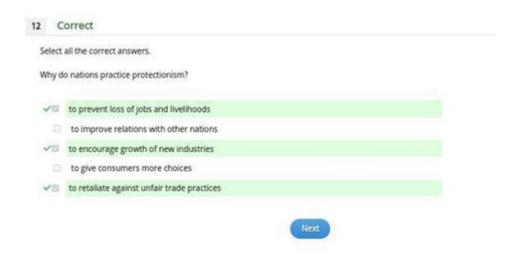
Why Do Nations Practice Protectionism



Why Do Nations Practice Protectionism? Unpacking the Rationale Behind Trade Barriers

The global economy is a complex tapestry woven with threads of free trade and protectionism. While the ideal of frictionless commerce holds appeal, the reality is that nations frequently erect trade barriers, implementing protectionist policies. But why do nations practice protectionism? This isn't a simple answer, and it's a question with significant economic and political implications. This post will delve into the multifaceted reasons behind protectionism, examining its justifications and exploring its potential consequences. We'll uncover the motivations driving governments to shield domestic industries, even at the potential cost of global economic efficiency.

1. Protecting Infant Industries: Nurturing Domestic Growth

One of the most frequently cited justifications for protectionism is the need to protect nascent industries. Newly established domestic industries often lack the scale and experience to compete with established foreign competitors. Protectionist measures like tariffs or subsidies can provide a crucial "breathing room," allowing these infant industries to develop, gain efficiency, and eventually become internationally competitive. The argument hinges on the belief that temporary protection will lead to long-term self-sufficiency and economic growth. However, critics argue that this protection can create inefficiencies and stifle innovation if it persists too long.

The Challenge of Timing:

The critical challenge with this approach is determining the optimal duration of protection. Too

short a period, and the industry fails to develop adequately. Too long, and it becomes dependent on protection, hindering its ability to adapt and innovate in a truly competitive market. Finding the right balance is a delicate act of economic policymaking.

2. Safeguarding Domestic Jobs: Addressing Unemployment Concerns

Protectionism often emerges as a response to concerns about domestic job losses due to foreign competition. Tariffs and quotas on imported goods can make them more expensive, potentially boosting demand for domestically produced alternatives and preserving employment in specific sectors. This resonates particularly strongly with voters in industries facing significant foreign competition, leading to political pressure for protectionist policies.

The Trade-Off Between Jobs and Prices:

While protecting jobs is a laudable goal, it's crucial to consider the trade-offs. Protectionist measures typically lead to higher prices for consumers, reducing their purchasing power. Furthermore, the jobs saved in one sector might be lost in others due to retaliatory tariffs from other countries or reduced exports.

3. National Security: Protecting Strategic Industries

Certain industries are deemed strategically important for national security. These might include defense manufacturing, energy production, or critical infrastructure sectors. Governments often employ protectionist measures to ensure the domestic production of these goods, reducing reliance on foreign suppliers and bolstering national resilience. This is less about economic competition and more about safeguarding national interests in times of crisis or conflict.

Defining "Strategic": A Matter of Debate:

Defining which industries are truly "strategic" is often a subject of intense debate. The definition can be broadened politically, leading to protectionist measures that extend beyond genuinely critical sectors.

4. Retaliation and Trade Wars: Responding to Unfair Practices

Protectionism can also be a defensive mechanism, used as a retaliatory measure against other countries' protectionist policies. If one country imposes tariffs on another's goods, the affected country might retaliate with its own tariffs, escalating into a trade war. This tit-for-tat escalation can significantly harm global trade and economic growth.

The Perils of Escalation:

Trade wars rarely benefit any party involved. They disrupt supply chains, increase prices for consumers, and damage international relations. Negotiated solutions and adherence to international trade agreements are essential to avoid such conflicts.

5. Revenue Generation: Tariffs as a Source of Income

Governments can utilize tariffs as a source of revenue. These taxes on imported goods contribute to government coffers, funding public services and programs. However, this revenue source comes at a cost, potentially hindering economic efficiency and international cooperation. Modern economies generally prefer more direct and transparent tax systems over reliance on tariffs for revenue generation.

