

Mis-thinking globalisation: *The case for WTO 2.0*

Richard Baldwin

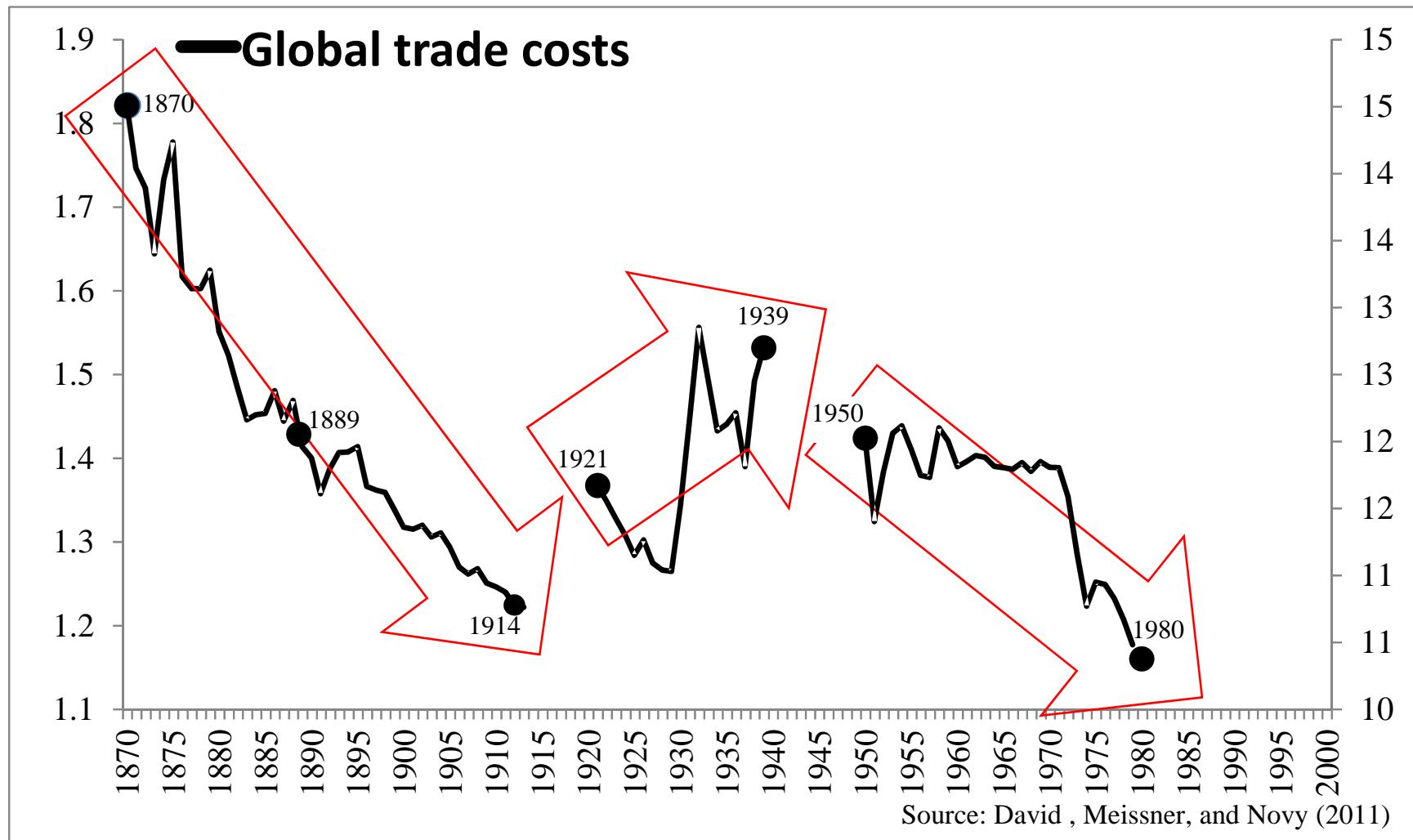
Graduate Institute, Geneva & University of Oxford

26 September 2012, WTO Forum

Mis-thinking globalisation

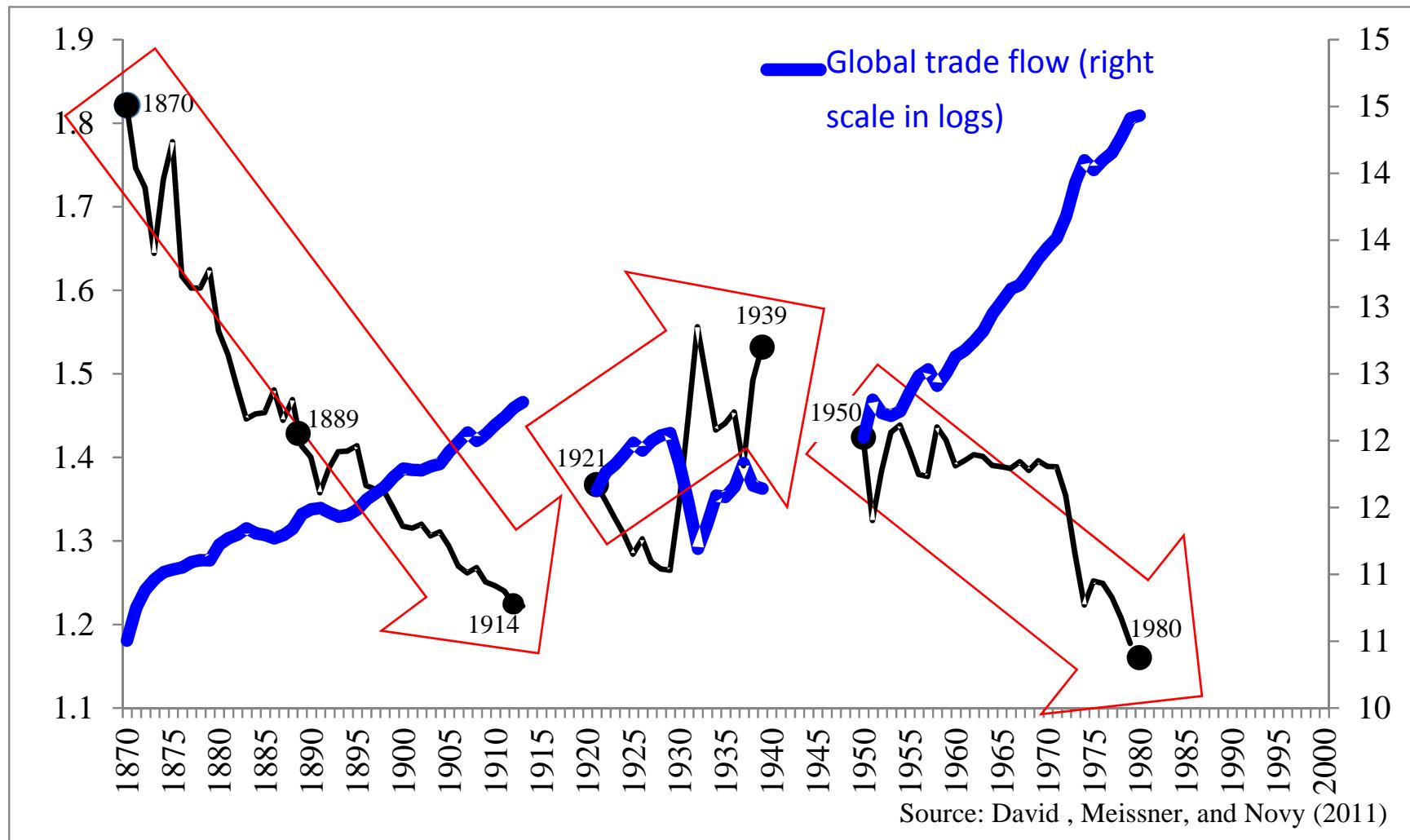
- Conventional view:
 - Globalisation = no trade to free trade, slowly.
- But pervasive sense that today's globalisation is different ...

