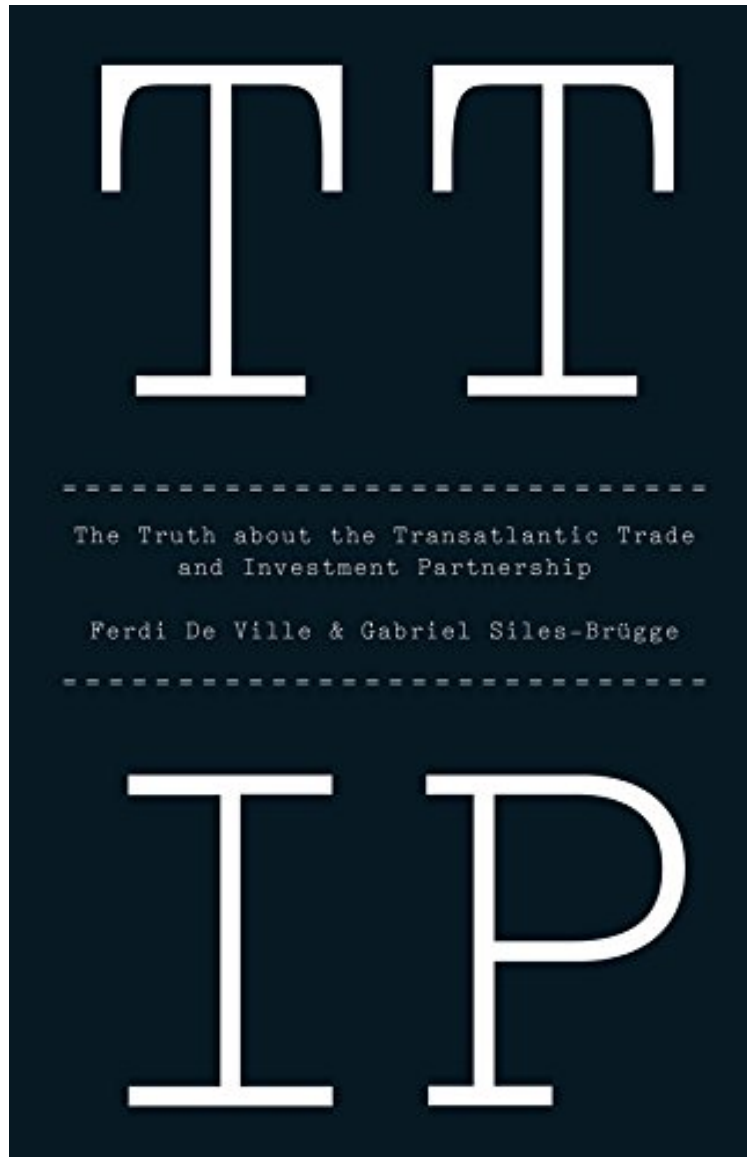


[Read free] TTIP: The Truth about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

TTIP: The Truth about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Ferdi De Ville, Gabriel Siles-Bruuml;gge
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Ferdi De Ville, Gabriel Siles-Bruuml;gge : TTIP: The Truth about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised TTIP: The Truth about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Trade policies are political ndash; on both sides of the AtlanticBy BioDiplomacyThe authorsrsquo; achievement is to lift trade policy from deep inside the business pages and make it a

headline story (well...almost). They certainly make trade policy politically sexy. But they also warn that, especially in the US, trade issues are still treated by politicians as largely a technical matter of aligning US and EU regulatory practices. The fundamental message is clear. Putting trade policy into the hands of economic modellers, whose only interests are in the theoretical effects of all "non-tariff barriers" on trade, is itself a profoundly political choice. We should refuse to accept the redefinition of labor, health or environmental standards as "barriers to trade". The authors see the best (but still least likely) outcome to TTIP as trade policies being brought fully back into the democratic political market-place. However, they warn that it will be hard to change fundamentally the terms of the debate and the US-EU negotiations, so that trade policy becomes: "an instrument to achieve other policy goals (especially on inter- and transnational issues, such as the fight against climate change and tax evasion). A prerequisite for that would be that NGOs cooperate much more than they do today across the Atlantic and that they engage in profound constructive discussions about how to make the global trading system serve other policy objectives. Before we even get to that stage, more attention to and mobilisation on TTIP is required in the US, where the issue has not yet reached the political maturity it has in the EU." (pp 140-141). Above all, this timely analysis is short and readable (141 pages before the detailed footnotes and index – no skimping here). Unavoidable acronyms and econometric jargon are explained smoothly in a narrative that really is compulsive: "...our main conclusion about TTIP: it is driven by both a philosophy and a discourse that idealise the efficient operation of markets and seek to minimise the constraints imposed by democratic decision-making in public policy..." (p 131). . That crisp summary should encourage anyone with an interest in politics to buy the book and/or recommend it for their local or institutional library.

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) has stirred passions like no other trade negotiation in recent history. Its supporters maintain that TTIP will produce spectacular growth and job creation; claims that are wholeheartedly rejected by its critics, who regard TTIP as a direct assault on workers' rights, health and safety standards and public services. In this incisive analysis, Gabriel Siles-Brugge and Ferdi de Ville scrutinize the claims made by TTIP's cheerleaders and scaremongers to reveal a far more nuanced picture behind the headlines. TTIP will not provide an economic 'cure-all', nor will it destroy the European welfare state in one fell swoop. Thanks to unprecedented levels of protest and debate around TTIP, however, neoliberal trade negotiations are well and truly back in the spotlight. In this respect, TTIP could well prove to be a 'game-changer' - just not in the way imagined by its backers.

"This book provides a reasoned analysis of the TTIP in mid-negotiation, critically examining arguments made by its advocates and its critics, most of whom are in Europe." Foreign Affairs "This essential study should be read by anyone who cares about democracy and the sovereignty of parliaments. If you care, you should understand, and there is no better means of understanding than reading this book." George Monbiot "De Ville and Siles-Briunl;quest;frac12;ggeiuml;quest;frac12;s book is a part of this burgeoning movement for change and a model of what popular explanation of complex economic and political issues should be: Clear, concise, cogent, even handed, and a call to action." Irish Examiner "This in-depth, systematic and sober analysis iuml;quest;frac12; deprived of any polemics iuml;quest;frac12; brilliantly demystifies the mega-trade deal. It is by far the most advanced piece of political economic thinking on TTIP to date." Pierre Defraigne, Executive Director, College of Europe Foundation "The TTIP has been hailed as Europeiuml;quest;frac12;s growth strategy out of the economic crisis. The critics meanwhile deride it as a job-killing machine that will serve the interests only of US multinationals. This useful and informative book brings the debate down to earth. While underlining the huge uncertainty that exists over likely outcomes, it shows that both sides overstate their case. It concludes that the treatyiuml;quest;frac12;s main impact will be to reinforce an existing trend whereby trade goals are increasingly narrowing the space for the articulation of domestic rules and regulations." Dani Rodrik, Harvard University "This convincingly argued and highly readable book is a much-needed intervention in the heated debate on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the EU and the USA. It is a must-read for all those trying to understand what is at stake in this free trade agreement which has sparked such controversy on both sides of the Atlantic." Brigitte Young, University of Miuml;quest;frac12;nster "A balanced and informative account of the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and its implications for the economy and society. This book will be a valuable resource for anyone trying to assess the TTIP with open eyes." Dean Baker, Co-Director, Center for Economic and Policy ResearchAbout the AuthorFerdie De Ville is Assistant Professor in Politics at Ghent University Gabriel Siles-Briunl;quest;frac12;gge is Lecturer in Politics at the University of Manchester.