The History and Future of the World Trade Organization

Craig VanGrasstek

The History and Future of the World Trade Organization draws on a wealth of human, documentary and statistical sources to examine in depth the economic, political and legal issues surrounding the creation of the WTO in 1995 and its subsequent evolution. Among the topics covered are the intellectual roots of the trading system, membership of the WTO and the growth of the Geneva trade community, trade negotiations and the development of coalitions among the membership, and the WTO's relations with other international organizations and civil society. Also covered are the organization's robust dispute settlement rules, the launch and evolution of the Doha Round, the rise of regional trade agreements, and the leadership and management of the WTO. It reviews the WTO's achievements as well as the challenges faced by the organization, and identifies the key questions that WTO members need to address in the future.

Craig VanGrasstek is publisher of the Washington Trade Report and a trade consultant. He earned his doctorate in political science from Princeton University, and has taught political economy at the Harvard Kennedy School, international relations at American University's School of International Service, and literature at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and in its Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures.
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The History and Future of the World Trade Organization is fully illustrated with colour and black-and-white photos dating back to the early days of trade negotiations...

Eric Wyndham-White, Executive Secretary and subsequently GATT Director-General, 1948 to 1968. © United Nations

The Centre William Rappard, just before the official opening in June 1926. The building was originally headquarters to the International Labour Organization (ILO).

China becomes the 143rd member of the WTO at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, in Doha, in November 2001. GATT Director-General Peter Sutherland presides in Geneva over the conclusion of the Uruguay Round on 15 December 1993. © Beatrix-M. Stampfli

664 pages, including 32 pages of photos.
“The purpose of this work is to not only tell us about our past, but to explain our present and to inform our future. [The author] opens our minds to new explanations of how the WTO has become what it is today. This also gives us a sense of where the WTO can go tomorrow.”

WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy

About the author

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