

WTO DG Pascal Lamy's Preface for the French Edition of  
*In Defense of Globalization by Odile Jacob, 2010.*

Rough translation

Trade liberalization promotes long-term economic development, drives social and political progress, and contributes to respect for human rights. This widely accepted idea, however, constitutes one of the paradoxes of globalization: it is difficult to detect the benefits of trade liberalization in daily life, while the costs, though lower, are often more visible and tangible.

Professor Bhagwati has had for many years a leading role in promoting this argument against defenders of protectionism. Since the publication of his pioneering work on the theory of trade policy, he has been a major and indispensable contributor to the new theories of international trade. Through his numerous academic publications, media interventions and advice to my predecessor Arthur Dunkel on economic issues, Professor Bhagwati has become the best advocate of multilateral trade openness. He is now joined by the leaders of the G-20, concerned about the protectionist threats in these times of crisis.

A strong advocate of multilateralism, Professor Bhagwati has also brilliantly expounded the theory of the superiority of the multilateral trading system over bilateral or multilateral free trade agreements, which under the influence of his work are now commonly called "preferential trade agreements". By exposing the misdeeds of these discriminatory agreements, Jagdish has demonstrated how the equity of the WTO system was preferable. His analysis of all these fundamental questions, developed specifically in his latest book - *Termites in the Trading System: How Preferential Agreements Undermine Free Trade* (Oxford, 2008) - reinforces the importance of multilateralism and the WTO system, now at a critical juncture in its history.

Professor Bhagwati was also one of the first to take an interest in the arguments of NGOs and the young activists that have been present since the Seattle Ministerial Conference in 1999. He rightly understood that they were not interested in the economic aspects of trade liberalization, but in the impact of globalization on social rights (such as health, gender, environment, worsening poverty in the South, democracy, forced child labor): their concerns focused on the human face of globalization. These questions are precisely at the heart of this book. And it is with as much conviction as passion, that the Professor reveals that globalization is often criticized because it is misread, demonstrating the benefits of multilateralism in the constitution of a social order. In doing so, this book is part of all the masterly work of Professor Bhagwati, giving even greater weight to his theory of international trade.

In summary, it is the most comprehensive study to date on the role of trade openness in social progress. We must thank Odile Jacob for contributing to the dissemination of Professor Bhagwati's ideas among French-speaking readers, too often kept out of this debate, and that developing countries have happily adopted.

Pascal Lamy  
Director General  
WTO