate rioters kept U.S. Ambassador James Sasser and his staff trapped in the Beijing embassy for several days. The residence of the Consul in Chengdu and the Consulate in Guangzhou were set on fire.**

**Soon after the demonstrations stopped, fellow crew members and I flew out of Washington, DC, bound for Beijing. Our Job? Diplomacy and reconstruction of the damaged embassy and consulates. When we arrived, we found several containers loaded with critical project material had suffered the same fate that awaits approximately ten thousand each year— they had been lost at sea.**

**It struck me that when freight containers are interrupted, assembly plants stop, employees become jobless, and projects like our own, accumulate costs. When new containers arrived, I was struck yet again. Anything could be shipped in these opaque boxes. Less than five percent worldwide are inspected. It was straightforward that the container cuts both ways. It endlessly moves goods around the world. At the same time, it presents a target for terrorists.**

**An assault on the container shipping system could bring about a crisis in the whole global economy.”**

Lance Hoovestal  
GLOBALIZATION CONTAINED, (Palgrave 2013)





中华人民共和国万岁



世界人民大团结万岁

## PRODUCER, DIRECTOR

### Casey G. Williams

Casey Williams is an **award-winning filmmaker** and **internationally respected documentary producer and director**. He was a founding member of the **Utah Film Front**, served as the **Associate Director** of the **Utah Film** and **Video Center** for a number of years, and established the **UFVC Outdoor Cinema Series**. He was **Producer and Director of “Art Works For Kids,”** a pilot program used by Salt Lake City School District, Central City Community Council, and Lincoln Elementary School. He is member of the **Artist Resource Center for the Utah Arts Council, Screenwriting and Media Arts Workshops**, and serves on the **Utah Arts Council Artist Grant Board**. He has received numerous international awards for his films including the **Cine-Eagle**, the **National Educational Film and Video Gold Apple**, as well as a **Student Academy Award**. Casey is also the co-author of **100 YEARS OF VALOUR, A Centennial Celebration of the Canadian Scottish Regiment of Victoria, British Columbia**.



## PRODUCER, DIRECTOR

### Ian S. Williams

Ian Williams is an **acclaimed writer, producer, and director of documentary films** and **multimedia events**. Ian began his film career by following his father with a film camera and assisting him in the production of his award winning films. It was in the school of practical experience that he learned the art and language of cinema. Determined not to ride his father's coattails, Ian went on to study film and communications. Ian became fascinated with the advances in digital film production and immersed himself in the emerging technologies. From **motion graphics and compositing to 3D applications** he proved a talent at each and is currently **pioneering new techniques in the presentation of archival photographs in documentary filmmaking**.



# Producers/Directors Statement

An unprecedented fete in the history of the world, **China has experienced a meteoric rise** from communist isolation to an emerging superpower in only 35 years! They are **redrawing the global geopolitical map** as they construct, acquire, and operate container ports. This **One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI)** increasingly links established and rising trade lanes worldwide. **China's investments will have significant consequences for the U.S.** as they build powerful loyalties while undermining those the U.S. spent many years forging.

**Isolation is trending** in the United States. It disaffirms old alliances and loses influence around the world. The **BRI is China's way of leveraging power to become a global leader. China is rapidly overtaking the United States as the world's top superpower** by building relationships and taking control of global trade,

This has led to **sweeping worldwide movements of globalism and populism** - and, perhaps, the more dire trend toward **tribalism**. The coalescing of groups that feel that if you don't believe the same as they do, then you deserve to die.

**Why is this happening in the 21st Century?**



We all have the innate need to have a sense of belonging. **Blurring borders for the ease of trade** has caused a loss of sovereignty and national identity. Maybe, too, it's because it is so easy now to click on a computer and see what's happening in other countries. We feel as if we are no longer unique or distinct in the world. **Tribalism** fills our need for belonging. Think of it as the need for family. The nuclear family is essential. People would feel grievously **horrified by the loss of family**. Now equate that to the **community, the state, and the nation**.

America becomes more **"boxed in"** as alliances change and China grows more assertive. People see it as the loss of family, the weakening of their sense of security. When that happens, they will find any tribe that will provide for them what they sense they have lost.



# MOST ASKED QUESTIONS

## 1. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TITLE "AMERICA BOXED IN?"

The container was a U.S. invention intended to reduce the cost and time involved in trade. China took advantage of the container in extraordinary ways to increase its GDP while expanding its scope of political influence, far outpacing the U.S. By 2011 the two nations had exchanged places in the number of countries with which they are allied. AMERICA BOXED IN reflects that America increasingly feels "boxed in" by the container's consequences, particularly by the rise of China and the vigorous forces of the globalization phenomenon itself.