Conclusion:

The reasons why nations practice protectionism are multifaceted and often intertwined. While protectionist policies can offer short-term benefits such as job preservation or the nurturing of infant industries, they also carry significant risks, including higher prices for consumers, trade wars, and reduced global economic efficiency. Understanding these diverse motivations is crucial for analyzing the complex interplay between national interests and global economic cooperation. A balanced approach that considers both the potential benefits and drawbacks is essential for effective trade policy.

FAQs:

- 1. Is protectionism ever justified? While generally considered detrimental to long-term economic growth, protectionism can be justified in specific circumstances, such as safeguarding national security or nurturing strategically important infant industries, but only for limited periods.
- 2. What are the negative consequences of protectionism? Negative consequences include higher consumer prices, reduced choice for consumers, retaliatory tariffs leading to trade wars, and stifled innovation due to lack of competition.
- 3. How do protectionist policies affect global trade? Protectionist policies disrupt global trade flows, reduce efficiency, and can lead to significant economic losses for all participating countries.
- 4. What are some examples of modern protectionist policies? Examples include tariffs on imported steel, restrictions on foreign investment in certain sectors, and subsidies for domestic industries.
- 5. What are the alternatives to protectionism? Alternatives include promoting domestic competitiveness through investment in education and infrastructure, fostering innovation, and

pursuing free and fair trade agreements that reduce barriers to international commerce.

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why do nations practice protectionism: The Collapse of Global Trade, Murky Protectionism, and the Crisis Richard E. Baldwin, Simon J. Evenett, 2011-03 The global financial crisis of 2008/9 is the Great Depression of the 21st century. For many though, the similarities stop at the Wall Street Crash as the current generation of policymakers have acted quickly to avoid the mistakes of the past. Yet the global crisis has made room for mistakes all of its own. While governments have apparently kept to their word on refraining from protectionist measures in the style of 1930s tariffs, there has been a disturbing rise in murky protectionism. Seemingly benign, these crisis-linked policies are twisted to favour domestic firms, workers and investors. This book, first published as an eBook on VoxEU.org in March 2009, brings together leading trade policy practitioners and experts including Australian Trade Minister Simon Crean and former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo. Initially its aim was to advise policymakers heading in to the G20 meeting in London, but since the threat of murky protectionism persists, so too do their warnings.

why do nations practice protectionism: Clashing Over Commerce Douglas A. Irwin, 2017-11-29 A Foreign Affairs Best Book of the Year: "Tells the history of American trade policy . . . [A] grand narrative [that] also debunks trade-policy myths."—Economist Should the United States be open to commerce with other countries, or should it protect domestic industries from foreign competition? This question has been the source of bitter political conflict throughout American history. Such conflict was inevitable, James Madison argued in the Federalist Papers, because trade policy involves clashing economic interests. The struggle between the winners and losers from trade has always been fierce because dollars and jobs are at stake: depending on what policy is chosen, some industries, farmers, and workers will prosper, while others will suffer. Douglas A. Irwin's Clashing over Commerce is the most authoritative and comprehensive history of US trade policy to date, offering a clear picture of the various economic and political forces that have shaped it. From the start, trade policy divided the nation—first when Thomas Jefferson declared an embargo on all foreign trade and then when South Carolina threatened to secede from the Union over excessive taxes on imports. The Civil War saw a shift toward protectionism, which then came under constant political attack. Then, controversy over the Smoot-Hawley tariff during the Great Depression led to a policy shift toward freer trade, involving trade agreements that eventually produced the World Trade Organization. Irwin makes sense of this turbulent history by showing how different economic interests tend to be grouped geographically, meaning that every proposed policy change found ready champions and opponents in Congress. Deeply researched and rich with insight and detail, Clashing over Commerce provides valuable and enduring insights into US trade policy past and present. "Combines scholarly analysis with a historian's eye for trends and colorful details . . . readable and illuminating, for the trade expert and for all Americans wanting a deeper understanding of America's evolving role in the global economy." -National Review "Magisterial." -Foreign Affairs

