# TRADE COOPERATION

The Purpose, Design and Effects of Preferential Trade Agreements

Preferential trade agreements (PTAs) have been proliferating for more than two decades, with the negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and a Trans-Pacific Partnership being just the tip of the iceberg. This volume addresses some of the most pressing issues related to the surge in these agreements. It includes chapters written by leading political scientists, economists and lawyers who theoretically and empirically advance our understanding of trade agreements. The key theme is that PTAs vary widely in terms of design. The authors provide explanations of why we see these differences in design and whether and how these differences matter in practice. The tools for understanding the purposes and effects of PTAs that are offered will guide future research and inform practitioners and trade policy experts about progress in the scientific inquiry into PTAs.

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The Purpose, Design and Effects of Preferential Trade Agreements World Trade Forum

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## PREFACE

Preferential trade agreements (PTAs) are currently the major venue for regulating international trade. Over the past 30 years, PTAs have mush-roomed, with nearly all countries now having signed at least one. Many of these agreements not only reduce tariffs but also regulate issues as diverse as foreign direct investments, intellectual property rights and public procurement. Many PTAs even include provisions regarding nontrade issues such as democracy, environmental protection and human rights.

Much research has been devoted to the study of PTAs. So far, however, this research has mainly followed disciplinary borders, with political scientists, lawyers and economists working in relative isolation from each other. Moreover, existing research has failed to fully capture variation in the design of PTAs. With some PTAs as short as one or two pages and other PTAs as long as a thousand pages, the variation in design is likely to be key to understanding both the causes and consequences of PTAs.

With the aim of advancing the state of the art, we invited leading scholars on PTAs from political science, law and economics to the World Trade Forum – an annual event taking place at the World Trade Institute (WTI) in Bern – in October 2013. Participants in the conference took stock of what we know about the purpose, design and effects of PTAs, but they also looked beyond their specific research agendas to combine insights from different disciplines. Knowledge creation is a collective endeavour and is characterised by contestation and thinking outside the box. This is what we attempted to do. We have benefited greatly from this exchange, and we wish to thank all participants for their inputs that form the basis of this volume.

This volume does not pretend to be the definitive account of trade cooperation through bilateral and plurilateral venues. Rather, we hope that it will inspire new research that will further improve our understanding of PTAs. Ongoing trade cooperation initiatives such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and the Trans-Pacific Partnership make such research particularly important. The tools for understanding the

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purposes and effects of PTAs that this volume offers should be helpful in guiding this research agenda.

In the course of editing this volume, we have incurred numerous debts. We are grateful to the WTI for financial support and for hosting the World Trade Forum conference that allowed us to put together this volume. Susan Kaplan from the WTI provided editorial support. At Cambridge University Press, we would like to thank Kim Hughes for her excellent guidance throughout the entire process and her continued support for the World Trade Forum series.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AANZFTA	ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand FTA
ACTA	Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADR	alternative dispute resolution
AFT	Aid for Trade
AFTA	ASEAN Free Trade Area
ANES	American National Election Study
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APTA	Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
ARIC	Asian Regional Integration Center
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATE	average treatment effect
ATOP	Alliance Treaty Obligations and Provisions
BEC	UN Registry of Broad Economic Categories
BIT	bilateral investment treaty
BRIC countries	Brazil, Russia, India and China
CACM	Central American Common Market
CAFTA-DR	Dominican Republic–Central America FTA
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBM	confidence-building measure
CEMAC	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
CES	constant elasticity of substitution
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
СМ	common market
CMA	critical mass agreement
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CPC	Central Product Classification
CRTA	Committee on Regional Trade Agreements
CU	customs union
CUSFTA	Canada–US Free Trade Agreement
CVD	countervailing duty
DFQF	duty-free, quota-free
DSB	Dispute Settlement Body

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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DSM	dispute settlement mechanism
DSP	dispute settlement provision
DSP	Dispute Settlement Understanding
EAC	· ·
ECJ	East African Community
ECJ	European Court of Justice
ECUWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
ECO	European Currency Unit
EEA EEC	European Economic Area
	European Economic Community
EFTA EIA	European Free Trade Association
EIA EPA	economic integration agreement
	economic partnership agreement
EU	European Union
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
fsQCA	fuzzy-set qualitative comparative analysis
FTA	free trade agreement
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	gross domestic product
GPA	Agreement on Government Procurement
GPTAD	Global Preferential Trade Agreements Database (World Bank)
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences
HIIT	horizontal intra-industry trade
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICSID	International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
IGO	international governmental organisation
ILC	International Law Commission
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IPS	Imperial Preference System
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITA	Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology
	Products (Information Technology Agreement)
ITC	International Trade Commission
LAIA	Latin American Integration Association
MEAT	Most Economically Advantageous Tender
MFN	most favoured nation
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement

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NT	national treatment
NTB	nontariff barrier
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health (formerly International
	Office of Epizootics)
PA	plurilateral agreement
PAFTA	Pan-Arab Free Trade Area
PBEC	Pacific Basin Economic Council
PECC	Pacific Economic Cooperation Council
PPMs	processes and production methods
PRIO	Peace Research Institute Oslo
РТА	preferential trade agreement
RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
REO	regional economic organisation
RM	Reichsmark
RTAA	Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act
RTA-IS	(WTO) Regional Trade Agreements Information System
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCM Agreement	Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
SDT	special and differential treatment
SPARTECA	South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation
	Agreement
SPS Agreement	Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary
0	Measures
TBT Agreement	Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade
TiSA	Trade in Services Agreement
TPP	Trans-Pacific Partnership
TRIMs Agreement	Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures
TRIPS Agreement	Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property
	Rights
TRQ	tariff-rate quota
TTB	temporary trade barrier
TTIP	Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union (Union
	économique et monétaire ouest-africaine)
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
VCLT	Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties
VIIT	vertical intra-industry trade
WAEMU	West African Economic and Monetary Union
WCT	WIPO Copyright Treaty

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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WDI	World Development Indicators
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WITS	World Integrated Trade Solution
WPPT	WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty
WTO	World Trade Organization