## 2. WHAT IS THE BRI, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

China's Belt and Road Initiative is the world's most ambitious infrastructure project in history. It spans four continents and touches over two-thirds of the world's population. Its purpose is to reroute international trade. It's how China plans to reduce the United States' global influence and become the world's next superpower. Over 70 countries have signed agreements with China for BRI projects, and the list keeps growing. As of March 2021, sixty-three percent of the world's population lives within the borders of BRI countries.

## 3. WHAT IS THE "STRING OF PEARLS?"

It is a component of BRI that connects several bodies of water—the volatile south China sea, the South Pacific Ocean, and the more expansive Indian ocean to China's growing strategic network of maritime facilities in the Pacific and Indian oceans—also known as the "string of pearls."

China has never officially used the term "string of pearls." The concept, however, describes China's growing pockets of military and commercial influence aimed at ensuring that its sea lines of communication or the primary maritime routes between strategic ports used for trade, logistics, and naval forces remain open, safe, and secure at all times. These sea lanes run through several major shipping choke points, including the Strait of Malacca, the shortest waterway connecting the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea.

## 4. YOU HAVE SAID THAT THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IS WHERE THE TRUE DRAMA OF THE 21ST CENTURY WILL OCCUR. CAN YOU ELABORATE?

There's a lot of oil and natural gas below the surface. The Chinese government estimates there are 125 billion barrels of oil and 500 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in undiscovered areas. Considering China consumes about 4.5 billion barrels of oil annually, that could mean several decades' worth of energy. On top of that, nearly a third of all global maritime trade passes through its waters every year. That's \$5.3 trillion worth of trade. Ownership of the waters is an ongoing hotly debated concern. China claims ownership which surrounding countries contest. China denounces any U.S. presence in the area as a violation of its sovereign rights.



# MOST ASKED QUESTIONS (2)

## 5. DO YOU SEE TENSIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE U.S. ESCALATING?

The relationship between the U.S. and China will be the most important one in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Great distrust had existed between the two nations even before the U.S. was officially a nation. America's first encounters in China were through the opium trade. Not as exporters, but importers. The resulting two opium wars engendered what the Chinese have called the century of humiliation. They lost significant portions of their sovereignty to foreign powers. Until we are willing to try to understand our distrust with each other, tensions will remain. They may ebb and flow but never completely disappear.

## 6. DO YOU CONSIDER AMERICA BOXED IN TO BE A POLITICAL FILM?

The subject matter is political. The film explores both sides of issues that affect the geopolitical landscape of the global community in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. As filmmakers, we are neutral and will remain so. The film is intended to allow viewers to interpret the subject matter through the lens of their worldview with the hope that it will inspire them to a deeper understanding of opposing perspectives. We hope that it will open a dialogue between people from differing points of view.

## 7. WHY DID YOU MAKE THIS FILM?

The shipping container has been and is being used as a momentous force for global change. For example, it destroyed barriers to global trade and reshaped the economic and strategic landscape of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. When the film's executive producer, Lance Hoovestall, was working on a project in China, the containers needed for his project became lost at sea. While waiting for new containers to be shipped, he began to understand the significance of the container. Thus, he started his journey to understand this ubiquitous steel box and its consequential impacts on global change. Learning how to adapt to the changes in our world will be essential for our survival in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## 8. WHY DID YOU BOOKEND YOUR FILM WITH AN OLD WEST METAPHOR?

It made sense to illustrate that we had to adapt to a changing world at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. We survived that change and thrived. We can do it again.

## 9. YOU USE SOME IMAGES THAT SOME MIGHT FIND OFFENSIVE.

It is true that some material may not be suitable for some audience members. However, we felt that the subject matter was serious enough that it warranted stark reminders of the real-world implications here

# MOST ASKED QUESTIONS (3)

## 10. WHY DID YOU USE PAT BAGLEY CARTOON ANIMATIONS IN YOUR FILM?

The film spans several related subjects. In order to create a cohesive work, we decided to structure the film like a book with chapters. Pat's artwork serves as chapter breaks. Pat is an internationally respected award-winning editorial cartoonist. He is the winner of the Herblock Prize 2009 and Pulitzer Prize finalist 2014.

## 11. YOUR USE OF MUSIC PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN YOUR FILM. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMPOSER?

