

Reviews/Comptes rendus

Provincial Trade Wars: Why the Blockade Must End. Filip Palda (ed.). Vancouver: The Fraser Institute, 1994, 170 pages.

This book provides an interesting review of selected interprovincial trade barriers in Canada, although the introduction is somewhat biased -- with a decided Fraser Institute stance. The book describes barriers as they relate to the beer industry, financial markets, agricultural trade, interprovincial labour mobility, and the transportation sector.

The chapter on interprovincial barriers in beer trade by Irvine and Sims is very informative, although events have overtaken the situation described by the authors. Having an historical perspective on the barriers which existed, leading to an inefficient beer industry, provides a very useful case study of the evils of trade barriers.

Barriers in the financial industry are more subtle in many ways as described in the chapter by Pattison. Furthermore, as outlined in this chapter, different levels of government have different regulatory powers over financial institutions. Pattison argues that this creates problems and suggests a need for more co-ordination. He also notes that there is an increasing need for international regulation. Overall, he concludes that there is a great need for a reduction in financial regulation in Canada.

Prentice provides a selective overview of barriers in agriculture trade. This chapter considers the role of supply-management as well as technical impediments as barriers to trade. In addition, there is an interesting discussion of the politics related to reducing the barriers to trade in the agricultural sector.

A chapter that does not fit into the structure of the rest of this book is that by Migué on the balkanization of the Canadian economy. This is a political economy discourse on the reason why the federal government has been responsible for the erection of trade barriers across the provinces. Missing in this discussion is the role of provincial governments in erecting trade barriers under the guise of maintaining or expanding employment in their provinces. This chapter is not a case study of a particular industry or sector and, as such, interferes with the rest of the book.

Gunderson provides a very useful summary of interprovincial barriers as

they relate to the labour market. His review of policies, ranging from different trade licences through training differences, provides an important overview of the situation. Somewhat surprising is his lack of detail on the effect of social policy, inasmuch as they interfere with the efficient operation of the labour market. Most important, in this regard, is the absence of a detailed consideration of the regionally differentiated unemployment insurance program.

The chapter on barriers in the transportation sector again highlights an important reason why costs may be higher in Canada thus making the country less competitive. In particular, the fact that the maximum vehicle length is not standard across the country or that different jurisdictions require separate licences can only lead to increased costs and, in a country with a large geographic area, can only increase the prices consumer face on the products that require transportation to the marketplace.

Overall, I entirely agree with the thrust of the arguments in this book. The need for the reduction in interprovincial trade barriers is clear -- indeed, it goes to the heart of what we mean by a nation. Is there a role for nation-building or are we left with policies that protect employment in individual provinces through the erection of non-tariff barriers to trade? Of course, even more important as we move to a global economy with even more trade, it becomes crucial to identify competitors in the appropriate jurisdictions. These jurisdictions are unlikely to be other provinces -- because of the incredibly different endowments and the large geographic space in Canada -- and are more likely to be in the U.S. Perhaps the main competitors for the Maritime provinces are firms located in New England, in Ontario the competitors may be located in Michigan and Ohio, etc. This requires that we move beyond the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which reduces tariffs, and also consider a wide range of other fiscal measures that puts Canadian provinces at a trade disadvantage.

This book provides a useful contribution to our understanding of interprovincial trade barriers in selected sectors in Canada. It is accessible to the general reader, yet also provides enough detail to be relevant to a researcher interested in the range of these barriers and their potential impact on the economy.

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The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World. Stephen Castles and Mark J. Miller. New York: The Guilford Press, 1993, 307 pages.

This book can be thoroughly recommended as a welcome addition to the library of any serious scholar of migration and a worthwhile text for many an undergraduate and graduate student -- replete as it is with both insight and a thorough overview of the last decade's important literature on the topic. For those who know the authors and their work, this will come as no surprise. The author or editor of over half a dozen books on migration, Castles (currently Director of Multicultural Studies at the University of Wollongong) has been involved since the early 1970s with the study of migrant labour and ethnic groups in both Europe and Australia. His co-author, Miller (of the Center for Migration Studies in New York and the University of Delaware) has written two books on the political consequences of foreign workers in Europe and has been an editor of *International Migration Review* for a number of years.

In this volume, they pool their expertise to present, within the relatively small compass of 300 pages, a synthesis of migration since 1945, the hallmark of which, they tell us, "is the global character of international migration: the way it affects more and more countries and regions, and its linkages with complex processes affecting the entire world" (pp. 260). To demonstrate those linkages and processes, the first chapters of the volume are empirical ones and carefully examine the history of international migration before 1945, the pattern of migration to highly-developed countries since the Second World War and the current globalisation of international migration -- using, it must be added, a series of poor maps covered with different sized arrows which, according to the key "do not indicate the size of movements" (see, pp. 6). The treatment is extremely thorough with regard to detail, but occasional slips do occur. Thus, both the 1951 International Convention Regarding the Status of Refugees, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees are wrongly titled and Canada's role in accepting large numbers of Vietnamese boat people forgotten (pp. 85-86).