why do nations practice protectionism: Kicking Away the Ladder Ha-Joon Chang, 2002-07-01 How did the rich countries really become rich? In this provocative study, Ha-Joon Chang examines the great pressure on developing countries from the developed world to adopt certain 'good policies' and 'good institutions', seen today as necessary for economic development. His conclusions are compelling and disturbing: that developed countries are attempting to 'kick away the ladder' with which they have climbed to the top, thereby preventing developing countries from adopting policies and institutions that they themselves have used.

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why do nations practice protectionism: Why Nations Fail Daron Acemoglu, James A.

Robinson, 2013-09-17 Brilliant and engagingly written, Why Nations Fail answers the question that has stumped the experts for centuries: Why are some nations rich and others poor, divided by wealth and poverty, health and sickness, food and famine? Is it culture, the weather, geography? Perhaps ignorance of what the right policies are? Simply, no. None of these factors is either definitive or destiny. Otherwise, how to explain why Botswana has become one of the fastest growing countries in the world, while other African nations, such as Zimbabwe, the Congo, and Sierra Leone, are mired in poverty and violence? Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson conclusively show that it is man-made political and economic institutions that underlie economic success (or lack of it). Korea, to take just one of their fascinating examples, is a remarkably homogeneous nation, yet the people of North Korea are among the poorest on earth while their brothers and sisters in South Korea are among the richest. The south forged a society that created incentives, rewarded innovation, and allowed everyone to participate in economic opportunities. The economic success thus spurred was sustained because the government became accountable and responsive to citizens and the great mass of people. Sadly, the people of the north have endured decades of famine, political repression, and very different economic institutions—with no end in sight. The differences between the Koreas is due to the politics that created these completely different institutional trajectories. Based on fifteen years of original research Acemoglu and Robinson marshall extraordinary historical evidence from the Roman Empire, the Mayan city-states, medieval Venice, the Soviet Union, Latin America, England, Europe, the United States, and Africa to build a new theory of political economy with great relevance for the big questions of today, including: - China has built an authoritarian growth machine. Will it continue to grow at such high speed and overwhelm the West? - Are America's best days behind it? Are we moving from a virtuous circle in which efforts by elites to aggrandize power are resisted to a vicious one that enriches and empowers a small minority? - What is the most effective way to help move billions of people from the rut of poverty to prosperity? More philanthropy from the wealthy nations of the West? Or learning the hard-won lessons of Acemoglu and Robinson's breakthrough ideas on the interplay between inclusive political and economic institutions? Why Nations Fail will change the way you look at—and understand—the world.

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approaches to trade theory and policy, treating all important research topics in international economics and clarifying their mathematical intricacies. The textbook is intended for undergraduates, graduates and researchers alike. It addresses undergraduate students with extremely clear language and illustrations, making even the most complex trade models accessible. In the appendices, graduate students and researchers will find self-contained treatments in mathematical terms. The new edition has been thoroughly revised and updated to reflect the latest research on international trade.

why do nations practice protectionism: Nontariff Measures and International Trade John Christopher Beghin, 2016-11-28 Nontariff Measures and International Trade includes 20 chapters authored by John Beghin and co-authors over the last 20 years on the economics of quality-standard like nontariff measures in the context of international trade. This book provides a coherent and comprehensive treatment of these nontariff measures, from their measurement to their effects on trade and welfare. In Part I, the authors use different perspectives to make the case that, unlike tariffs, quality-standard like nontariff measures are complex to measure and analyze and do not easily lead to general policy prescriptions. Then, Part II contains contributions on measurements of welfare and trade effects of nontariff measures, accounting for potential market imperfections. Part III presents chapters on the potential protectionism of nontariff measures when they are used to favor some economic agents over society. The last part presents cases studies of nontariff measures in different industries, markets, and countries.

