

Langhammer, Rolf J.

Book Review — Digitized Version

[Book Review of] The WTO after Seattle, Jeffrey J. Schott
(ed.): Washington, DC, Inst. for Internat. Economics, 2000

Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv

Provided in Cooperation with:

Kiel Institute for the World Economy – Leibniz Center for Research on Global Economic Challenges

Suggested Citation: Langhammer, Rolf J. (2001) : [Book Review of] The WTO after Seattle, Jeffrey J. Schott (ed.): Washington, DC, Inst. for Internat. Economics, 2000, Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv, ISSN 0043-2636, Mohr, Tübingen, Vol. 137, Iss. 1, pp. 184-185

This Version is available at:

<https://hdl.handle.net/10419/2568>

Standard-Nutzungsbedingungen:

Die Dokumente auf EconStor dürfen zu eigenen wissenschaftlichen Zwecken und zum Privatgebrauch gespeichert und kopiert werden.

Sie dürfen die Dokumente nicht für öffentliche oder kommerzielle Zwecke vervielfältigen, öffentlich ausstellen, öffentlich zugänglich machen, vertreiben oder anderweitig nutzen.

Sofern die Verfasser die Dokumente unter Open-Content-Lizenzen (insbesondere CC-Lizenzen) zur Verfügung gestellt haben sollten, gelten abweichend von diesen Nutzungsbedingungen die in der dort genannten Lizenz gewährten Nutzungsrechte.

Terms of use:

Documents in EconStor may be saved and copied for your personal and scholarly purposes.

You are not to copy documents for public or commercial purposes, to exhibit the documents publicly, to make them publicly available on the internet, or to distribute or otherwise use the documents in public.

If the documents have been made available under an Open Content Licence (especially Creative Commons Licences), you may exercise further usage rights as specified in the indicated licence.

complemented by case studies, which are presented separately from the main text in boxes, for instance on "US encryption policy", "OECD privacy guidelines" or "Government-endorsed principles to support electronic commerce."

As the Internet and electronic commerce are subject to rapid changes, the authors have made strong efforts to submit their book quickly. A number of studies and references dating from 2000 have been taken into account, the current standard of knowledge and research is presented. However, some parts of the book would have benefited from another thorough revision. Chapter 2 for example could have been tightened or even be amalgamated with Chapter 1, as the main arguments, addressed only briefly, are discussed more extensively in the succeeding chapters. In a similar way, the distinction between Chapters 7 and 8 is not clear. Both chapters talk about activities of international organizations in the field of electronic commerce. Accordingly, Chapter 7 seems to be a bit long-winded, some cutbacks would have improved readability.

On the whole, these are only minor weaknesses. All in all the book provides a compact but comprehensive overview of current issues regarding economic policy for a networked economy. Consistently, it is not only a valuable primer for politicians and a source of information for managers, it is also well suited for economists looking for a starting-point to conduct future research in the New Economy.

Jens Mundhenke

Schott, Jeffrey J. (ed.), *The WTO After Seattle*. Washington, DC, 2000. Institute for International Economics. XIX, 292 pp.

This volume reflects the outcome of a conference which was held by the Institute for International Economics in Seattle in November/December 1999, parallel to the Third Ministerial Meeting of the WTO, which after violent protests outside the conference halls ended in chaos. This extraordinarily timely and speedily edited volume supports those who argue that the failure of the Seattle Conference was due to an unholy alliance of outside protesters and inside mercantilists. The latter played the more important role for being responsible for disarray since for the first time disputes on the draft agenda for a new round opened up not only between the US and the EU but also between these two actors and the developing countries in total.

The volume contains eighteen individual contributions by leading scholars in their fields, including high-level participants in negotiations. In revising their papers, the majority of authors referred to the Seattle failure and took lessons. The range of issues spans the entire WTO spectrum from the "evergreen" issues like agriculture (*Timothy Josling*) and antidumping and safeguards (*Patrick Messerlin*) via the Uruguay Round newcomers like services (*Bernard Hoekman*) and TRIPS (*Keith M. Maskus*) to prospective issues like environment (*Daniel C. Esty*), e-commerce (*Catherine L. Mann* and *Sara C. Knight*), investment (*Theodore H. Moran*), worker rights (*Kimberly A. Elliott*) and competition (*Edward M. Graham*). This core of contributions is enriched by overlapping issues such as developing countries' interests in a new round which is expected to address particular developmental aspects (*Jayashree Watal*, *A. V. Ganesan*, and *Rubens Ricupero* in three separate papers) or the experiences with and reforms of the dispute settlement mechanism (*John H. Jackson*). In addition to the treatment of WTO issues, the special interests of the two major actors are introduced by *C. Fred Bergsten* (US) and *Hugo Paemen* (EU), both strongly involved in formulating each actor's negotiation positions. In a comprehensive introduction, and wrapping up, the editor condenses the main challenges threatening the multilateral system after the Seattle failure.

While some of the contributions are strongly normative with bibliographical references to in-depth analyses, the majority of the papers departs from the solid ground of own research. Overall, the volume is a very rich source of fresh expertise for everybody interested in the origin, the consequences, the trade-offs and the options for the multi-lateral trading system after the shock of Seattle.

Rolf J. Langhammer