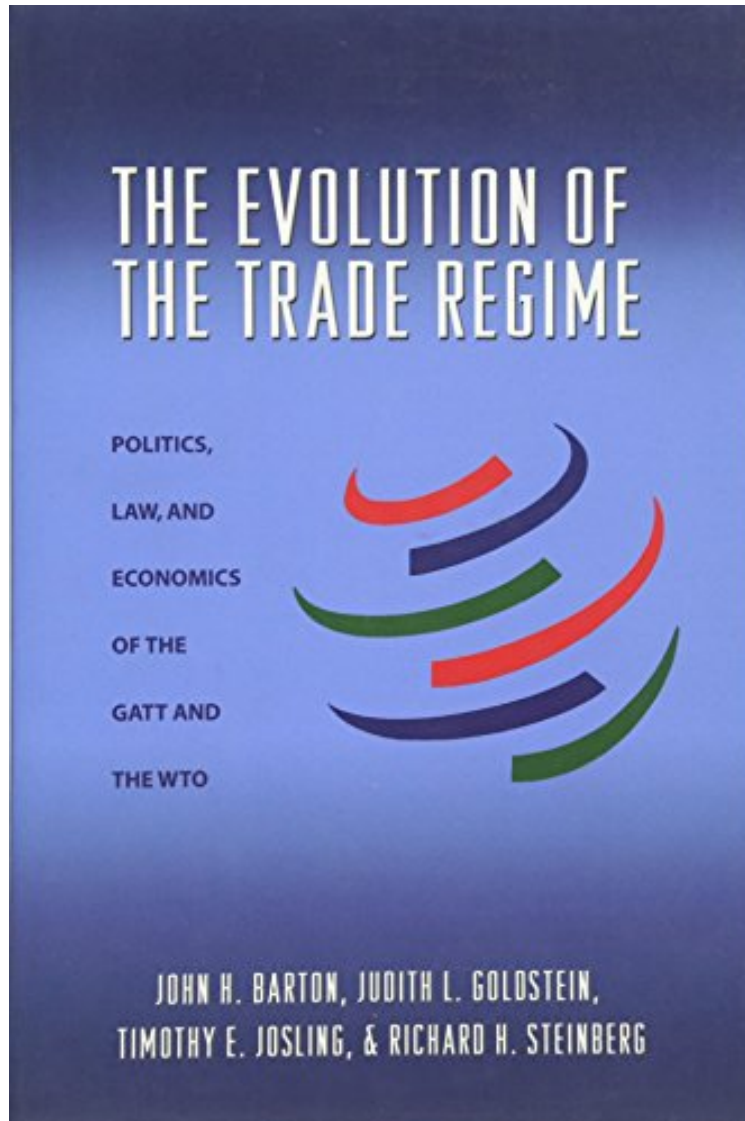


[Free pdf] The Evolution of the Trade Regime: Politics, Law, and Economics of the GATT and the WTO

The Evolution of the Trade Regime: Politics, Law, and Economics of the GATT and the WTO

John H. Barton, Judith L. Goldstein, Timothy E. Josling, Richard H. Steinberg
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John H. Barton, Judith L. Goldstein, Timothy E. Josling, Richard H. Steinberg : The Evolution of the Trade Regime: Politics, Law, and Economics of the GATT and the WTO before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Evolution of the Trade Regime: Politics, Law, and Economics of the GATT and the WTO:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great InsightsBy Edward J. BartonA good book taking the reader

through both the development and issues surrounding the WTO and before that the GATT. Giving a good mix of history as well as policy, the book brings the trade offs, challenges and continuing conflicts and concerns to the reader in a very digestible format. A good read and a good scholarly work. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent study

By S Robinson This is a careful and thorough description of the evolution of the GATT/WTO system. It is aimed at readers who want to understand how the rules-based world trading system has evolved in the postwar period, and the roles of institutions and law in that process. It is less entertaining to read than the Paul Blustein book, *Misadventures of the Most Favored Nations: Clashing Egos, Inflated Ambitions, and the Great Shambles of the World Trade System*, but the two books are worth reading together. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Sober and reasonably balanced (a bit more than 4 stars)