We were lucky to find William Joseph. He is a brilliant pianist, performer, and composer who David Foster discovered. He immediately connected with the subject matter. He had an innate ability to understand our direction and quickly developed a shorthand with us. It was like our brains were wired together. It's rare to have that happen but when it does it's lightning in a bottle. We believe that good filmmaking is like composing a symphony. It is the culmination of the skillful orchestration of sight and sound, plot and subplot, timing and editing, the sum of which is greater than its parts. A lot is going on in this film, and it was essential to have a music score that would enhance the overall experience.

## 12. FROM THE IDEA TO THE FINISHED PRODUCT, HOW LONG DID IT TAKE FOR YOU TO MAKE THIS FILM?

It's hard to believe but it took us seven years almost to the day. It was a very difficult film to make and was beset with a myriad of challenges and setbacks. However, what we deemed as curses at first, we now view as blessings. Each time we had to surmount another "Mt. Everest" the film evolved into something far better than our original concept.

## 13. WHAT WERE YOUR INITIAL REACTIONS WHEN WATCHING AN AUDIENCE TALKING ABOUT YOUR FILM?

You live to reach people, to communicate something important in your heart to them. Nothing is more satisfying than watching and hearing people respond to your work.

# PRAISE

I couldn't believe that a film about containers could be this interesting and important!

Vladimir Bibic  
Actor. National Geographic Filmmaker

This is a master class on Global Economics and and the current state of International Relations.

Rosemary Ferguson  
Canadian Educator

This film is better than Al Gore's *AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH*.

Setsuko Miike  
Japanese Translator

This film's release could not be more timely.

Robert Williams  
Divisional Dean, Social Science Division,  
Seaver College, Pepperdine

Fascinating documentary. Very informative and well-presented. Can't wait to see it going public and receiving loads of awards.

Jakki Moore  
Irish artist, former Miss Ireland

I have had a lot to do with Australian shipping to and from China. On the one to ten scale I'd give *AMERICA BOXED IN* a 10.

Senior Captain  
Australian Merchant Marine



# REVIEWS



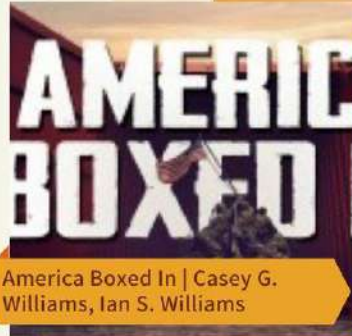
1ST MONTHLY FILM FESTIVAL  
[Season 2]

## Best Feature Documentary

Jury Comment: A story that is very well executed both in terms of narrative and visually. Very memorable cinematic experience.

Dec  
em  
ber

EDITION



America Boxed In | Casey G. Williams, Ian S. Williams

[www.1stmonthlyfilmfestival.com](http://www.1stmonthlyfilmfestival.com)



## World Film Fest

Bienvenidos al Festival Mundial de Cine

### Review of the Winning Films



AMERICA BOXED IN

AN ASSAULT ON THE CONTAINER SHIPPING SYSTEM  
COULD BRING ABOUT A CRISIS IN THE  
WHOLE GLOBAL ECONOMY...

**AMERICA BOXED IN**  
- Best Feature Doc Special Mention -  
Impressive documentary feature film, with a very creative style. Very precise documentation and perfectly structured script. The viewer is interested in the great narration of the story from the first frame. Excellent and meticulous cinematographic direction taking care of all the details. Great job from the whole team!



# REVIEWS cont.



## Review of the Winning Films 2022



**America Boxed In**  
 - Best Feature Documentary -  
 Casey and Ian amaze us with this experimental documentary feature film where the scenes surprise the viewer, along with a totally interesting and binding theme. Great camera movements and frames throughout the film. Very well cared for all the artistic and technical details. Very precise and committed direction. It truly is a gripping documentary! Bravo!



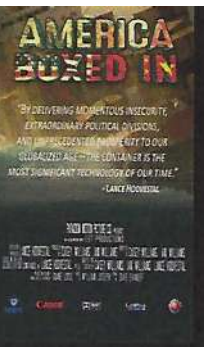
**America Boxed In**  
 - Best Feature Documentary -  
 Enormous artistic and technical quality in this experimental documentary feature film. The narrations (always perfectly performed by all the characters) are combined with images of extreme beauty and technical difficulty, and performances that sensitize the viewer. Superlative cinematographic direction. Great!