why do nations practice protectionism: Legal and Economic Principles of World Trade Law Henrik Horn, Petros C. Mavroidis, 2013-04-22 The World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement covers international commerce in goods and services including measures that directly affect trade, such as import tariffs and quotas, and almost any type of internal measure with an impact on trade. Legal and Economic Principles of World Trade Law contributes to the analysis of the texts of World Trade Law in law and economics, reporting work done to identify improvements to the interpretation of the Agreement. It starts with background studies, the first summarizes The Genesis of the GATT, which highlights the negotiating history of the GATT 1947-8; the second introduces the economics of trade agreements. These are followed by two main studies. The first, authored by Bagwell, Staiger and Sykes, discusses legal and economic aspects of the GATT regulation of border policy instruments, such as import tariffs and import quotas. The second, written by Grossman, Horn and Mavroidis, focuses on the core provision for the regulation of domestic policy instruments - the National Treatment principles in Art. III GATT.

why do nations practice protectionism: The Structure and Evolution of Recent U.S. Trade Policy Robert E. Baldwin, Anne O. Krueger, 2008-04-15 The trade policies addressed in this book have far-reaching effects on the world's increasingly interdependent economies, but until now little research has been devoted to them. This volume represents the first systematic effort to analyze specific U.S. trade policies, particularly nontariff measures. It provides a better understanding of how trade policies operate, how effective they are, and what their costs and benefits are to trading nations. The contributors chart the history of U.S. trade policy since World War II, analyze industry-specific trade barriers, and discuss the effects of tariff preferences and export-promoting policies such as export credits and domestic international sales corporations (DISCs). The final section of essays examines the worldwide impact of import policies, pointing out subtleties in industry-specific policies and providing insight into the levels of protection in developing countries. The contributors blend state-of-the-art economics with language that is accessible to the business community, economists, and policymakers. Commentaries accompany each paper.

why do nations practice protectionism: Economic Security: Neglected Dimension of National Security? National Defense University (U S), National Defense University (U.S.), Institute for National Strategic Studies (U S, Sheila R. Ronis, 2011-12-27 On August 24-25, 2010, the National Defense University held a conference titled "Economic Security: Neglected Dimension of National Security?" to explore the economic element of national power. This special collection of selected papers from the conference represents the view of several keynote speakers and participants in six

panel discussions. It explores the complexity surrounding this subject and examines the major elements that, interacting as a system, define the economic component of national security.

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why do nations practice protectionism: How Rich Countries Got Rich ... and Why Poor Countries Stay Poor Erik S Reinert, 2019-10-01 A maverick economist explains how protectionism makes nations rich, free trade keeps them poor---and how rich countries make sure to keep it that way. Throughout history, some combination of government intervention, protectionism, and strategic investment has driven successful development everywhere from Renaissance Italy to the modern Far East. Yet despite the demonstrable success of this approach, development economists largely ignore it and insist instead on the importance of free trade. Somehow, the thing that made rich nations rich supposedly won't work on poor countries anymore. Leading heterodox economist Erik Reinert's invigorating history of economic development shows how Western economies were founded on protectionism and state activism and only later promoted free trade, when it worked to their advantage. In the tug-of-war between the gospel of government intervention and free-market purists, the issue is not that one is more correct, but that the winning nation tends to favor whatever benefits them most. As Western countries begin to sense that the rules of the game they set were rigged, Reinert's classic book gains new urgency. His unique and edifying approach to the history of economic development is critical reading for anyone who wants to understand how we got here and what to do next, especially now that we aren't so sure we'll be the winners anymore.