Conventional view: Globalisation ↔ trade costs (1870-1980)



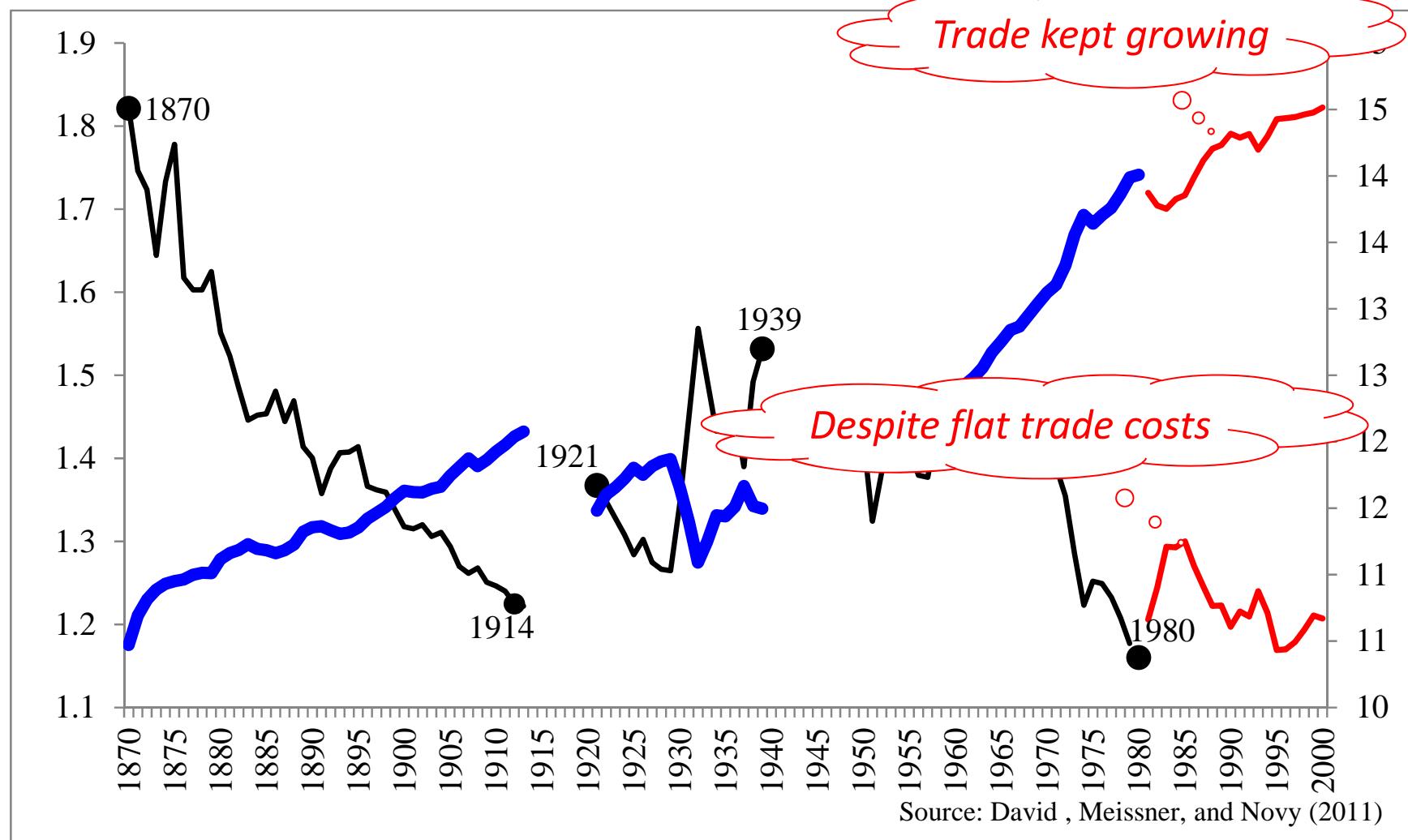
Source: Gravity model based estimates of trade costs (Jacks, Meissner, Novy 2011).

Conventional view (1870-1980): Globalisation all about trade costs

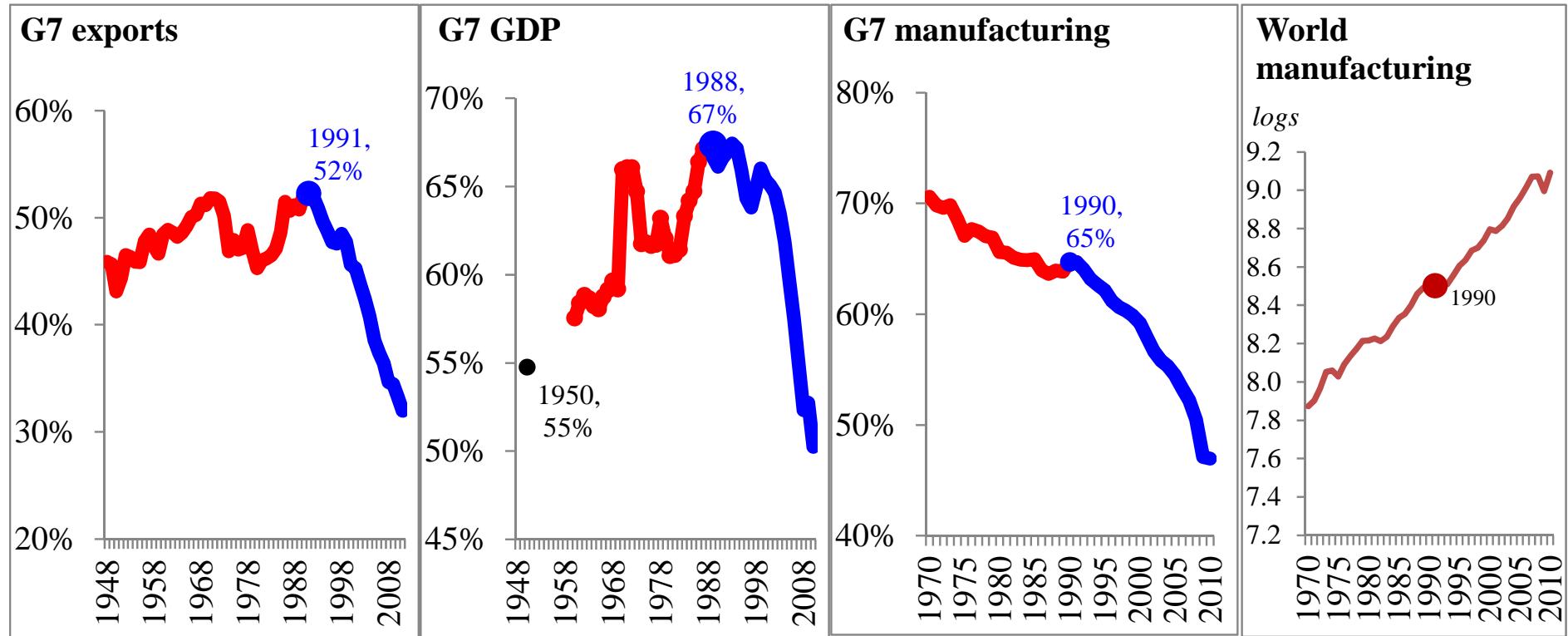


Source: Gravity model based estimates of trade costs (Jacks, Meissner, Novy 2011).