By A. J. Sutter This book offers a reasonably balanced discussion of the WTO, especially from an historical, political point of view. The workings of the WTO are very much based on power politics, notwithstanding its ostensible one member, one vote constitution. Some of the topics I was impatient to hear discussed during the first three-fourths or so of the book, such as environmental issues, point of view of developing countries, "democracy deficit," etc., are dealt with in Chapters 6 and 7, so some patience is helpful. I'd have certainly given this closer to 5 stars but for a couple of points: First, the analysis tends at times to be a bit too orthodox, and written from a US point of view. The underlying economics of free trade aren't questioned enough, and the "generativity" of the WTO dispute resolution mechanism -- its judicial lawmaking -- is underestimated. To be fair, one reason for that assessment may be that the book went to press before the 2006 panel decision on genetically modified organisms. Second, and more important in this context, it's a challenge to stay awake while reading this book. The analysis is usually written at a high level of abstraction. The literary style is quite leaden, with a real written-by-committee feeling. (The rather dense typography may exacerbate this impression.) The book could have used a more forcefully-stated point of view (notwithstanding the conclusions stated in the final chapter), or at least more piquant details and anecdotes from time to time. Although it covers a narrower topic and is itself quite dry and academic in literary style, Trish Kelly's "The Impact of the WTO" nonetheless manages to be a fun read by comparison. That's a very oblique compliment, to say the least. And although it does not go into the depth of the book under review, Amrita Narlikar's "Very Short Introduction" to the WTO from Oxford U Press is a much more vivid way to learn about the history and key issues, including WTO politics, if you're new to the subject.

The *Evolution of the Trade Regime* offers a comprehensive political-economic history of the development of the world's multilateral trade institutions, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and its successor, the World Trade Organization (WTO). While other books confine themselves to describing contemporary GATT/WTO legal rules or analyzing their economic logic, this is the first to explain the logic and development behind these rules. The book begins by examining the institutions' rules, principles, practices, and norms from their genesis in the early postwar period to the present. It evaluates the extent to which changes in these institutional attributes have helped maintain or rebuild domestic constituencies for open markets. The book considers these questions by looking at the political, legal, and economic foundations of the trade regime from many angles. The authors conclude that throughout most of GATT/WTO history, power politics fundamentally shaped the creation and evolution of the GATT/WTO system. Yet in recent years, many aspects of the trade regime have failed to keep pace with shifts in underlying material interests and ideas, and the challenges presented by expanding membership and preferential trade agreements.

"The multi-disciplinary approach taken by *The Evolution of the Trade Regime* will provide any student (graduate and undergraduate) from the fields of political science, law, or economics (or any future policy maker) great insights, both theoretical and practical, into the current and future operations and challenges of the WTO."--Matthew Schaefer, *Law and Politics Book* "This book deserves a broad audience. . . . I highly recommend it for students that have already had some introduction to the politics and the economics of trade. It would be useful in advanced classes in trade, global governance, and law. The volume is a good synthesis of intellectual perspectives that can help students gain greater understanding of the nuances of trade."--Susan Ariel Aaronson, *EH.Net*

"*The Evolution of the Trade Regime* is a scholarly, well written, and well organized book . . . [that] provides a cogent and concise account of the trade regime's evolution. . . . It would be useful for courses in international law, international organization, and the politics of international trade."--Susan K. Sell, of *International Organization*

"The authors have made a worthy contribution to our understanding of the politics of the world trading system."--Alfred E. Eckes, *International History*

"The book is well written and achieves an admirable balance between depth and breadth in its analysis of a complex regime. As an up-to-date review of the trade regime, with original theoretical insights about international institutions, the book should be required reading for both scholars and practitioners of international trade policy."--Christian Davis, *Political Science Quarterly*

"*The Evolution of the Trade Regime* makes a useful contribution to the literature. For those who want to place the current problems in a larger perspective, this book would be a natural selection."--Craig VanGrasstek, *World Trade*

"The scope of this book is impressive.... *The Evolution of the Trade Regime* is an excellent study of the trading system, cohesive and robust."--Kerry A. Chase, *Perspectives on Politics*

"A scholarly, well-written, and well-organized book... [that] provides a cogent and concise account of the trade regime's evolution."--Susan K. Sell, of *Industrial*

Organization From the Back Cover "Well organized and well written, this book is readily accessible to an intelligent, non-specialist policy readership. It covers, in a very compendious fashion, a broad sweep of issues in tracing the evolution of the multilateral GATT/WTO system up to the present day." --Michael Trebilcock, University of Toronto

About the Author John H. Barton is George E. Osborne Professor of Law Emeritus at Stanford University Law School. Judith L. Goldstein is professor of political science at Stanford University. Timothy E. Josling is senior fellow at the Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Studies and emeritus professor at the Food Research Institute at Stanford University. Richard H. Steinberg is professor at UCLA School of Law.