International commitments may sit uneasily with national pressures in the best of times. The current age of economic uncertainty brings these tensions into sharper relief. This volume draws together thirteen analyses of these competing interests in a wide array of contexts, including each of the three main pillars of the World Trade Organization; international investment law and arbitration; and the international financial institutions. The essays feature internationally recognised experts addressing topical examples of international economic law obligations clashing with domestic policy interests. For example, Professor Robert Howse of the New York University Law School, addresses issues of globalisation and whether international and national interests can in today’s world be considered separate, while Ko-Yung Tung, former Director-General of the World Bank, looks at trends in investment treaty arbitration and considers what the future may hold in light of the recent financial crisis, the rise of China as an economic powerhouse, and other factors.

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