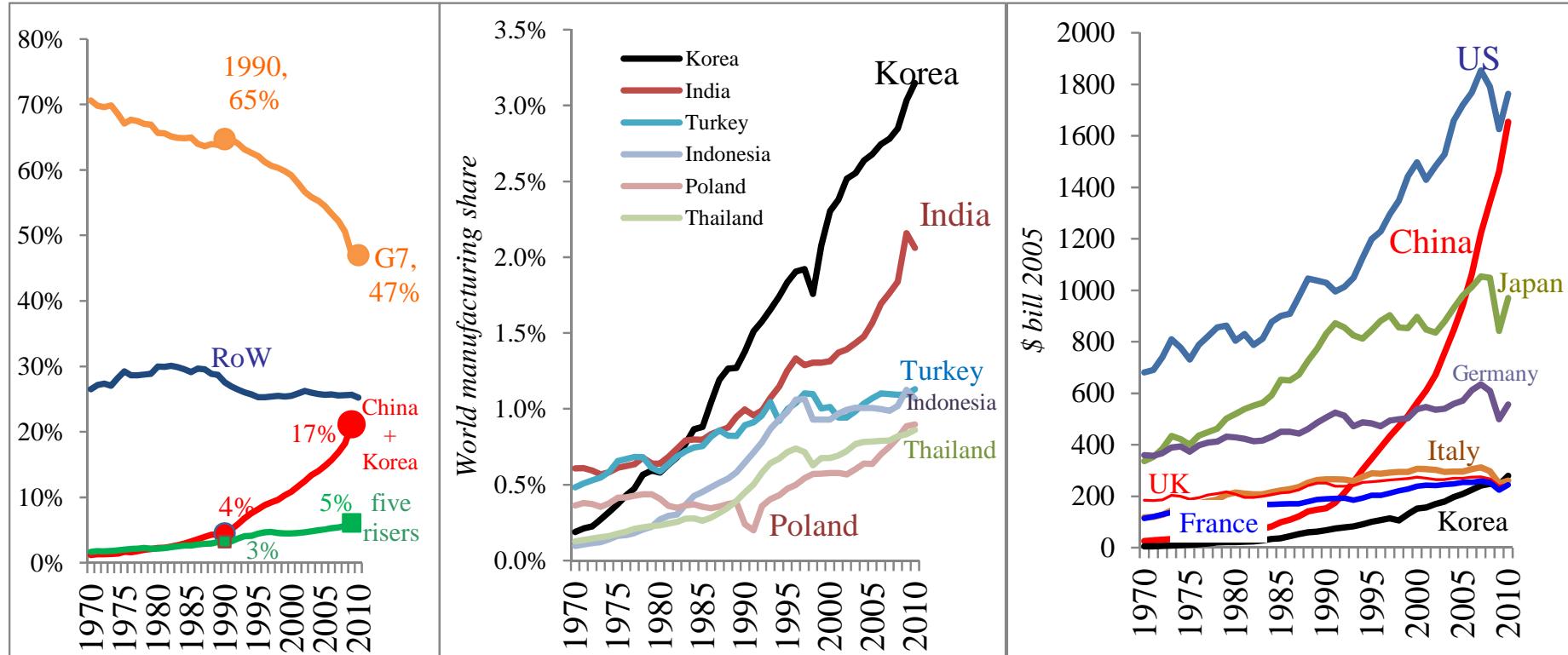
Then something changed...



