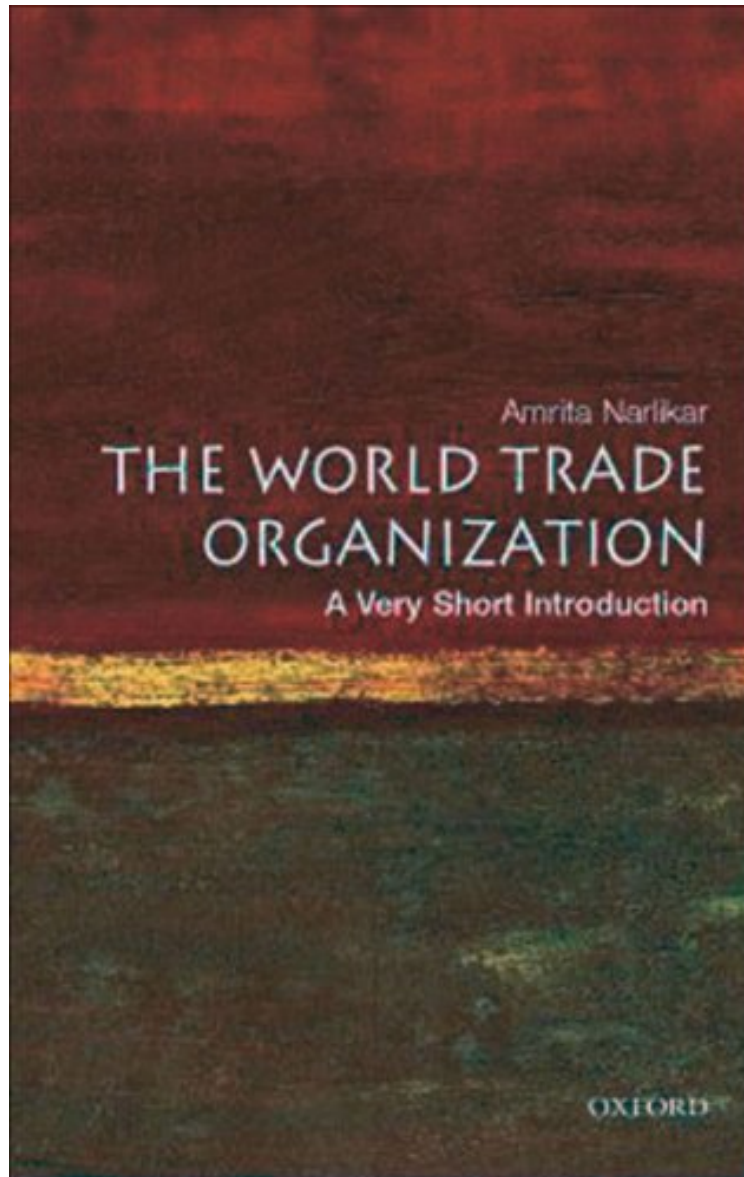


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The World Trade Organization: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

Amrita Narlikar

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Amrita Narlikar : The World Trade Organization: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The World Trade Organization: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By by Joseph Palladino Clear and readable history and functions of the WTO 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not for the uninitiated; subject must be studied

to be fully understood. By Marvin D. Pipher This book reads much like a familiarization manual intended to be studied by new employees for two or three weeks before beginning their assignments at the World Trade Organization (WTO). I use the word 'studied' advisedly, since to truly understand this book and the extent and operations of the WTO one would have to study this book along with other sources and, hopefully, have a knowledgeable person available to answer questions. The book simply covers too much ground while constantly introducing unfamiliar and obscure terms, WTO jargon, and WTO specific terminology. Here are a few representative examples; see if you can grasp them: Grand Bargain, Blue box, The Havana Charter, phytosanitary barriers to trade, non-governmental organizations, customs valuation code, welfare losses, democratic deficit, Multi Fibre Agreement, the emerging safeguards provision, the Most Favored Nation (MFN) rule, the dual-track mechanism, and Mode 4. How'd you do? And here is a typical sentence: "The agreement disallows measures against foreign investors and foreign products that are inconsistent with the GATT's national treatment obligation and the ban on Quantitative Restrictions." Got it? And, finally, you might have to read the paragraph on pages 5-6 nine or ten times before you begin to grasp its full meaning and can move on. If you get the impression that I didn't understand everything I read in this book --- you're right. I now understand the World Trade Organization in its broadest sense, fear its intrusion into domestic affairs and its threat to national sovereignty, and now understand why there have been serious protests and demonstrations at the various WTO 'Rounds,' but that's about it. I can also say, however, that, based on this read, I seriously doubt that more than one in a hundred of the 6,000 or so workers at the WTO have a complete and thorough understanding of the WTO as described herein. So, I don't feel quite so bad. Bottom line: If you're like me, one of the uninitiated masses, you'll likely get a top-level understanding of the WTO by reading this book, but that's about all. So, unless you have been hired by the WTO or are intent on studying it for some other purpose, I can't recommend that you read it. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great product - I would absolutely recommend this to anyone. By brittney little Exactly what I was expecting! Great product - I would absolutely recommend this to anyone.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is scarcely ten years old, but even in these early years of its existence it has generated debate, controversy and even outrage. Rulings on beef hormones and tuna-dolphin cases provide graphic examples of how the organization regulates and intrudes into areas of individual consumer choice, ethical preferences, and cultural habits. This deep and far-ranging impact of the WTO on peoples' everyday lives means that it is not just an institution of interest to economists, but to everyone, a fact that was perhaps most graphically illustrated in the popular demonstrations at the 1999 Seattle Ministerial. Such protests have become a regular feature associated with most high-level meetings of the WTO. This VSI will provide a timely and carefully considered explanation of what the WTO is, what it does, and how it goes about executing its tasks. A clear understanding of the mandate, structure and functioning of the WTO is essential to appreciate the controversy behind the organization, and how far it deserves the reputation that it has come to acquire. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

"Narlikar's engagement with public debates is exemplary - a task too rarely attempted by critical scholars in this area. This book is a timely rejoinder to the fledgling study of global governance. An exceptional introduction to the WTO, it also succeeds in doing much more than is says on the tin." --Craig Berry, Political Studies "The author obviously knows her subject...she succeeds well in giving an account of the organization that is both accessible and engaging... If this is the first thing that a student reads on the WTO, then he or she will be well launched into their enquiry." -- Professor Tony Payne, Department of Politics, University of Sheffield. About the Author Amrita Narlikar is University Lecturer in International Relations at the Centre of International Studies, University of Cambridge. She held a lectureship at the University of Exeter (2003-04) and a Junior Research Fellowship at St John's College, Oxford (1999-2003). Her research interests lie in the areas of trade negotiations, developing countries and international economic organizations.