## America Boxed In

- Best Documentary -

Excellent documentary feature film. The scenes are truly spectacular, from the beginning of the film. He surprises us with wonderful performances that enrich the story he is telling us. Cinematographic direction of a very high level, also taking care of all the aesthetic details. Super cool!



## Review of the Winning Films 2022



**America Boxed In**  
 - Best Feature Documentary -  
 Excellent documentary feature film, full of creative nuances. Truly impressive scenes both on a visual level, due to the framing and camera movements that enhance the beauty of the photograph, as well as the sudden performances of very attractive characters for the viewer. Absolute genius at all times by the management. Cool!

# TEAM

<i>Narrators</i>	Lance Hoovestal John Bair Yunzuo Cai	<i>Visual Effects</i>	Trevor Williams Ian S. Williams Calix Clark
<i>Assistant Director</i>	Lee Stratford	<i>Sr. Intl. Historian, &amp; Accuracy Checker</i>	Paul Ferguson
<i>Production Designer VFX Supervisor</i>	Duane Loose	<i>Legal</i>	Nicole M. DeForge Stephan D. Swindle
<i>Music</i>	William Joseph	<i>Insurance</i>	Josh Jensen
<i>Sound Design</i>	David Evanoff	<i>Accounting</i>	Jon Shaw
<i>Title Animations</i>	Pat Bagley	<i>Translation</i>	Leo Chen Yu-Chen Hansen Tokeyi Anfinson
<i>Camera</i>	Ian S. Williams Casey G. Williams Lee Stratford Michael Chen	<i>2nd Unit</i>	Lucas Carson Landon Carson Leighton Bush Jared Chan
<i>Sound Recordists</i>	Dale Angell Michael Chen Reggie Hansen Casey G. Williams	<i>LA Commuter</i>	Blake Williams
<i>Additional Voice Over Recording</i>	David H.M. Lambert	<i>Pandora</i>	Jacie Colton
<i>Additional Footage</i>	Steff Hoffer Doug and Caroline White Brandan Guttenschwager Ross Brown	<i>Pandora's Children</i>	Kaizley Williams Ethan Wu

PARADIGM MOTION PICTURE COMPANY, in association with LE7 PRODUCTIONS,

announces the upcoming release of the feature documentary film

## AMERICA BOXED IN

**Salt Lake City, UT, USA** – Local filmmakers Casey G. Williams and Lance Hoovestal from Paradigm Motion Picture Company and LE7 Productions, respectively, announced today that they are releasing their joint-venture 94-minute feature documentary film AMERICA BOXED IN.

**AMERICA BOXED IN** explores the impact of the intermodal container industry on shaping the economic and geopolitical landscape of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, from the meteoric rise of China as a superpower to the international consequences of Globalization.

**AMERICA BOXED IN** is based on the research and writings of Lance Hoovestal, Ph.D. (University of Melbourne), who is the film's Executive Producer. He, along with the Producers and directors from Paradigm, are planning to release AMERICA BOXED IN through the film festival circuit followed by theatrical screenings and digital streaming, releases to network television, cable, pay-per-view, internet, libraries, and other appropriate markets, with select screenings at educational institutions.

### About AMERICA BOXED IN

**AMERICA BOXED IN** is a documentary film about the "heart of the global economy"-the freight container. This mere metal box transformed the entire world into next-door neighbors and fostered extraordinary economic prosperity. At the same time, it has put a stunning number of unprecedented threats in the global spotlight. It has shifted the flow of power away from nations to forces that respect no borders. In so doing, it has engendered a never seen before struggle for power to every corner of the world. It has highlighted the seismic political divisions demonstrated by the historic Brexit and Trump votes that are now sweeping across the globe. And it has supercharged China's global influence and helped them redraw the economic and political map of the 21st Century. AMERICA BOXED IN is a story that exposes the profound contradictions that lie at the heart of Globalization. Today, the container stands between two issues critical to 21st Globalization. On the one hand, is the issue of open market "freedom." On the other hand, is the issue of the defense of national "security." In between is Globalization's "Pandora's Box."

*For more information, please visit <http://boxedin.paradigmmpc.com/>*

### CONTACT

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## Staking a claim in the South China Sea





# A DEEPER LOOK

Until the 1950s, the ocean transport of cargo generally relied on the prolonged, labor-intensive, and expensive break bulk method. A young U.S. trucking entrepreneur, Malcom McLean, increasingly frustrated with this process, searched for a more effective and efficient way. After extensive deliberation, he decided to carry loaded trailer trucks directly onboard ships. The result was the 1956 world-changing freight container shipping system.