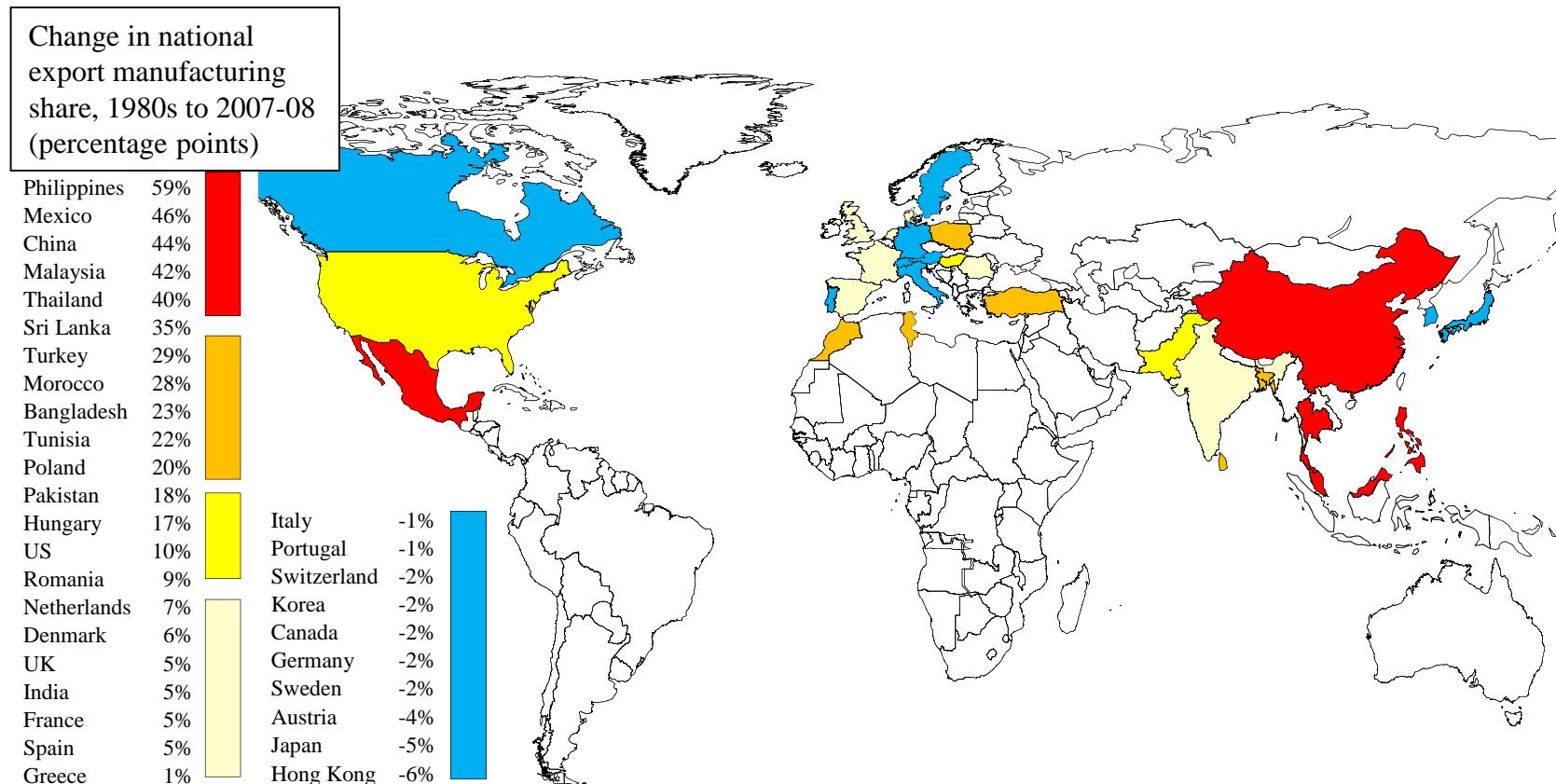
Globalisation impact changed



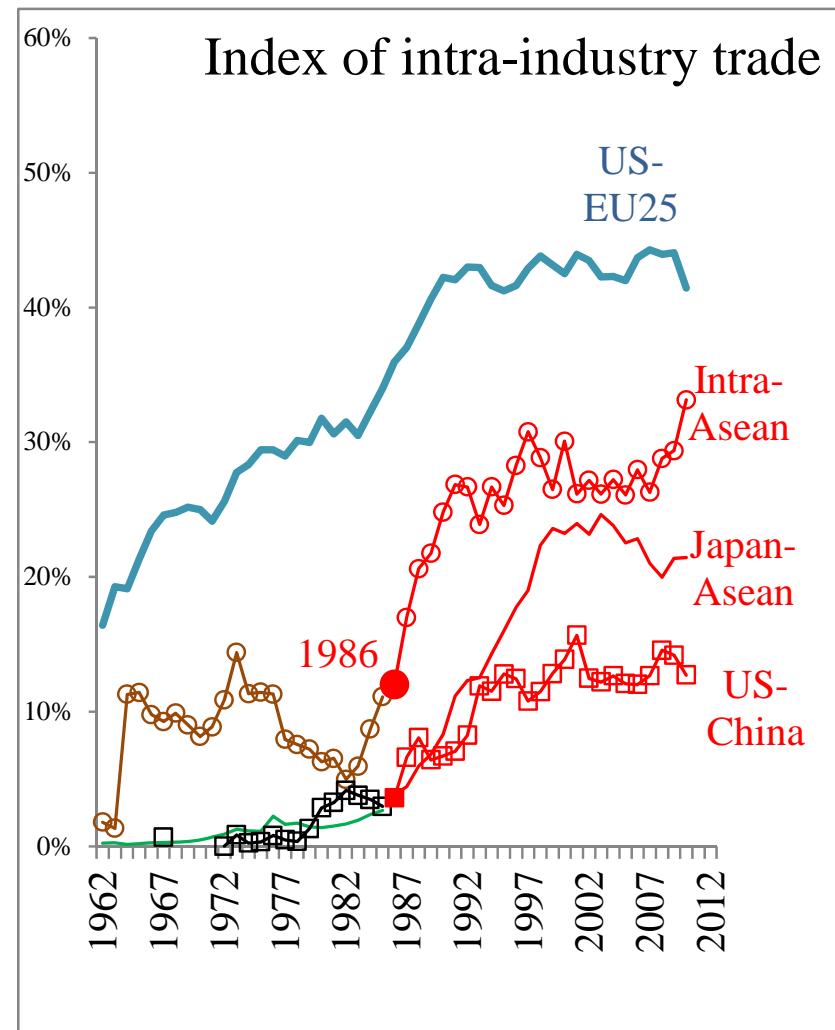
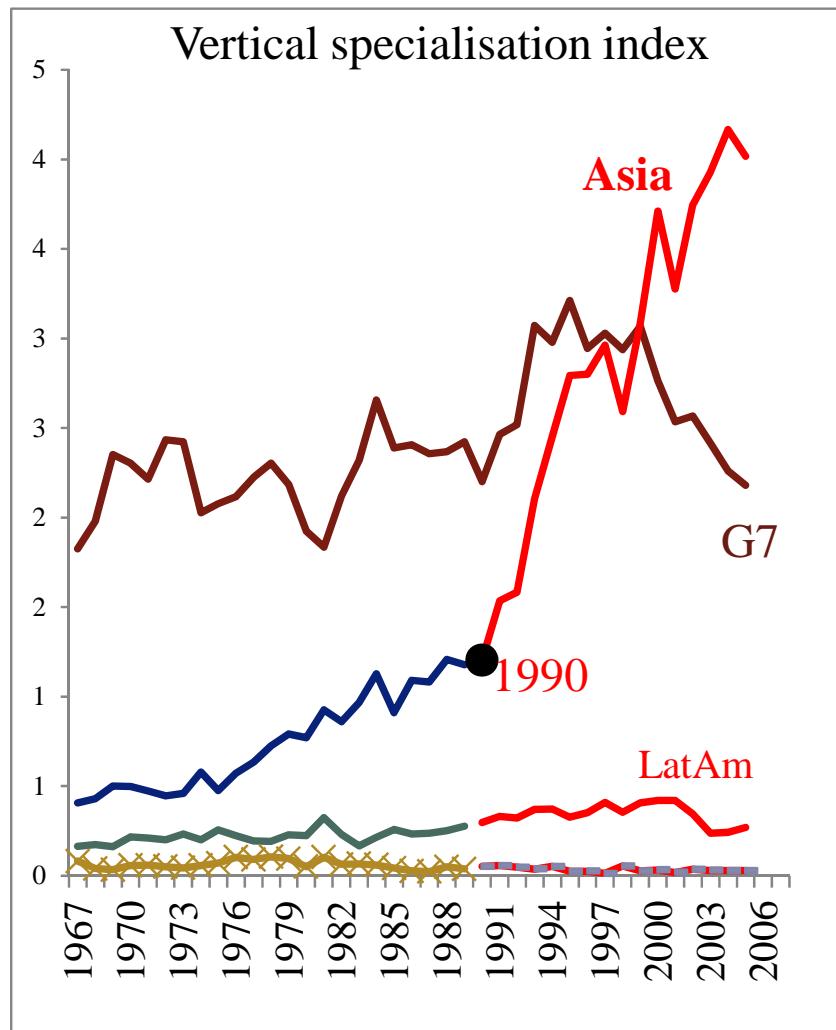
Global manufacturing shares



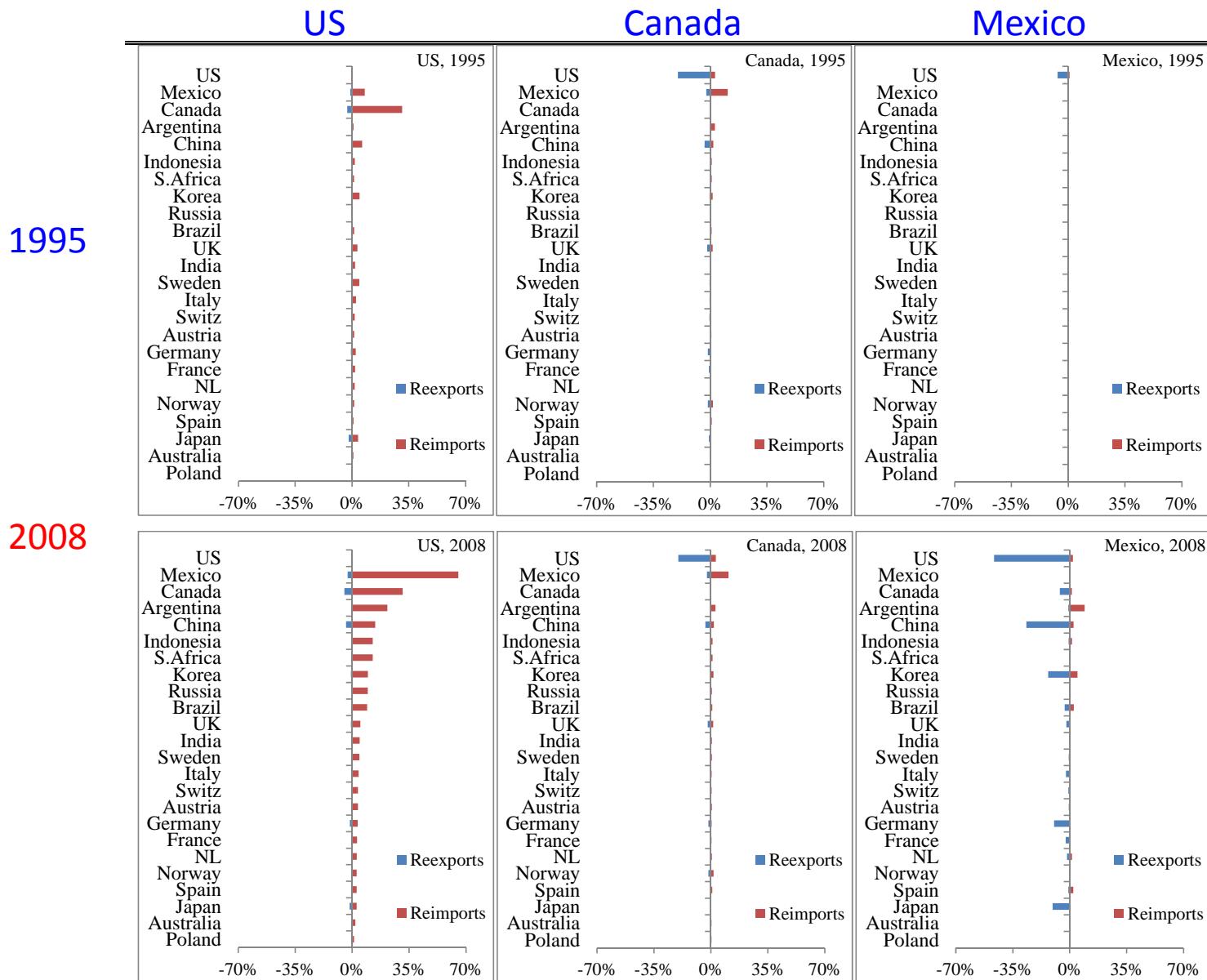
The tight geographical clustering of manufactures export swings



