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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TRADE COOPERATION

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

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CONTENTS

List of figures page viii List of tables x List of contributors xii Preface xxii List of abbreviations xxiv

 Introduction: the purpose, design and effects of preferential trade agreements
 ANDREAS DÜR AND MANFRED ELSIG

PART I Why do countries sign PTAs?

- 2 Technology, politics and economic exchanges: historical patterns in international economic agreements 25 MOONHAWK KIM
- 3 The political economy of preferential trade agreements 56 EDWARD D. MANSFIELD AND HELEN V. MILNER
- 4 Weak governments and preferential trade agreements 82 JEAN-LOUIS ARCAND, MARCELO OLARREAGA AND LAURA ZORATTO
- 5 Natural trading partners? A public opinion perspective on preferential trade agreements 113
 VÍCTOR UMAÑA, THOMAS BERNAUER AND GABRIELE SPILKER
- 6 Regionalisation in search of regionalism: production networks and deep integration commitments in Asia's PTAs 134 SOO YEON KIM

PART II The design of PTAs

7 Imitation and innovation in international governance: the diffusion of trade agreement design 167
 LEONARDO BACCINI, ANDREAS DÜR AND YORAM Z. HAFTEL

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Preferential Trade Agreements World Trade Forum
Edited by Andreas Dür and Manfred Elsig
Frontmatter
More information

vi	CONTENTS	
8	РТА design, tariffs and intra-industry trade 195 макк мандек	
9	Audiovisual goods and services in preferential trade agreements 218 KERRY A. CHASE	
10	Competition policy and free trade: antitrust provisions in PTAs 246	
11	ANU BRADFORD AND TIM BÜTHE PTAs and public procurement 275 STEPHANIE J. RICKARD	
12	Trade agreements, violent conflict and security 295 YORAM Z. HAFTEL	
13	Dispute settlement provisions in PTAs: new data and new concepts 319 TODD ALLEE AND MANFRED ELSIG	
	PART III The effects of PTAs	
14	Preliminary examination of heterogeneous effects on international trade of economic integration agreements 355 SCOTT L. BAIER, JEFFREY H. BERGSTRAND AND MATTHEW W. CLANCE	
15	Effects of deep versus shallow trade agreements in general equilibrium 374 PETER EGGER AND SERGEY NIGAI	
16	Revisiting the trade effects of services agreements 392	
17	Trade agreements as protection from risk 408	
18	What do we know about preferential trade agreements and temporary trade barriers? 433 CHAD P. BOWN, BAYBARS KARACAOVALI AND PATRICIA TOVAR	

	CONTENTS	vii
	PART IV PTAs and the multilateral trading system	
19	The dialectical relationship of preferential and multilateral tra agreements 465	ıde
	THOMAS COTTIER, CHARLOTTE SIEBER-GASSER AND GABRIELA WERMELINGER	
20	Forget about the WTO: the network of relations between PTA and double PTAs 497	lS
	JOOST PAUWELYN AND WOLFGANG ALSCHNER	
21	Plurilateral agreements, variable geometry and the WTO 533	
	BERNARD HOEKMAN	
22	Referring PTA disputes to the WTO dispute settlement system 555	
	JAMES FLETT	

Index 580

Cambridge University Press 978-1-107-08387-5 - Trade Cooperation: The Purpose, Design and Effects of Preferential Trade Agreements World Trade Forum Edited by Andreas Dür and Manfred Elsig Frontmatter More information

FIGURES

1.1	Number of PTAs over time, 1945–2013	page 5
1.2	PTAs 1992 and 2013	6
1.3	Change in type and membership over time	7
1.4	Change in the contents of PTAs	8
3.1	Relative risks of ratifying a PTA, derived from the base model in	
	Table 3.1	73
4.1	The need for credibility-driven trade agreements	87
4.2	Which governments sign credibility-driven PTAs?	89
5.1	Example of a choice task	125
5.2	Marginal effects	126
6.1	Regional trade agreements in Asia, 1975–2013	135
6.2	Depth of integration scores by country	141
6.3	Depth of integration in PTAs over time, 1971–2013	143
7.1	The data on the PTA design	173
7.2	EU model (subset of agreements)	174
7.3	US model	175
8.1	Adjustment and product differentiation	202
8.2	Vertical intra-industry trade, 1998–2006	205
8.3	Contribution to relative risk of exclusion (model 2)	213
10.1	How competition policy is addressed	254
10.2	Percentage of PTAs with a competition article or chapter, five-year	
	moving average	257
10.3	PTA-established working groups for the discussion of competition	
	policy	265
10.4	Provisions indicating concerns about selective enforcement	266
10.5	Provisions indicating desire to enhance enforcement	268
11.1	Depth of PTAs	281
12.1	A two-way graph of conflict and security	310
12.2	A two-way graph of hegemony and security	311
12.3	A two-way graph of nonrivalry and security	311
14.1	Treatment effect for all agreements	363
14.2	Treatment effect for all free trade agreements	364

