

investment; and discussions parallel to the NAFTA involve labour market conditions, environmental regulation and adjustment issues.<sup>3</sup>

The last few years have thus seen a revolution in Canadian thinking about both the form and substance of trade negotiations. This revolution has not been without controversy as trade policy came out of the closet of specialist consideration and into the spotlight of public debate. Much of the adjustment burden faced by the Canadian economy, particularly in the manufacturing sector, for example, has been laid at the doorstep of this re-orientation of trade policy. Public support for further changes in Canada's approach to trade policy is thus somewhat fragile and adds to the need for greater public education and understanding of what is happening and why. There is a large and important role here for independent analysts capable of providing sober and convincing considerations of recent developments in Canadian trade policy and practice. More than anything else, there is a need for independent scholars to refute the ideological and ill-informed diatribes that pass for commentary on public policy in the Canadian media.<sup>4</sup>

### Prospective

As important as explaining the road we have recently travelled is the need for independent trade policy research and analysis to explore the even more significant shifts we are likely to face in the decade to come. Revolutionary changes in the way the world economy is now organized have only begun to be reflected in domestic policy developments and in international economic negotiation and regulation. While the federal government negotiated the FTA and participated in the Uruguay Round, the conduct of international business changed to the point where many of the rules and agreements in force domestically and internationally speak but faintly to the way in which international economic exchanges are organized and pursued.

Forty-five years ago, when the basic framework of international trade and economic rules was negotiated, trade in goods was the main vehicle of economic integration. In 1950, for example, the total volume of world trade represented about ten percent of world production. The bulk of this trade con-

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<sup>3</sup> For a discussion of some of the implications of the changing focus of trade negotiations, see Michael Hart, "The Mercantilist's Lament: National Treatment and Modern Trade Negotiations," *Journal of World Trade Law*, vol. 21, no. 6 (December, 1987), pp. 37-61.

<sup>4</sup> I have in mind here, for example, the high profile provided by the Canadian media to such books as Mel Hurtig, *The Betrayal of Canada* (Toronto: Stoddart, 1991), Maud Barlow and Bruce Campbell, *The Selling of Canada* (Toronto, 1991) and Linda McQuaig, *The Quick and the Dead: Brian Mulroney, Big Business and the Seduction of Canada* (Toronto: Viking, 1991). Few Canadian scholars consider these books to be sufficiently serious to rate commentary. While they may be right, by eschewing comment, they have left the field of public discussion wide open to this kind of nonsense.