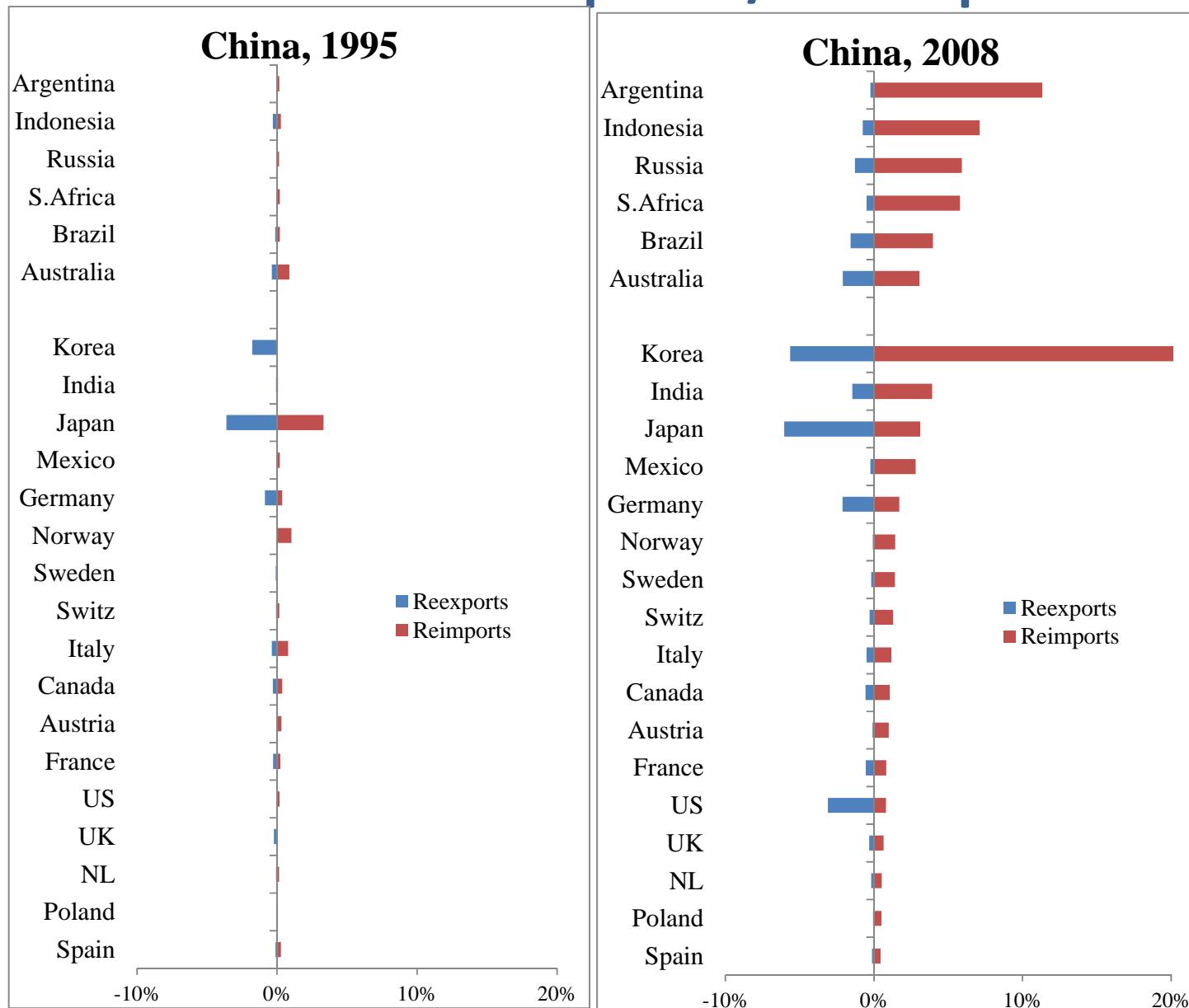
Trade changed



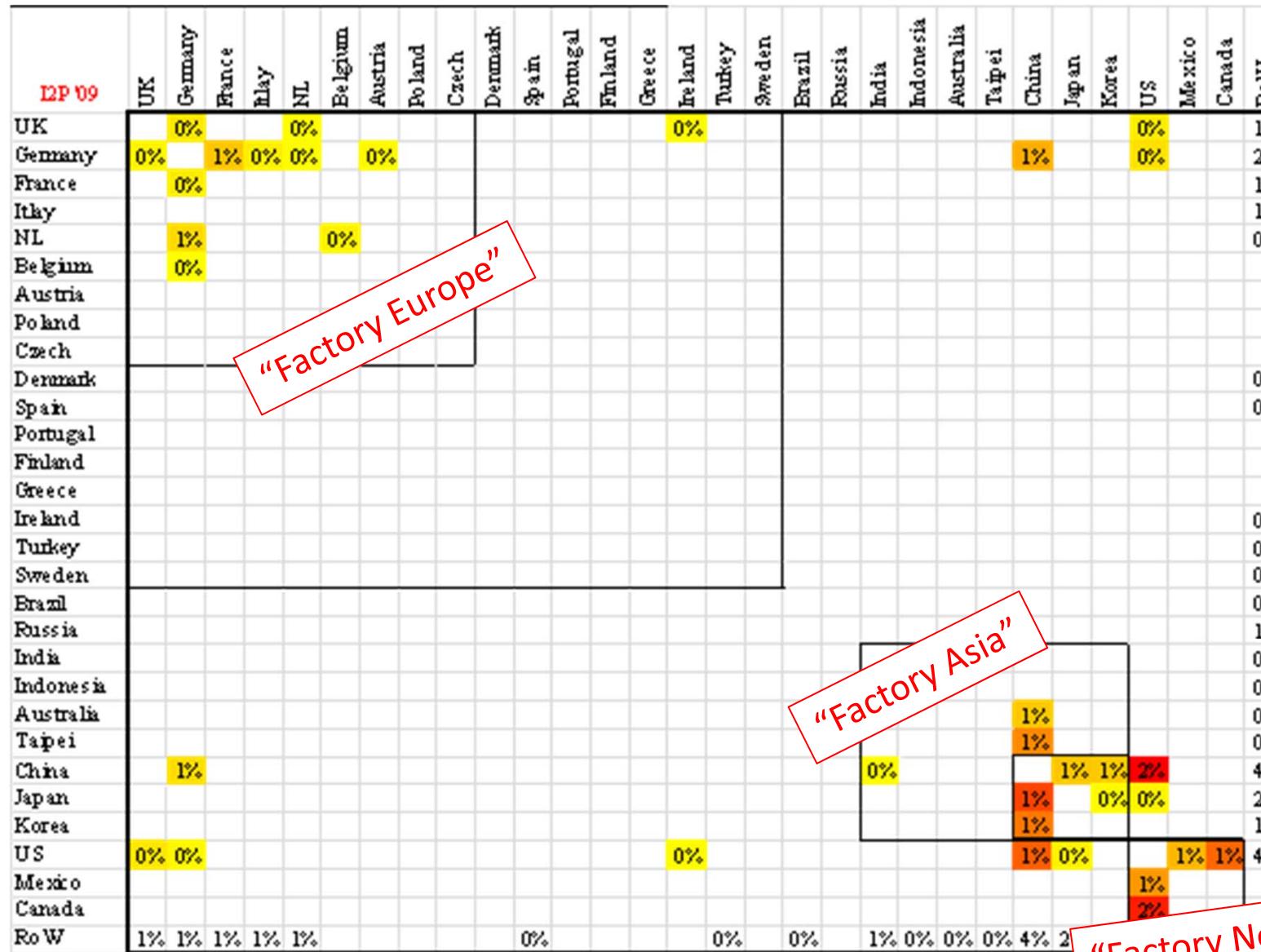
Reimporting/reexporting takeoff



Chinese reimport/reexport



Global supply-chain trade, 2009



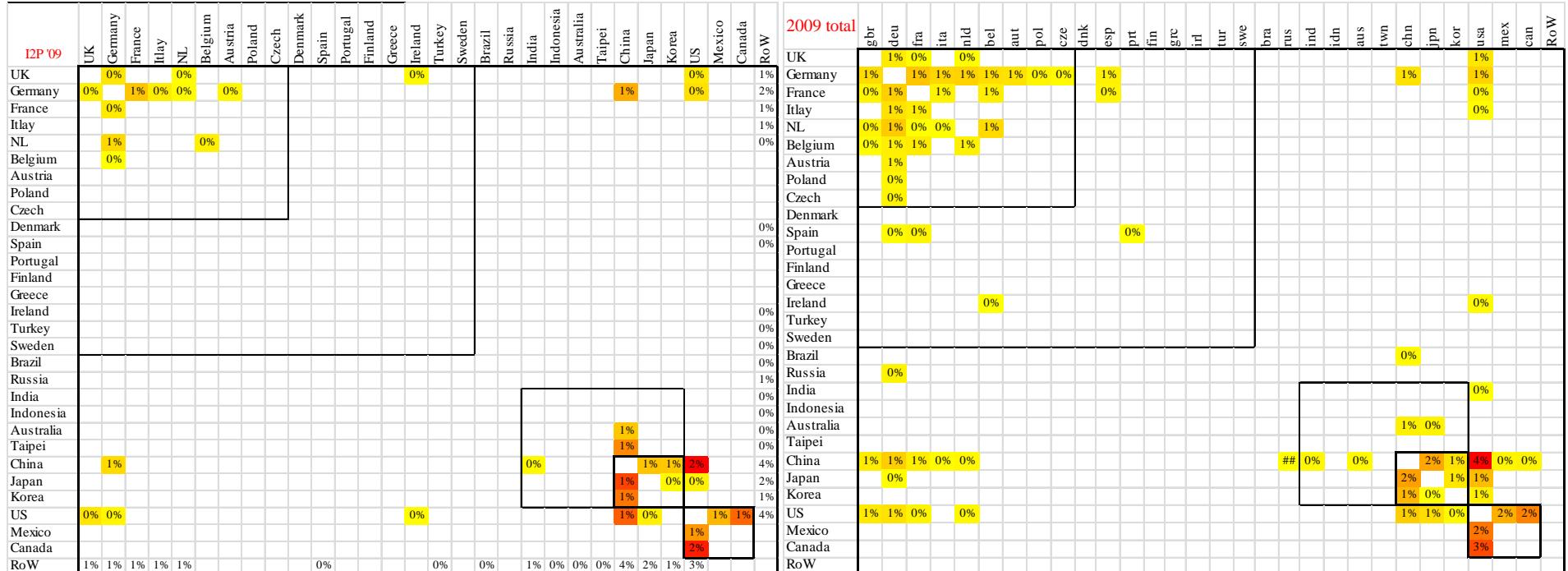
Source: Baldwin and Lopez-Gonzales (2012).

“Factory Europe”

“Factory Asia”

“Factory NorAm”

Compare total vs supply-chain trade



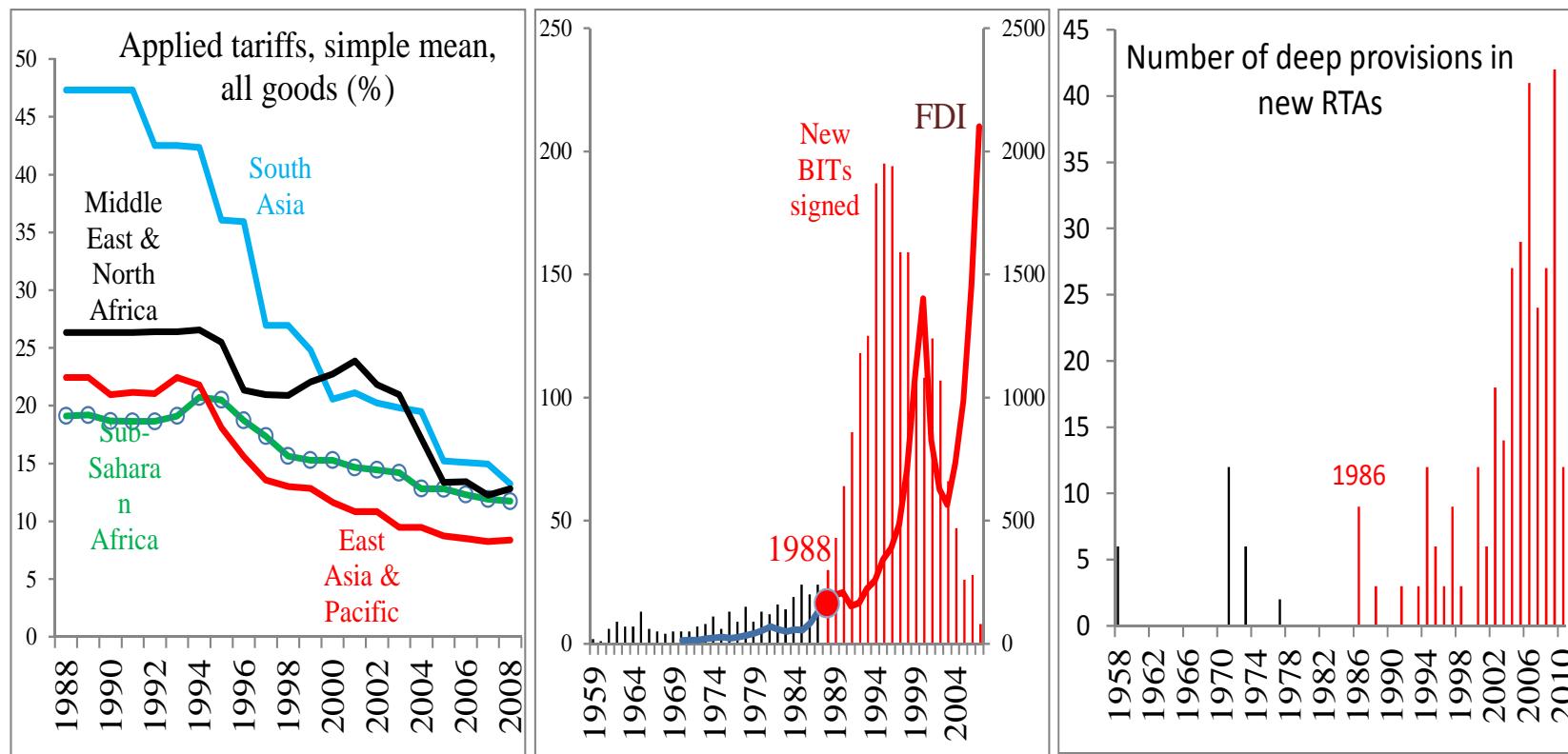
Supply-chain trade

Total trade

Source: Baldwin and Lopez-Gonzales (2012).

International trade politics changed

- Developing nations seek out liberalisation of policies that foster supply-chain industrialisation.
- Unilateralism on tariffs, Take-off in BITs, FDI, and soaring deep RTAs provisions



Trade governance changed

- Supply-chain trade needed new disciplines.
 - More interconnected policy; trade-investment-services-IP ‘nexus’
- Deep N-S RTAs around outsourcing HQ economies partly filled the gap.
 - US, Japan and Germany (EU).
- Mega-Regionals & mega-bilats start to harmonise the bilateral rules.
 - TPP, TAP (EU-US), EU-Canada, Japan-EU, Canada-Japan (old Quad + offshoring partners).
 - ISA?

WTO did not change

Looking forward

- Harmonised rules on supply-chain trade likely to be written by 2020;
- Most likely negotiated in mega-regionals & mega-bilats;
- WTO unlikely to be involved (DDA stuck).

So what is the future of the WTO?

Three premises

- For traditional trade, WTO is in excellent health.
- Status quo is comfortable for WTO members whose trade is booming.
- On current trajectory, status quo will be destroyed by 2020;
 - mega-regionals & mega-bilats will have transformed world trade governance.