This empirical section concludes with an interesting comparison of immigration since 1945 in the contrasting countries of Australia and Germany (the former, a state that generally welcomes newcomers; the latter, one that has adopted a far more exclusionary stance). These detailed case studies are presented in order to show that, despite the two countries' very different approaches to immigration, "the dynamics of the migratory process can be powerful enough to override political structures, government policies and subjective intentions of the migrants" (pp. 98).

An exploration of the exact nature of this powerful dynamic "migratory process" forms the theoretical, and certainly the most stimulating, half of the volume. After examining some basic theoretical perspectives on why international migration occurs, an introductory chapter presents a model of the migra-

tory process and considers why it "almost inevitably" (pp. 261) leads to permanent settlement and the formation of distinct ethnic minorities in the receiving countries. For Castles and Stephens, this all-important migratory process "needs to be understood in its totality as a complex system of social interactions with a wide range of institutional structures and informal networks in both sending and receiving countries, and at the international level" (pp. 261).

The authors argue that the migratory process can be represented by a simple four-stage model (pp. 25). The first stage consists of the temporary settlement of generally young labour migrants who retain an orientation to their homeland and remit earnings there. In the second, the stay becomes prolonged and social networks develop based on common places of origin and the need for mutual help. The third stage is marked by migrants becoming conscious of the reality that long-term settlement is occurring: an increasing orientation to the receiving country develops; the reunion of migrants' families in the host country takes place; ethnic communities with their own institutions emerge. The final phase is that of permanent settlement which will lead (depending on government policies, as their discussion of Germany and Australia shows) either to political exclusion, socioeconomic marginalisation and the creation of permanent ethnic minorities or to secure legal status and eventual citizenship.

The authors realize the great generality of this model, arguing that while it applies well to the large-scale migrations from the developing world to the West since 1945, it may seem less well-suited to refugee movements and to the flows of highly-skilled personnel. "Nonetheless", they argue in a significant remark that points to some of the underlying concepts of the process, "the model has analytical value for these groups too, since both ... are often at the beginning of migratory chains which lead to family reunion and community formation" (pp. 25).

Subsequent chapters use the model's perspective to examine issues concerning migrants and minorities in the labour force, in society, in politics and, in conclusion, to comment on the place of migration in the "new world disorder". Most importantly, Castles and Stephens argue that "labour market segmentation is a central element in the process that leads to formation of ethnic minorities...[and] has complex links with other factors that lead to marginalisation of immigrant groups" (pp. 194). On politics, we learn that "as migratory movements mature - moving through the stages of immigration, settlement and minority formation - the character of political mobilisation and participation changes"; from a concern with the homeland, to interest in the receiving nation and, if that interest is balked, "immigrant politics is likely to take on militant forms" (pp. 258-259). With regard to the problems new ethnic minorities face in the host society, the authors build on the implications of their model's fourth stage to argue that multiculturalist (rather than exclusionary or assimilationist) approaches are the "most viable solution to the problem of defining membership of the nation-state in an increasingly mobile world" (pp. 230).

The volume ends by arguing that international immigration will not easily be curbed because in an increasingly international economy "it is difficult to open borders for movements of information, commodities and capital and yet close them to people" (pp. 267). However, there is great benefit to this if immigrants, by adjusting to life in postmodern societies, "are compelled by their situation to have multi-layered sociocultural identities, which are constantly in a state of transition and renegotiation" that can lead to new principles of identity that are neither exclusionary nor discriminatory. "The age of migration", they optimistically conclude, "could be marked by the erosion of nationalism and the weakening of divisions between peoples" (pp. 275). I sincerely hope so.

Synthesis is definitely the distinguishing characteristic of this work and by far its principal strength. Thus, it is a book that will be invaluable as a course text book, as a work of reference and as a source of many a research hypothesis. On another level, however, these strengths also become its main weaknesses. Generalities abound, the depth of analysis is often superficial ("complex" being the endpoint of explanation) and the integrating framework that is used (the "migratory process" model) -- despite the authors' claims otherwise -- is a descriptive device, not an analytical tool, and ignores so much else. Readers of this journal will be particularly concerned that spatial processes and the regional effects of immigration are almost totally omitted. Certainly, the debate over the social construction of race, ethnicity, class and gender is largely ignored in favour of a more economically-deterministic approach which is far less able to deal with "exceptional" groups or to the dynamics of socio-cultural change. In this regard, it is highly significant that the model put forward is a static and unchanging one. The justification for this must be that, by stripping away the complexity, the important processes stand out. This has not been totally achieved here; but it is a brave attempt and Castles and Miller get nearer to such a goal than anyone else has so far. They are to be commended for it.

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