

Book Review: Trans-Pacific Partnership: TPP: An Assessment (Policy Analyses in International Economics) by Cathleen Cimino-Isaacs & Jeffrey J. Schott

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Cimino-Isaacs, Cathleen and Jeffrey J. Schott, eds. *Trans-Pacific Partnership: TPP: An Assessment (Policy Analyses in International Economics)*. The Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2016. 277 pages. Paperback, \$23.95.

In 2008, the United States joined Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, New Zealand, and Singapore in negotiations to create a trade agreement among the twelve nations that would come to be known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (“TPP”). Since the inception of those negotiations, the TPP, its potential impacts, and its negotiation process have been thoroughly evaluated. *Trans-Pacific Partnership: An Assessment* is a synthesis of the research evidence that brings together high-quality studies on the TPP’s expected impacts to come to more fully supported conclusions about the benefits of the TPP.

Trans-Pacific Partnership: An Assessment’s systematic review creates a data-driven analysis of the benefits of TPP. Each chapter is an essay written by experts who have conducted studies and collected data on certain fields affected by the TPP. Each essay presents that data and its analysis in a manner that clarifies a certain chapter or aspect of the TPP. The editors’ selected essays are by no means objective, but each author supports his or her assessment with not only their own research but also with the data, findings, and conclusions from others. Most of the selected essays recognize that some of the analysis remains inconclusive and offer methods to address potential negative impacts arising from the TPP’s implementation.

Cathleen Cimino-Isaacs and Jeffrey J. Schott of the Peterson Institute for International Economics edited the book and authored some of the chapters. The editors begin the book with an essay in which Peter A. Petri, the Carl J. Shapiro Professor of International Finance at Brandeis University and a Senior Fellow at the East-West Center, teams up with Michael G. Plummer, Director of the School of Advanced International Studies Europe and the Eni Professor of International Economics at Johns Hopkins University, to present the estimated economic effects of the TPP on all of the TPP member nations. The roster of contributing authors remains impressive throughout the book and includes Robert Z. Lawrence, the Albert L. Williams Professor of International Trade and Investment at John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; Caroline Freund, Senior fellow at Peterson Institute for International Economics and former Chief Economist for Middle East and North Africa at the World Bank; Gary Clyde Hufbauer, former Marcus Wallenberg Professor of International Financial Diplomacy at Georgetown, former Deputy Director of the International Law Institute at Georgetown, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Trade and Investment Policy of the U.S. Treasury; and Sean Miner, Associate Director of the China-Latin America Initiative at the Atlantic Council’s Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center.

Thematically, the book first addresses the issue most often receiving negative coverage in the news: the TPP's impact on the American worker. The first group of essays examines the TPP's impacts on U.S. employment, income distribution, and agriculture. Unlike most writings on the TPP, the editors do not shy away from authors who discuss the negative short-term impacts of the TPP on the U.S. job market. They do, however, recognize the positive long-term outcomes and the mechanisms in place to address the negative short-term issues.

The next section's analyses focus on dispute resolution, financial regulation, and intellectual property. Less scrupulous sources use their audience's lack of understanding of these subjects to promulgate rumors and speculation on the TPP's negative impact on the daily lives of U.S. and other member-nations' citizens. In order to best dispel any misinformation on the TPP, the editors of *Trans-Pacific Partnership: An Assessment* have selected pieces that make these foreign concepts more accessible through data, graphs, and succinct summaries. After arming their readers with a better understanding of these complex aspects of the TPP, the authors present their arguments on how the U.S. and other member-nations benefit from the TPP's treatment of these topics.

The editors close the book by covering areas not usually considered in assessments of the TPP: the secondary and tertiary benefits arising from the binding treaty. The editors each contribute essays on the TPP's ability to provide unprecedented enforcement mechanisms in the areas of environmental regulation, labor standards, and currency manipulation. Together with other authors' pieces on anticorruption, customs administration, competition policy, and State-Owned Enterprises, the editors deliver a novel and insightful review of the TPP.

Trans-Pacific Partnership: An Assessment may not seem as timely with President Trump's withdrawal of the U.S. from the TPP on January 23, 2017, but, in the era of "fake news," this easy-to-read compilation of data and analysis on the TPP makes this a must-read for those interested in international law and policy.

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