ERGO

- The WTO's future:
 - A) Stay on the 20th century side track;
 - Allow fragmentation of global trade governance & exclusion of some major WTO members.
 - B) Seek to multilateralise the new supply-chain-trade disciplines.

Case for WTO 2.0

- In future status quo, firms from 3 of the world's 4 manufacturing giants (US, China, Japan, and Germany) will have been involved in negotiating the harmonised supply-chain rules.
- The 3 will have to be convinced that multilateralisation will improve things.

Structure of WTO 2.0

- Key questions:
 - What structure (number of members, S&D, etc.)?
 - Which issues?
- Economic logic of S&D
 - Primarily import substitution industrialisation (ISI).
 - Secondarily vulnerable groups.

Structure of WTO 2.0

- Production unbundling destroyed ISI, so much weaker economic rational for S&D for supply-chain rules.
- Logic for vulnerable groups unaffected.
- ERGO: Need WTO 2.0
 - WTO 1.0 keeps S&D, WTO 2.0 doesn't.

S&D in WTO 2.0: Politics

- US, inter alia, likely to demand elimination of special and differential treatment for all major supply-chain players as a price for multilateralising supply-chain trade rules.
- This cannot happen in WTO 1.0, so need WTO 2.0
 - (maybe World Supply Chain Organisation??)

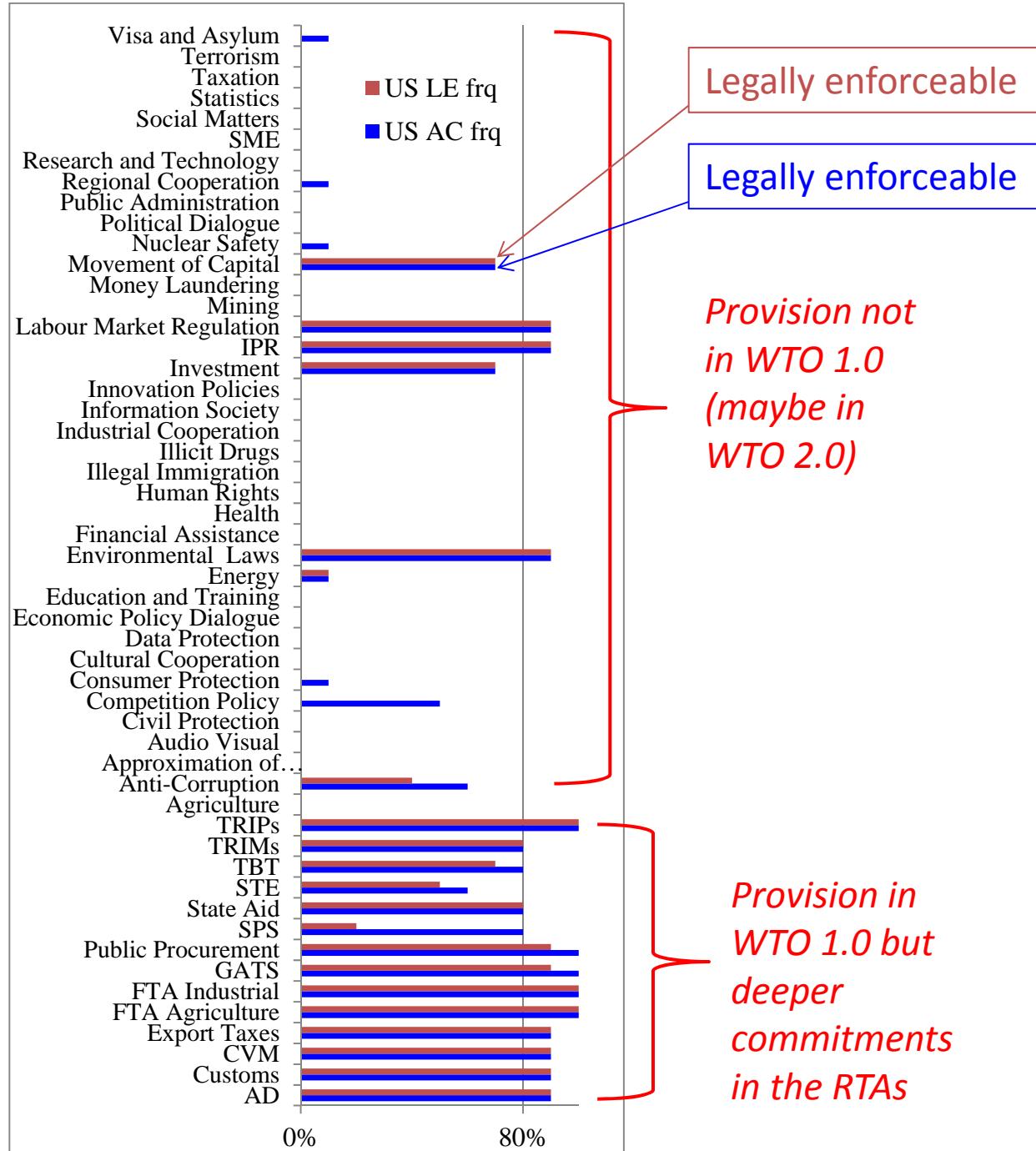
Universal membership

- WTO 1.0 logic: free market most efficient
 - non-discrimination with universal members is natural implication.
- Supply-chain trade is more highly concentrated and not a ‘free market’ outcome.
- Logic of universality is weaker.
- Politics suggests membership only for those heavily engaged in supply-chain trade.

Which issues covered in WTO 2.0?

Which issues covered in WTO 2.0?

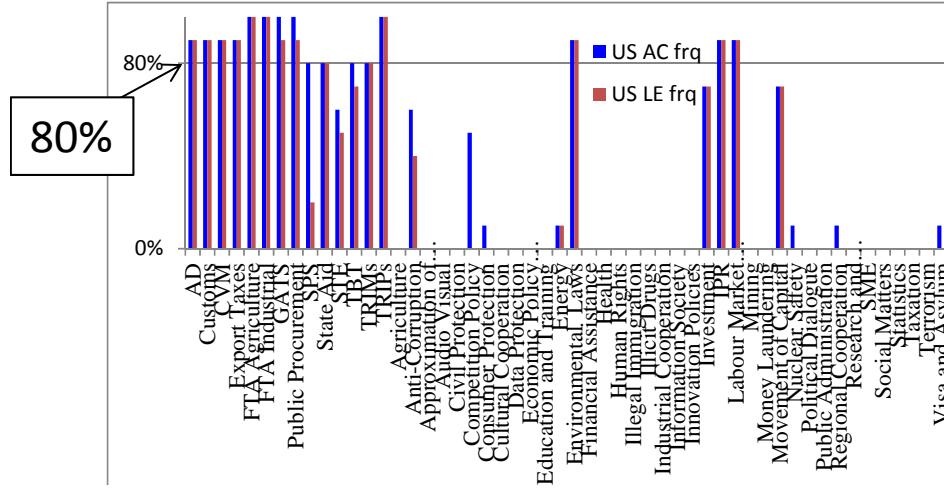
Revealed preference evidence from US RTAs (*share with given provision*)