	LIST OF FIGURES	ix
14.3	Treatment effect for all customs union agreements	365
	Treatment effect for all common market agreements	365
	Treatment effect for all economic union agreements	366
15.1	Correlation between average exports and the number of provisions	
	adopted	381
15.2	Counterfactual experiments	389
16.1	Top services export flows (US\$ billion, average 1999–2010)	396
	Distribution of design scores	421
17.2	Substantive effects for model 5	425
18.1	Turkey's imports subject to imposed temporary trade barriers by PTA	
	partner status	444
18.2	Argentina's average tariffs on imports of footwear in categories subject	
	to the 1997 safeguard	449
18.3	Argentina's imports of footwear in categories subject to the	
	1997 safeguard	450
	Turkey's imports of footwear from selected source countries	454
	Turkey's imports of footwear from selected EU source countries	454
	Turkey's import prices of footwear from selected source countries	455
18.7	Dominican Republic's imports of polypropylene bags and tubular	
	fabrics	457
18.8	Dominican Republic's imports of polypropylene bags and tubular	
	fabrics from selected CAFTA source countries	458
	Bilateral conventions in force in 1886	470
19.2	PTAs with commitments to liberalise, or an intention to liberalise, trade	
	in services (1956–2010)	478
	Few countries have many PTAs, many countries have few PTAs	505
	The global PTA network	507
	Who signs the deepest agreements on average?	509
	The depth of PTAs	511
	The network of deep PTAs	512
	An Asia–America cluster emerges through mega-regionals	513
20.7	Mega-regionals are likely to transform the PTA network to resemble the	
	appearance of the bilateral investment treaty (BIT) network	514
	Double PTAs in the PTA network	515
	The double PTA network	516
20.10	The double PTA network after the conclusion of mega-regionals	517
	(extract)	517



TABLES

3.1	The political and economic influences on PTA ratification,	
	1952–2011	page 70
4.1	Government's welfare mindedness a_{it}	95
4.2	Government's bargaining weight σ	97
4.3	Summary statistics of <i>P^c</i> by type of agreement	98
4.4	The effect of credibility on PTA formation, 1988–2000	100
4.5	The effect of credibility on PTA formation, 1988–2000 (OLS estimates)	102
4.6	The impact of credibility-driven PTAs on imports	103
5.1	Attributes and their values	124
5.2	Description of the attributes	125
6.1	Production network trade and investment commitments in PTAs	147
7.1	Explaining similarity to the EU	184
7.2	Explaining similarity to NAFTA	186
7.3	Substantive effects	187
8.1	Regression results	212
8.2	Conditional marginal effects (Tobit model)	212
9.1	Partial commitments for audiovisual services in PTAs	229
9.2	Improvements over GATS for audiovisual services in PTAs	232
9.3	Correlates of audiovisual services commitments in PTAs	233
9.4	Trade flows and leverage in audiovisual services commitments	237
9.5	Cultural distance and audiovisual services commitments	241
10.1	All good things go together? Format of competition provisions as a	
	function of PTA depth	258
11.1	PTAs with procurement rules	278
11.2	Tender criteria	284
12.1	Fuzzy-set membership scores on four variables	304
12.2	Main instruments and activities of REOs with a high level of security	
	cooperation	306
12.3	Levels of consistency and coverage for conflict, hegemony and	
	nonrivalry	310
13.1	PTAs with a dispute settlement provision	324
13.2	PTAs with a consultation provision	325

	LIST OF TABLES	xi
13.3	PTAs with various types of dispute settlement	326
	Overlap between types of dispute settlement	329
13.5	Forum choice in PTA dispute settlement	331
13.6	Features of dispute settlement proceedings	332
	Number of references to mutually agreeable solutions (MAS)	
	(by number of agreements)	335
13.8	Sanctions in PTA dispute settlement	337
13.9	Exceptions in PTA dispute settlement	340
13.10	Conceptualising degree of <i>delegation</i> in PTA dispute settlement	
	provisions	342
13.11	Conceptualising amount of information provision in PTA dispute	
	settlement provisions	343
13.12	Conceptualising level of enforcement in PTA dispute settlement	
	provisions	345
13.13	Conceptualising settlement promotion in PTA dispute settlement	
	provisions	346
13.14	Conceptualising <i>flexibility</i> in PTA dispute settlement provisions	348
14.1	Determinants of EIA partial effects	369
15.1	Average exports and the average number of adopted provisions in trade	
	agreements	380
15.2	Types of trade agreements	382
15.3	Trade cost variables	384
	Estimation results	385
	Results of the counterfactual experiment	387
	Decile distribution of bilateral services exports (avg. 1999-2010)	397
16.2	Results (2WFE) from estimating Eq. (16.1) on positive exports	399
	Results (2WFE) from estimating Eq. (16.1) on all exports	400
	Lagged effects of STAs for positive exports	401
17.1	Components of design measures	420
17.2	Baseline results	424
	Heckman selection estimation	428
	TTB policy-imposing economies and affected imports in 2011	442
	The discriminatory nature of safeguards in the four case studies	448
20.1	Centrality of countries in the PTA network	508

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xiii

xiv

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XV

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xvi

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xvii

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xviii

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xix

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xx

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xxi

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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

xxii

PREFACE

xxiii

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

xxiv

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

XXV

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

xxvi	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS
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

xxvii

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