why do nations practice protectionism: Why Globalization Works Martin Wolf, 2005-06-10 A powerful case for the global market economy The debate on globalization has reached a level of intensity that inhibits comprehension and obscures the issues. In this book a highly distinguished international economist scrupulously explains how globalization works as a concept and how it operates in reality. Martin Wolf confronts the charges against globalization, delivers a devastating critique of each, and offers a realistic scenario for economic internationalism in the future. Wolf begins by outlining the history of the global economy in the twentieth century and explaining the mechanics of world trade. He dissects the agenda of globalization's critics, and rebuts the arguments that it undermines sovereignty, weakens democracy, intensifies inequality, privileges the multinational corporation, and devastates the environment. The author persuasively defends the principles of international economic integration, arguing that the biggest obstacle to global economic progress has been the failure not of the market but of politics and government, in rich countries as well as poor. He examines the threat that terrorism poses and maps the way to a global market economy that can work for everyone.

why do nations practice protectionism: <u>Handbook of Deep Trade Agreements</u> Aaditya Mattoo, Nadia Rocha, Michele Ruta, 2020-09-23 Deep trade agreements (DTAs) cover not just trade but additional policy areas, such as international flows of investment and labor and the protection of intellectual property rights and the environment. Their goal is integration beyond trade or deep integration. These agreements matter for economic development. Their rules influence how countries (and hence, the people and firms that live and operate within them) transact, invest, work, and ultimately, develop. Trade and investment regimes determine the extent of economic

integration, competition rules affect economic efficiency, intellectual property rights matter for innovation, and environmental and labor rules contribute to environmental and social outcomes. This Handbook provides the tools and data needed to analyze these new dimensions of integration and to assess the content and consequences of DTAs. The Handbook and the accompanying database are the result of collaboration between experts in different policy areas from academia and other international organizations, including the International Trade Centre (ITC), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and World Trade Organization (WTO).

why do nations practice protectionism: Managing the Challenges of WTO Participation Peter Gallagher, Patrick Low, Andrew L. Stoler, 2005-12-15 This 2005 compilation of 45 case studies documents disparate experiences among economies in addressing the challenges of participating in the WTO. It demonstrates that success or failure is strongly influenced by how governments and private sector stakeholders organise themselves at home. The contributors, mainly from developing countries, give examples of participation with lessons for others. They show that when the system is accessed and employed effectively, it can serve the interests of poor and rich countries alike. However, a failure to communicate among interested parties at home often contributes to negative outcomes on the international front. Above all, these case studies demonstrate that the WTO creates a framework within which sovereign decision-making can unleash important opportunities or undermine the potential benefits flowing from a rules-based international environment that promotes open trade.

why do nations practice protectionism: Globalization and Its Discontents Joseph E. Stiglitz, 2003-04-17 This powerful, unsettling book gives us a rare glimpse behind the closed doors of global financial institutions by the winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Economics. When it was first published, this national bestseller quickly became a touchstone in the globalization debate. Renowned economist and Nobel Prize winner Joseph E. Stiglitz had a ringside seat for most of the major economic events of the last decade, including stints as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and chief economist at the World Bank. Particularly concerned with the plight of the developing nations, he became increasingly disillusioned as he saw the International Monetary Fund and other major institutions put the interests of Wall Street and the financial community ahead of the poorer nations. Those seeking to understand why globalization has engendered the hostility of protesters in Seattle and Genoa will find the reasons here. While this book includes no simple formula on how to make globalization work, Stiglitz provides a reform agenda that will provoke debate for years to come. Rarely do we get such an insider's analysis of the major institutions of globalization as in this penetrating book. With a new foreword for this paperback edition.

why do nations practice protectionism: American Government 3e Glen Krutz, Sylvie Waskiewicz, 2023-05-12 Black & white print. American Government 3e aligns with the topics and objectives of many government courses. Faculty involved in the project have endeavored to make government workings, issues, debates, and impacts meaningful and memorable to students while maintaining the conceptual coverage and rigor inherent in the subject. With this objective in mind, the content of this textbook has been developed and arranged to provide a logical progression from the fundamental principles of institutional design at the founding, to avenues of political participation, to thorough coverage of the political structures that constitute American government. The book builds upon what students have already learned and emphasizes connections between topics as well as between theory and applications. The goal of each section is to enable students not just to recognize concepts, but to work with them in ways that will be useful in later courses, future careers, and as engaged citizens. In order to help students understand the ways that government, society, and individuals interconnect, the revision includes more examples and details regarding the lived experiences of diverse groups and communities within the United States. The authors and reviewers sought to strike a balance between confronting the negative and harmful elements of American government, history, and current events, while demonstrating progress in overcoming them. In doing so, the approach seeks to provide instructors with ample opportunities to open

discussions, extend and update concepts, and drive deeper engagement.

why do nations practice protectionism: The World Trade Organization: A Very Short Introduction Amrita Narlikar, 2005-09-08 This book provides a timely exploration of what the WTO is, what it does, and the complicated politics involved in its negotiations and rulings. Confronting the controversy surrounding the WTO head-on, the author highlights issues of power, marginalization, and development, and raises the important question of whether it actually deserves the reputation it has come to acquire.--BOOK JACKET.

why do nations practice protectionism: The Future of Global Economic Governance Marek Rewizorski, Karina Jędrzejowska, Anna Wróbel, 2020-01-29 In light of new global challenges for international cooperation and coordination, such as the revival of protectionism, surge of populism, or energy-related issues, this volume highlights possible scenarios for the future of Global Economic Governance (GEG). The contributing authors analyze the substance of GEG as a normative framework for resolving collective action issues and promoting cross-border co-ordination and co-operation in the provision or exchange of goods, money, services and technical expertise in the world economy. Furthermore, the book examines drivers of fundamental shifts in global economic steering and covers topics such as power and authority shifts in the global governance architecture, technological and energy-related challenges, and the role of the G20 and BRICS in shaping global economic governance. "This book provides a very timely and nuanced account of the challenges facing the established global order." Andrew F. Cooper (Professor of Political Science at the University of Waterloo) "This valuable collection from a new generation of innovative scholars of global economic governance offers insights from a broad range of theoretical approaches to the central policy issues of the day" John Kirton (Director of the Global Governance Program, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto)

why do nations practice protectionism: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1998, 1998-11 Over 1,000 pages with information on American life -- who we are, where we live, what we do, what we eat and where we work. This valuable reference is filled with thousands of statistical tables covering 31 key areas ranging from demographics and government spending to transportation and construction. Within its pages you will find the answers to question such as: -- What are the biggest, fastest-growing and slowest U.S. industries? -- What is the rate of mortgage delinquency and foreclosure? -- How many new businesses are started each year? How many fail? -- What are the wealthiest and poorest areas of the country? -- How has the purchasing power of the dollar changed over time? -- How many U.S. companies have been acquired by foreign companies? -- What kind of Internet access services are being provided in public libraries? -- How many bankruptcy cases are filed in each state? -- What are the trends in corporate profits? -- What are the trends in corporate profits? -- What are the trends in corporate profits? -- Has the rate of marriage and divorce changed in this decade? -- How many people are employed in various types of retailing?

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why do nations practice protectionism: Trade Liberalization Romain Wacziarg, 2018 This compelling two-volume collection presents the major literary contributions to the economic analysis of the consequences of trade liberalization on growth, productivity, labor market outcomes and economic inequality. Examining the classical theories that stress gains from trade stemming from

comparative advantage, the selection also comprises more recent theories of imperfect competition, where any potential gains from trade can stem from competitive effects or the international transmission of knowledge. Empirical contributions provide evidence regarding the explanatory power of these various theories, including work on the effects of trade openness on economic growth, wages, and income inequality, as well as evidence on the effects of trade on firm productivity, entry and exit. Prefaced by an original introduction from the editor, the collection will to be an invaluable research resource for academics, practitioners and those drawn to this fascinating topic.

why do nations practice protectionism: Topics for Group Discussion Prof Shrikant Prasoon, 2017-09 There are no specific rules to prepare for a GD. And no one knows what the topic of GD is going to be. This book includes topics that are likely to be put by the Group Testing Officer before the candidates to gauge their personality and leadership qualities. It will be a good idea to keep yourself abreast with topics from: 1. Current Affairs - Current Affairs is something that you have to be thorough with. Understand the recent crises affecting the world, latest developmental initiatives, and important national & global events. 2. Historical topics- Have a fair knowledge about the history of India and the world. Having historical information will help you cite examples and make references whenever needed. 3. Sports, Arts & Literature - In these topics, try to have a decent idea about what is popular, who are the leaders in each area, the latest that has happened in these areas. 4. Data crunching - Do familiarize yourself with important data. Throwing in some data if required in your GD will definitely create an impression among the assessors. Speak with a measure of confidence on the given topic; and secure the nod of the evaluator.

why do nations practice protectionism: Antidumping Exposed Brink Lindsey, Daniel J. Ikenson, 2003-10-25 The U.S. antidumping law enjoys broad political support in part because so few people understand how the law actually works. Its rhetoric of "fairness" and "level playing fields" sounds appealing, and its convoluted technical complexities prevent all but a few insiders and experts from understanding the reality that underlies that rhetoric. CONNUM? CEP? FUPDOL? TOTPUDD? DIFMER? NPRICOP? POI? POR? LOT? Confused? You're not alone. Even members of Congress, whose opinions shape the course of U.S. trade policy, are baffled by those devilish details. Antidumping Exposed book seeks to penetrate the fog of complexity that shields the antidumping law from the scrutiny it deserves. It offers a detailed, step-by-step guide to how dumping is defined and measured under current rules. It identifies the many methodological guirks and biases that allow normal, healthy competition to be stigmatized as "unfair" and punished with often cripplingly high antidumping duties. The inescapable conclusion is that the antidumping law, as it currently stands, has nothing to do with maintaining a "level playing field." Instead, antidumping's primary function is to provide an elaborate excuse for old-fashioned protectionism. The authors offer 20 specific proposals for reform of the World Trade Organization's Antidumping Agreement. Their analysis and ideas should be of great interest to businesses, trade lawyers, and trade negotiators around the world.

why do nations practice protectionism: Trade, Development, and Foreign Debt Michael Hudson, 1992 This text presents an alternative history of the major theoretical concepts that have shaped international economics since its inception in the mercantilist epoch. Present anti-orthodox views on trade and development, far from being the preserve of a few marginal heretics of each generation, are revealed to have a long and honourable pedigree.

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economics such as healthcare and energy. ? With the economy topping the headlines every day, the timing is right for a second edition ? Will appeal to anyone getting an MBA or taking economics courses, as well as general readers who want to learn about economics in terms they can understand

why do nations practice protectionism: America's Protectionist Takeoff 1815-1914 Michael Hudson, 2010-03-01 The contribution of the American School of Political Economy (1848 to 1914) to America's wildly successful industrial development has disappeared from today's history books. American protectionists and technology theorists of the day were concerned with securing an economic competitive advantage and conversely, with offsetting the soil depletion of 19th century America's plantation export agriculture. They also emphasized the positive effect of rising wage levels and living standards on the productivity that made the American economic takeoff possible. The American School's Economy of High Wages doctrine stands in contrast to the ideology of free traders everywhere who accept low wages and existing productivity as permanent and unchanging givens, and who treat higher consumption, health and educational standards merely as deadweight costs. Free trade logic remains the buttress of today's financial austerity policies imposed on debtor economies by the United States, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. By contrast, the lessons of the American School of Political Economy can provide a more realistic and positive role model for other countries to emulate - what the United States itself has done, not what its condescending free-trade diplomats are telling them to do. The lesson is to adopt the protectionist policies of the late 19th and early 20th centuries that made America an economic superpower. Michael Hudson (Distinguished Professor of Economics, University of Missouri, Kansas City) is a frequent contributor to The Financial Times, Counterpunch, and Global Research.

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