

Chasek *et al*, ch. 7 (5 in 4th ed)

Focus on North-South Environmental Politics and Trade and Environment

North-South Environmental Politics Revisited

The **New International Economic Order (NIEO)** and critiques of commodity prices, debt, and barriers to free trade

- Examples of **nontariff barriers to trade**: sanitary measures, country of origin labeling, ecolabeling
- Distinguishing the environmental problems of the industrialized world from those of the developing world
 - N.b. – it's important not to lump all developing countries together (BRICs vs. sub-saharan Africa, Haiti, etc...)
- The role of **neoliberal economics** and concerns about a “**race to the bottom**”
- **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** and the **World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)**
 - How does one define ‘failure’ regarding the MDGs—i.e., if the bar was set unattainably high, does 60% primary school enrollment by 2015 ‘count’, if the goal was 100%?
- Something not mentioned in this chapter but which you should know about: the **anti-globalization movement**

GATT (1945) and Uruguay Round (1994), which created the **WTO** “Serious barriers to entry in certain sectors of particular interest to developing countries, including agriculture, textiles, clothing, and fish and fish products.”

- No mention of the word “environment” in the original GATT..
- What’s the point of free trade, anyway
- Specific GATT Articles
 - Articles I, III, and XI: regulate ‘national treatment’, ‘most favored nation’, and import bans/restrictions
 - Article XX: allows exceptions for specific reasons (clauses a-g)
- The problem of **conflict of laws**: what happens when GATT law and the law of a **Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA)**—such as CITES, Kyoto, etc...--disagree?
- Specific WTO cases: **Tuna-Dolphin** and **Shrimp-Turtle** (among others)
- How can you tell if an action is “unfairly discriminatory” or an “arbitrary or unjustifiable barrier to trade”? Who gets to judge?

Eco-Labels – what are some examples? (FSC/MSC)

- What is the point of ecolabels?
- Why might the global south be wary of ecolabeling schemes?
- How would a ‘**third-party**’ scheme differ from either an ecolabel instated by trade associations or companies or one instituted by a governmental organization? What are the benefits of each model? Is third-party certification always better? (Many, but not all, would say yes...)
- Going back to the above point on the WTO, who gets to decide if an ecolabeling scheme is ‘unfair and discriminatory’? Who do you think should decide?

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

- A case of conflict of law: for many MEAs, restricting GMOs is a form of the **precautionary principle**, but for the WTO it may be an example of an ‘unjustified form of protectionism’. What do you think?

Subsidies (“a government-directed intervention, whether through budgeted programs or other means, which transfers resources to a particular economic group.”)

- Why do governments subsidize products, and what some examples of heavily subsidized industries that cause particular environmental harm?