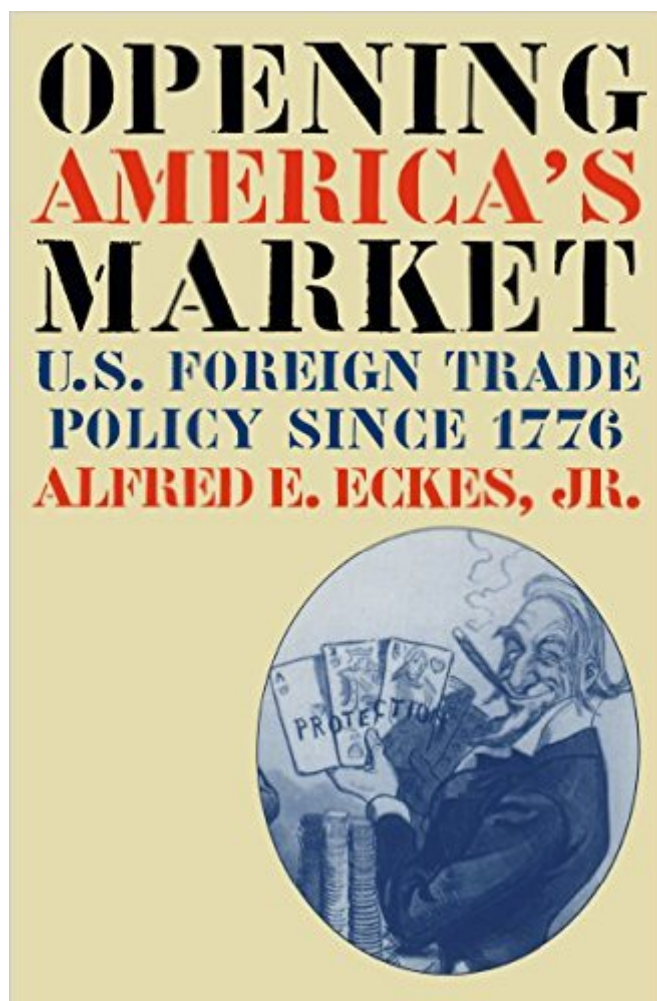


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Opening America's Market: U.S. Foreign Trade Policy Since 1776 (Business, Society & The State)



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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*

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