

The evolving international economy

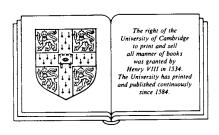


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Contents

	Preface	vii
1	Introduction	1
Part I	Industrial economies and the international market	7
2	Domestic policy issues	9
3	Protectionism and the management of trade	23
Part II	The role of developing countries	37
4	Export strategies	39
5	Armaments and North-South trade	65
6	Aid, trade, and debt	73
7	Resources and North-South trade	88
Part III Summary		103
8	The evolving world economy	105
Part IV	Theoretical background	111
9	Adjustment, stability, and returns to scale	113
10	Large-scale technologies and patterns of trade	122
11	North-South trade and export policies	136
	Aid and transfers	150



Preface

The first version of this book was produced in partial fulfillment of a contract between the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Institute of Training and Research (UNITAR), under which the latter undertook to assist the Secretary General of UNCTAD in the preparation of material relevant to UNCTAD VI, the sixth major international conference of the UN system on trade and development. It draws on results of economic studies, both theoretical and empirical, conducted by the authors over a number of years. Chichilnisky's studies originated in the production of the Bariloche model at Fundación Bariloche, Argentina, 1972-6, and were subsequently conducted under the auspices of the UNITAR Project on the Future at Harvard University, Columbia University, and the University of Essex with support from the U.S. National Science Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications at the University of Minnesota, and the Center for the Social Sciences, Columbia University. Their conclusions are embodied in Part II of this book. Heal's research was begun at the University of Sussex, and subsequently continued at the University of Essex, at Yale University. and at the Columbia Business School with support from UNITAR, the National Science Foundation, the U.K. Economic and Social Research Council, the Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications at the University of Minnesota, the Center for Social Sciences, Columbia University, and the Faculty Research Fund of the Columbia Business School, His research was concerned mainly with the issues in Part I of the book.

The book focuses on the main issues of trade and development, and on the attainment of the major development goals generally espoused by the international community. These include rapid development in the third world, sustained economic expansion in the industrial countries, and the eradication of deep inequalities and of extreme poverty. A prerequisite for this is full participation in international and local societies, for which the fulfillment of basic needs, introduced and defined in the Bariloche model, is in turn necessary.

vii

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viii Preface

Although these goals are highly normative, our analysis is descriptive. It is focused on the particulars of market behavior, both at the domestic and at the international levels. It traces the ways in which markets respond to policies, in the belief that policies cannot be viewed in a vacuum, but must be confronted with the responses of the market. International markets are one of the most powerful forces governing the evolution of the world economy and must be taken into consideration when analyzing alternative policies. The interplay of domestic policies and international markets is a main feature of our analysis.

The book comprises four parts. The first three give an overall analysis of the world economy, with commentary and conclusions on major issues of trade and development. They make no use of either formal analysis or mathematical modeling. The intention here is to explain and illustrate rather than to provide rigorous proofs.

The fourth part of the book goes somewhat further than the first three in formalizing and making rigorous the earlier claims. It does not aim at the standards of formalization that one would ideally expect from professional journals. It attempts to indicate, for the benefit of readers with an acquaintance with basic economic theory, the nature of the models and the arguments that substantiate the discussion in the first three parts. It provides, within the context of the formal models, the intuitive basis for the main results. Rigorous proofs are found in the references given to the technical literature.

Our work has benefited from comments by many of our colleagues and a complete acknowledgment seems beyond our reach. However, we mention in particular Philippe de Seynes, Director of the Project on the Future at UNITAR, as well as the many comments and suggestions from Kenneth Arrow, Dragoslav Avramovic, Havelock Brewster, Joan Butler, John Cuddy, Gamani Corea, Juan de Castro, Avinash Dixit, Reinaldo Figueredo, Jerry Holtham, Ronald Jones, Soichi Kojima, John Llewelwyn, A. McIntyre, Darryl McLeod, Jan Pronk, Michael Sakbani, and Joseph Stiglitz.

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The opinions expressed here are entirely those of the authors, and do not reflect the positions of any supporting organization.

G. Ch. G. M. H.