The container reshaped global connectivity by being the core element in a system that allows commodities like leather jackets, car parts, and frozen meats to traverse the world promptly at a price radically below what was possible before. It increased the liberty actors enjoy to trade globally, fostering unprecedented prosperity, wealth, and power. Today, the freight container is a critical feature of a network that the world cannot do without.

But that is only part of the story. What Malcom McLean did not anticipate were the significant collateral impacts and issues that the container would cast onto the global agenda.

Non-state actors-both legitimate and illegitimate-have become increasingly powerful actors in the 21st century. Actors like the World Trade Organization forged a landscape that permitted transnational corporations like Wal-Mart to locate their production facilities in the most advantageous locations around the globe. This internationalization of production created a novel, complex web of interlocking relationships among nations and transnational corporations. The result has been a dramatic transformation of the global economic landscape.

The attacks of 9/11 were a series of four orchestrated suicide attacks by the Islamist militant group Al Qaeda on the United States, primarily in New York City and Washington, DC. The events of that day made it clear that critical global transportation systems can be susceptible to widespread chaos at the hands of terrorist organizations.

## A DEEPER LOOK (2)

Both legitimate and illegitimate non-state actors have little interest in maintaining traditional state sovereignty. Instead, they seek a porous and accessible global environment where their objectives are more easily achieved. It is the interconnectedness of the globalized world that encourages them to infringe on national sovereignty. The result has been a ruthless global struggle for power.

As it destroyed barriers to global trade, the container fantastically united national economies; this blending of markets has inspired a widespread re-evaluation of the effects of run-away globalization, particularly its impact on national economies and independence. This integration of economies has supercharged the political discord sweeping across the globe, predominantly witnessed through the seismic divisions between the opposing camps of populism and globalism—most notably highlighted in the Trump and Brexit votes.

These referendums cast a bright light on the massive ruptures caused by globalization. They demonstrated a revolt against the melting of borders and a mounting sense of political despair from each country's working and middle-class, who believed that national leaders no longer responded to the concerns of people like them. On the other side are the globalists who see themselves as caretakers of globalization. They emphasize international integration and believe that the more the world economies and cultures merge, the greater the chance for global harmony and cooperation. The uniting economies lay the bedrock for a paradigm shift in attention and thought formed around the planet as "one place." The merging of economies has brought a vast polarization in political ideology to an increasingly insecure world.

Since China opened its doors for business under the 1978 reforms under Deng Xiaoping, it has viewed the container as a device to further its global integration. The immense ports built in China in the 1990s were investments in the changing configuration of international trade and the new era of globalization. Factories whose goods used these ports found the lowest rates and lowest costs concerning saved time and money. China realizes that a nation with an out-of-date infrastructure or with inefficient ports was a country that faced difficulties in finding a more significant role in the global economy.

## A DEEPER LOOK (3)

Today, a new generation of rising economies are staking their global claims. No other country has capitalized on market integration more than China. They have used the container as a political, economic, and strategic tool to spread their influence and power worldwide. By undertaking the most extraordinary economic development and construction project the world has ever seen—The "Silk Road Economic Belt" and the "21st Century Maritime Silk Road"—China is determined to shift the entire terrain of global politics, strategics, and economics. Hence, tightening its grip on globalization.

AMERICA BOXED IN examines a world where globalization reigns supreme. This ubiquitous metal box has been the core element in creating an extraordinary degree of connectivity that has altered global commerce and resulted in unprecedented wealth and power. At the same time, it has thrust an astonishing number of crucial issues onto the worldwide stage. From the rise of non-state actors; to the grand divisions of global political systems; to the meteoric rise of China—the container continues to be an agent of historic strategic, economic, and political change in an increasingly uncertain world.

A large container ship is shown tilted significantly to its right side, struggling in rough, churning green and white waves. The ship's deck is covered with stacks of colorful shipping containers in shades of yellow, red, blue, and green. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall scene conveys a sense of crisis and instability.

“AN ASSAULT ON THE SHIPPING CONTAINER  
SYSTEM COULD BRING ABOUT A CRISIS IN THE  
WHOLE GLOBAL ECONOMY...”

- LANCE HOOVESTAL



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EXTRAORDINARY POLITICAL DIVISIONS, AND  
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*"THIS FILM IS BETTER THAN  
AL GORE'S AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH"*

SETSUKO MIIKE - JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

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