

“The Protectionism comeback; from Free Trade to Trade Wars”

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Main topics

- *Free Trade, Protectionism and Trade Wars;*
 - *The rise of Free Trade: pro-trade economic theories, Capitalism and trade, interdependence and globalization;*
 - *Ongoing debates on Free Trade and Trade Agreements;*
 - *The emerging new generation of Trade Agreements;*
 - *The protectionist wave against Free Trade;*
 - *Trump and the rise of Trade Wars;*
 - *The future of Trade;*
 - *Case studies: Trade with China; the Energy Charter; the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement; the EU-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement; The EU-Andean Community trade relations; the Comprehensive Trade Agreement between the EU, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador; The EU-Mercosur negotiations.*
1. From old Protectionism to modern Free Trade
 - 1.1 Introduction
 - 1.2 From early trade relations to colonial Protectionism and beyond
 - 1.3 Capitalism and trade, pro-trade economic theories and Pax Economica
 - 1.4 Interdependence, globalization and the rise of Free Trade
 - 1.5 The quest for a rules-based global trade order: from GATT to WTO
 - 1.6 Trade agreements: global picture
 2. Free Trade under fire: ongoing debates
 - 2.1 Introduction
 - 2.2 Dispute settlement mechanisms: investors protection vs the right to regulate
 - 2.3 Trade, sustainable development and climate change
 - 2.4 Trade and Human Rights
 - 2.5 Trade and “dumping”
 - 2.6 Trade and national security
 - 2.7 Case study: trade with China
 - 2.8 Case study: the Energy Charter

3. The emerging new generation of trade agreements: an European perspective
 - 3.1 Introduction
 - 3.2 Trade negotiations, transparency and citizens' participation
 - 3.3 The new sustainable development chapters
 - 3.4 From the Investors-State Dispute-Settlement mechanism (ISDS) to the Investment Court System (ICS)
 - 3.5 Protecting sensitive sectors and products: quotas, transition periods, safeguards and geographical indications
 - 3.6 Case study: the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement
 - 3.7 Case study: the EU-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement
 - 3.8 Case study: the EU-Andean Community trade relations and the Comprehensive Trade Agreement between the EU, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador

4. Protectionism: the great comeback
 - 4.1 Introduction
 - 4.2 Protectionism vs trade disputes in a rules-based order
 - 4.3 Protectionism vs. trade defense instruments and trade sanctions
 - 4.4 The protectionist wave: arguments and weapons
 - 4.5 Trump and the rise of Trade Wars
 - 4.6 Trade Wars: the winner takes it all?
 - 4.7 Trade negotiations in an era of rising Protectionism
 - 4.8 Case study: EU-Mercosur negotiations
 - 4.9 The future of Trade Agreements: give Peace a chance

Suggested bibliography

Barone, Barbara; Bendini, Roberto, "Protectionism in the G20", Policy Department, Directorate-General for External Policies, European Parliament, 2015.

Dawar, Kamala, "Protectionism and international diplomacy", Policy Department, Directorate-General for External Policies, European Parliament, 2018.

Garcia, Maria J., "EU trade relations with Latin America: Results and challenges in implementing the EU-Colombia/Peru Trade Agreement", EPRS, 2016.

Gonzalez, Arancha; Bourgeois, Yanis, "The Trade Handbook - Making Trade Work for Prosperity, People and Planet", FEPS, 2023.

Grieger, Gisela; Harte, Roderick, "EU trade with Latin America and the Caribbean – Overview and figures", EPRS, 2017.

Irwin, Douglas A., "Free Trade Under Fire", fourth edition, Princeton University Press, 2015
Moreira, Vital, "Respublica Europeia", Coimbra Editora, 2014.

Mosca, Alessia, “Tutto un altro mondo”, San Paolo, 2018.

Palen, Marc-William, “Pax Economica”, Princeton University Press, 2024.

Puccio, Laura; Harte, Roderick, “From Arbitration to the Investment Court System (ICS)”, EPRS, June, 2017.

Ramirez, Enrique Gomez; Lazarou, Eleni; Puccio, Laura and Sabbati, Giulio, “EU-Latin America trade relations – Overview and figures”, EPRS, 2016.

Silva Pereira, Pedro, “EU-Japan Trade negotiations approach final stage: A progressive and ambitious outcome is needed”, in “New Europe”, July 2017, p. 9.

Silva Pereira, Pedro, “EU-Japan: Do’s and don’ts for a successful agreement”, in *Borderlex Magazine* (online), 16 July 2017.

Silva Pereira, Pedro, “The EUs’ most important bilateral trade agreement”, in *The Parliament Magazine*, June 2018, p. 30-31.

Silva Pereira, Pedro, “The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement from the European Parliament ´s Perspective: A Landmark Agreement beyond Trade”, in *Journal of Inter-Regional Studies: Regional and Global Perspectives*, Waseda University, 2019, vol. 2, p. 16-25.

Silva Pereira, Pedro, “Four years on, the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement is a success story in the making”, in *The Parliament*, February 2023, p. 47,

Stiglitz, Joseph E., “Globalization and its Discontents – Revisited”, Penguin Books, 2017
Zygierewicz, Anna, “Trade agreement between the European Union and Colombia and Peru – European Implementation Assessment”, Policy Department, Directorate-General for External Policies, European Parliament, 2018.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to demonstrate critical knowledge of the ongoing political, economic and legal discussions about free trade, protectionism and trade wars in the context of growing interdependence and globalization, explain the rise of free trade and of the current protectionists trends, understand and discuss the main features of the new generation of trade agreements, and show ability to develop critical thinking about these issues on the basis of relevant case studies.

Target Student Profile

Undergraduate and graduate Law students, or with an academic background in Economics, Politics, International Relations or related subjects.

Pedagogical approach

Instruction takes place in English and comprises lectures and critical discussion of fundamental topics, case studies, problem questions and course materials, aiming to develop knowledge, but also independent and critical thinking about the course subject.

Evaluation criteria

- Active attendance at all teaching, including preparation of assignments and participation in discussions.
- Take-home assignment (criteria: problem formulation, structure and presentation, knowledge and insight into the topic, investigation and analysis, argumentation and conclusions, independence of thought, critical thinking, language and formal requirements, ability to comply with the given timeframes and word count).

Explanation of the Course's relevance and its connection to contemporary global issues

This proposed course on “The Protectionist Comeback: from Free Trade to Trade Wars” deals with one of the most important contemporary issues in the global legal landscape: the current protectionist wave against free trade, and the increased likelihood of trade wars after Mr. Trump reelection to the White House. This very relevant topic is now at the center stage of many crucial political, economic and legal discussions taking place all over the World, also impacting on the emerging new generation of trade agreements and on important ongoing trade negotiations, allowing for experiential learning as several interesting case studies will be addressed and discussed, including the EU-Mercosur negotiations, the EU-Andean Community trade relations, and the Comprehensive Trade Agreement between the EU, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador.