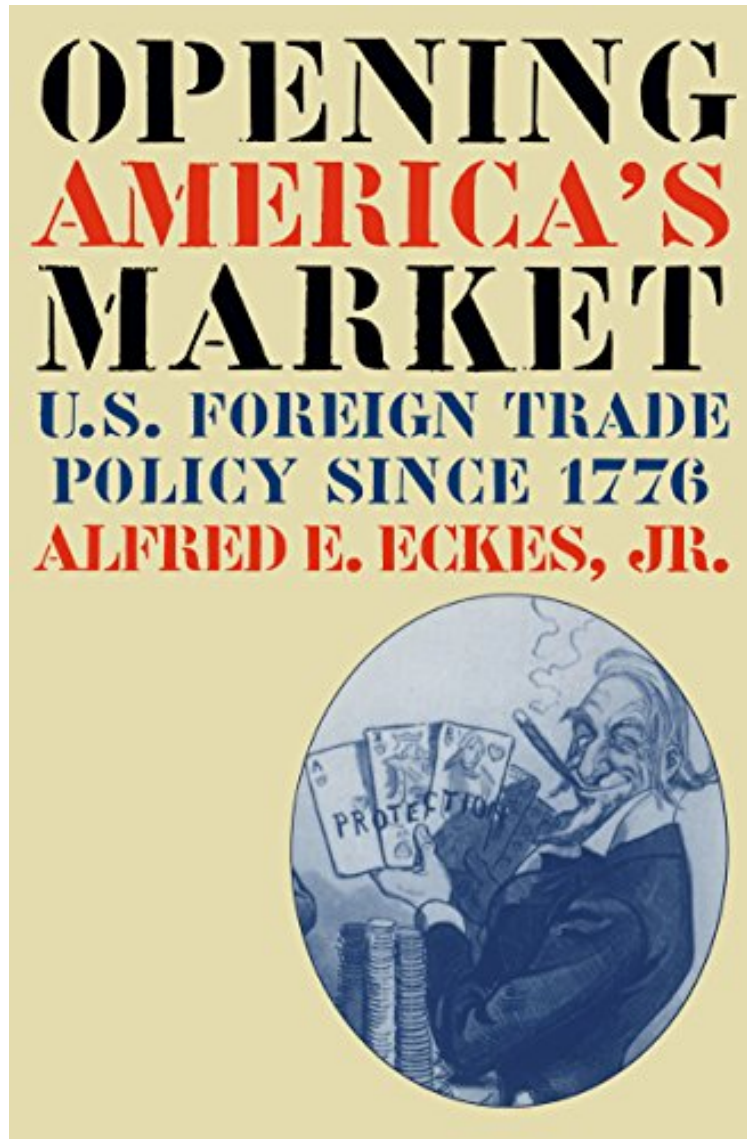


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Opening America's Market: U.S. Foreign Trade Policy Since 1776 (Business, Society the State)

Alfred E. Eckes Jr.

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Alfred E. Eckes Jr. : Opening America's Market: U.S. Foreign Trade Policy Since 1776 (Business, Society the State) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Opening America's Market: U.S. Foreign Trade Policy Since 1776 (Business, Society the State):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy DanFlahertyFabulous book, debunks free trade ideology with historical fact.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Understood Difference Between FREE

Trade and FAIR Trade By Robert David STEELE Vivas I give the author high marks for explaining early on the difference between FREE trade and FAIR trade. While he is an avowed protectionist and much of what he offers must be balanced by more progressive views, the tide is turning as "true costs" become established and we all begin to realize that between exporting solid jobs for the middle class and the earnest blue collar trade specialists, and allowing illegal immigration and the Reagan-led destruction of the trade unions, we have put a stake in the heart of THE fundamental source of national power and prosperity: people. See also: The Battle for the Soul of Capitalism The Soul of Capitalism: Opening Paths to a Moral Economy Screwed: The Undeclared War Against the Middle Class - And What We Can Do about It (BK Currents (Paperback)) The Global Class War: How America's Bipartisan Elite Lost Our Future - and What It Will Take to Win It Back Confessions of an Economic Hit Man No Logo: No Space, No Choice, No Jobs The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism The Working Poor: Invisible in America State of the Unions: How Labor Can Strengthen the Middle Class, Improve Our Economy, and Regain Political Influence Election 2008: Lipstick on the Pig (Substance of Governance; Legitimate Grievances; Candidates on the Issues; Balanced Budget 101; Call to Arms: Fund We Not Them; Annotated Bibliography) 7 of 10 people found the following review helpful. One-Sided History By not me This is an incomplete and polemical history of U.S. trade policy written from a protectionist point of view. On the plus side, Eckes served as an International Trade Commissioner in the 1980s and has an insider's knowledge of American trade politics; in addition, while preparing the book, he turned up some interesting documents on the role of the State Department in trade remedy cases in the 1950s and '60s. However, he offers no economic analysis, does not present both sides of the trade debate, and sneers at professional economists rather than rebuts the case they make for free trade. (One almost wonders about his impartiality on the ITC). He also barely mentions U.S. policy in the GATT or the WTO. These are fatal lapses in a book on this subject. Not recommended.

Despite the passage of NAFTA and other recent free trade victories in the United States, former U.S. trade official Alfred Eckes warns that these developments have a dark side. *Opening America's Market* offers a bold critique of U.S. trade policies over the last sixty years, placing them within a historical perspective. Eckes reconsiders trade policy issues and events from Benjamin Franklin to Bill Clinton, attributing growing political unrest and economic insecurity in the 1990s to shortsighted policy decisions made in the generation after World War II. Eager to win the Cold War and promote the benefits of free trade, American officials generously opened the domestic market to imports but tolerated foreign discrimination against American goods. American consumers and corporations gained in the resulting global economy, but many low-skilled workers have become casualties. Eckes also challenges criticisms of the 'infamous' protectionist Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930, which allegedly worsened the Great Depression and provoked foreign retaliation. In trade history, he says, this episode was merely a mole hill, not a mountain.

From Booklist Eckes traces American foreign trade policy back to the free trade arguments espoused by such early leaders as Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson and identifies conditions under the prevailing mercantilist philosophy that led to calls for protectionist barriers. He concentrates, however, on the policy that has evolved since passage of the controversial Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930. Eckes makes the historian's case that current events cannot be understood without looking at them in historical perspective, and that is what he does here in analyses of NAFTA and other free trade initiatives. He also offers the historian's disclaimer of ideological bias, but his self-admitted "revisionism" in minimizing the effects of Smoot-Hawley and his warnings regarding the consequences of free trade "victories" make his opinions clear. David Rouse The book poses important issues about the relationships between policy and economic performance. Business History [Eckes] unites scholarly rigor with a policy maker's sensitivity to the political factors influencing trade. New York Times Book (1995) [T] traces the history of American trade policy to help readers sort through the arguments of both free-traders and protectionists. New York Times Book, New and Noteworthy Paperbacks (1998) An up-to-date history of U.S. trade policies, written by a historian, has long been sorely needed; Eckes fills the gap. American Historical The book is thoughtful, fresh, and should appeal to a wide audience, from undergraduates to specialists (including policymakers). Perspectives on Political Science Alfred Eckes has given those who work with international trade issues what we have long needed: a comprehensive, analytical history of trade policy and its consequences to the United States.--Joseph F. Toot, Jr., President and CEO of The Timken Company *Opening America's Market* is the most lucid, insightful, and complete analysis of U.S. foreign trade policy on the market. Alfred E. Eckes has written an instant classic, one that is indispensable for anyone interested in U.S. trade policy.--Pat Choate, Manufacturing Policy Project Eckes does a great service by providing a historical perspective to a debate so often dominated by special interests and simple slogans. His book should be of special interest to Republicans and conservatives who are in dire need of recovering their roots now that they have accomplished the easy task of discrediting liberalism, but still need a basis on which to govern.--William R. Hawkins, Knight-Ridder In a perceptive analysis of U.S. trade policy since 1776, Eckes destroys some of the myths about free trade. He demonstrates the inaccuracy of assertions that Smoot-Hawley caused or exacerbated the Great Depression and shows how perceived security needs in recent years have led to a one-sided giveaway of the U.S. market and U.S.

manufacturing jobs.--Herman Starobin, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union