

SECTION III

Regional Integration / Trade Blocs and Multilateral Free Trade Negotiations

Note: A large number of publications are available on regional trade blocs, free trade agreements and rule based international trading system/ multilateral negotiations. Some of these are:

General

Arndt S. & Milner C. eds. World Economy: Global Trade Policy 1995. Cambridge, MA.: Blackwell Publishers, 1995. A volume with analytic articles presented by 11 leading experts. The articles cover a range of areas: institutional (WTO) and regional (APEC) issues; reviews of trade policies of selected countries (USA, India, Australia, South Africa and Mexico); evaluation of the Uruguay Round; and the free trade fever in the developing countries. The volume provides a concise and accessible summary of developments in all of the above areas.

Bhagwati J. Regionalism and Multilateralism: An Overview. New York: Columbia University, Department of Economics, 1992. The paper focuses on two main questions: are preferential trade agreements trade distorting or trade diverting, and what is the dynamic time path of these arrangements? He also reviews GATT Article XXIV, and the "first and second regionalism" periods that have preceded the most recent trends in the 1990s.

Bhagwati J. "The Threats to the World Trading System". World Economy, Vol. 15, pp. 443-456, July 1992. Discusses the prospects for the GATT focused multilateral trading system, the perils it faces, and the promise it holds.

Bhagwati J. & Panagariya A. eds. The Economics of Preferential Trade Agreements. Washington, D.C.: AEI Press, 1996. The volume is a critique on regional and bilateral preferential trade agreements (such as NAFTA or European Union) and the proliferation of the "so called" free trade areas. The analysis and arguments offered in the essays in this volume present the position that despite the popular equation of such free trade areas with genuine free trade, these are actually preferential trading arrangements. Such preferential arrangements not only offer free trade facilities to its members but also protection against non members. The volume addresses the question of whether FTAs or the pursuit of multilateral non-preferential trade liberalization are better for trade facilitation.

Bhagwati J. The World Trading System at Risk. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1990. Offers a fascinating overview of the perils and promise facing the world trading system.