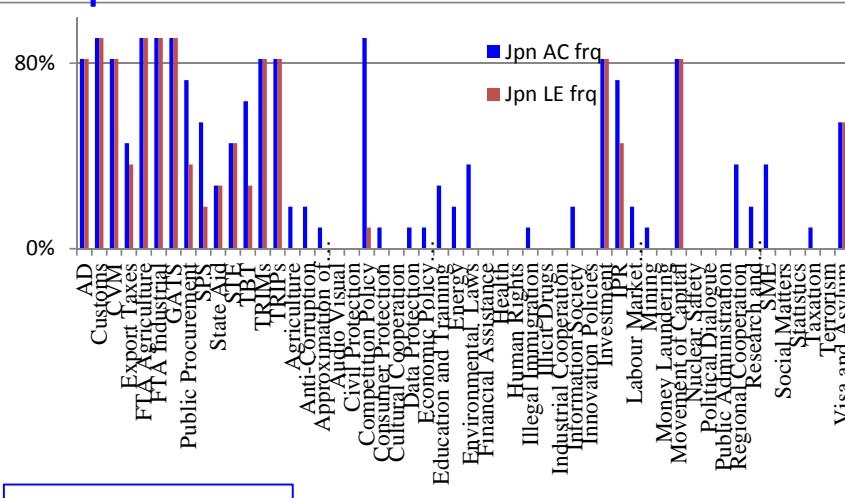
Source: WTO database on RTA provisions

Ditto for US, Japan, EU & RoW

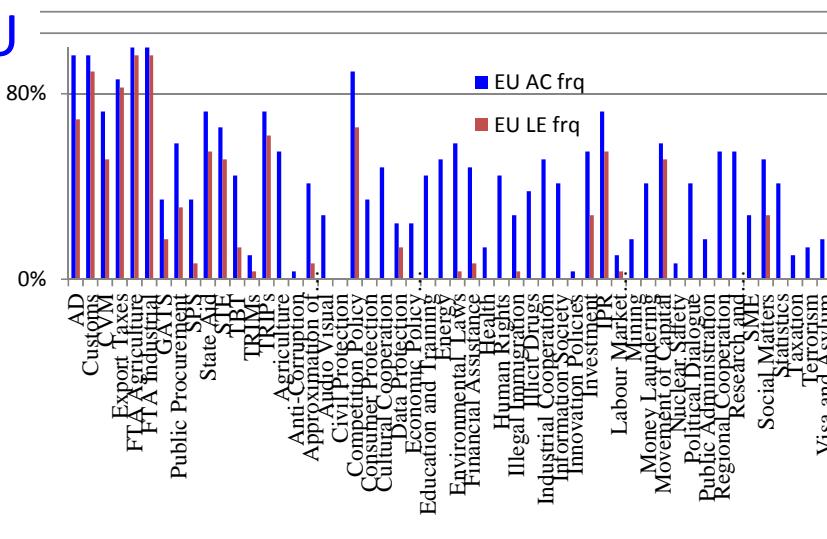
US



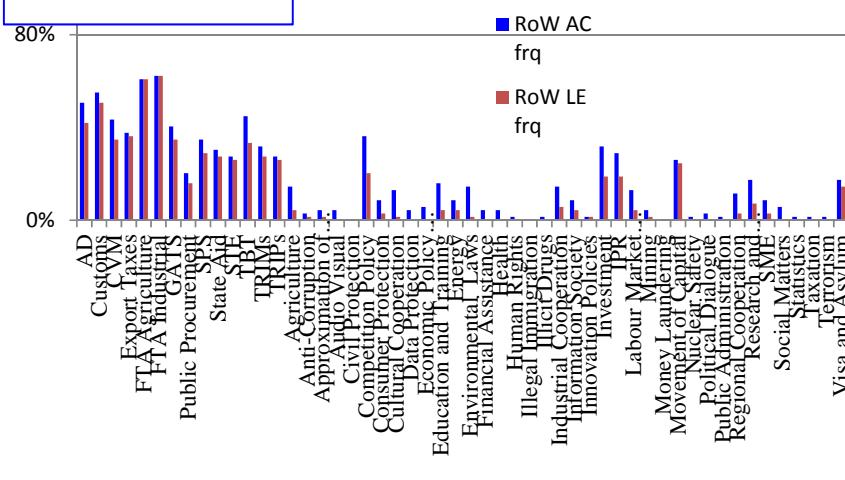
Japan



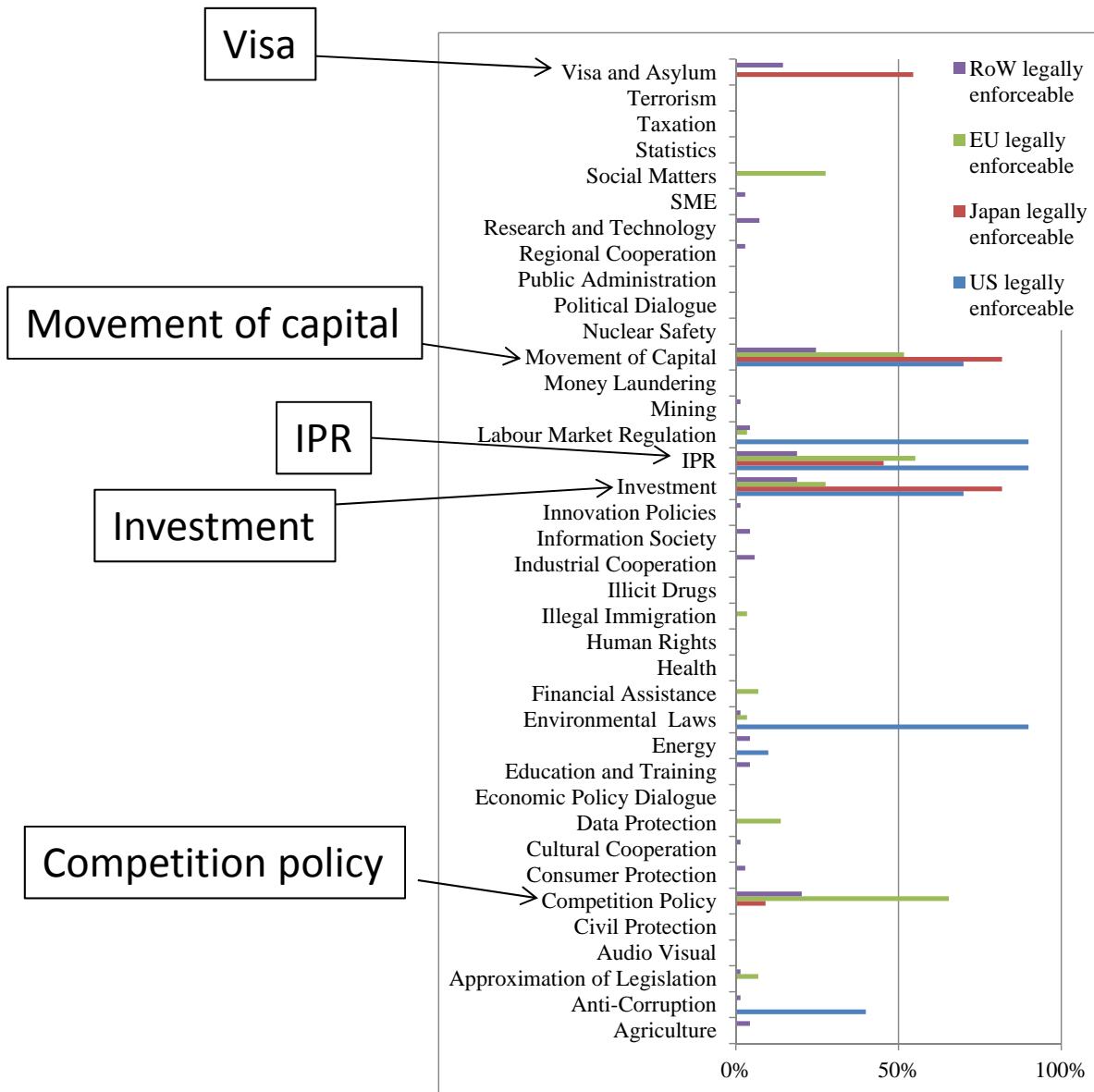
EU



All others



Only beyond WTO measures



At least 2/3rd of US & Japan RTAs have legally binding provisions

- Tariffs to zero,
- Beyond TRIPs,
- Beyond AD,
- Beyond CVM,
- Beyond Customs, GATS, TRIMs,
- Investment,
- Movement of Capital,

Don't have the answers!

Time to start thinking ahead on trade

- Global trade governance is at turning point.
- Status quo likely to evaporate by 2020.
- Need global thinking on what comes next.
- Voice of all nations needs to be added to the conversation among manufacturing giants.
- Design issues need research.
- Content issues need research.

Thanks for listening

- My paper “WTO 2.0” will be soon posted on

<http://www.voxeu.org/>