

Regulatory Disorder and International Trade in an Era of Pandemic, War, Populism, and Climate Collapse

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The postwar liberal order predicated on human rights, open markets, and liberal democracy is being dismantled from the inside. The structural realignment of voting blocks in leading states has given rise to a populist threat to regulatory transparency and trade policy coherence. In this new regulatory disorder, tech start-ups promise new opportunities for the intensification of trade in services. But even as services trade flourishes, multilateral regulation has come under threat in a range of policy domains, from the digital economy to intellectual property rights, and the organization of dispute adjudication. Finally, the invasion of Russia has provoked an economic response in Europe and North America that has replaced GATT circumspection about national security with an emerging system of security-first trade policy goals. Professors Silke Trommer and Erin Hannah discuss the significance of equity and inclusion at the WTO at a time when leading states are rebalancing cooperation and national security priorities. Professor Tyler Girard maintains that technology continues to facilitate globalization even as leading states work to unwind the previous decades of integration. Professor James Scott speaks to the intensification of systemic inequities, arguing that rising powers will play a more important role in the creation of the next order for trade than they did at the GATT. Professor Froese argues that the future of trade regulation will be one of more law and less order, as regional governance replaces multilateral priorities for the US, the EU, and China. Professor Gabriel Siles-Brugge will chair the proceedings.

Membership

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