Protectionism has been placed under the media spotlight, with news headlines generated by populist anti-globalisation movements and Donald Trump’s term as US President. Such a policy stance is putting at risk unilateral trade reform efforts in the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere.

This two-volume reference work provides a timely update on how far the region has come in opening markets. It analyses the motivations or ostensible objectives of policies adopted in the past, the changing extent of the domestic price distortions involved, the economic effects of those policies at home and abroad, the political economy forces at work that brought about those policies and their subsequent reform, their consequences for international trade, economic welfare and poverty alleviation, and prospects for sustainable improvements in current policies. Case studies of major East Asian economies and Australia reveal how government priorities to assist farmers versus manufacturers has changed over the past century but especially since the 1980s, and how that has affected trade between natural resource-poor and resource-rich economies.

Readership: Students, researchers, policymakers and professionals who are interested in the economics and politics of trade policies, agricultural economics, economic development, and food and nutrition security in the Asia-Pacific region.

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About the Editor-in-Chief

Kym Anderson is a Professor of Economics at the University of Adelaide and at the Australian National University's Crawford School of Public Policy. He is also founding Executive Director of Adelaide’s Wine Economics Research Centre and was founder and Executive Director of Adelaide’s Centre for International Economic Studies. He worked as a Ford Foundation Visiting Fellow in Seoul, South Korea in 1980–81, as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Stockholm’s Institute for International Economic Studies while on sabbatical in 1988, at the GATT (now WTO) Secretariat in Geneva during 1990–92 and at the World Bank during 2004–07. Since post-graduate studies at the University of Chicago and Stanford University, he has published around 400 articles and 40 books. During 2010–17, he was on the Board of Trustees of the International Food Policy Research Institute (Washington, D.C.), chairing it from 2015. He has also served the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, as a Commissioner in 2011–14 and as President of its Policy Advisory Council since 2014. He is a recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Economics degree from the University of Adelaide and a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of New England. In 2015, he became a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC).

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