

对外经贸英语读物丛书 ■ 孙维炎 主编

关贸总协定概说

Essentials of the GATT

■ 诸葛霖 王关富 邹丽 编著



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序 言

我国实行改革开放政策已有十四个年头了。十四年来,我国的经济发展取得了举世瞩目的成就,对外经济贸易事业也有了长足的进步。近一年来,外贸形势又有了可喜的进展,新的外贸体制调动了各方面的积极性,使进出口贸易额都有了较大的增长,吸收外资和对外投资也都呈现出新的好势头。

对外经贸事业能不能持续发展,除了其他种和因素之外,一个重要的条件是有没有足够的称职的人才。这些年来,通过多种渠道,多种形式,培养了大批从事外经贸的各类专业人才,但无论从数量还是质量上看,都还远远不能满足需要,都难以适应客观实际的要求,主要的困难似乎在于这些人才发展不够平衡,不够全面,多数人总是缺胳膊少腿的。如有的人懂得外贸业务,但不熟悉专门知识,外语也显不足;有的人精通有关的专门知识,也已了解一些外贸业务知识,但外语能力很弱,对外经外贸外语更是生疏;有的人外语不错,但缺乏有关的专门知识,对外贸业务和外经外贸外语一窍不通。总之,各个方面都精通的“全才”真是太少了。这势必严重地影响我国对外经贸业务的发展。面对这样的现实,我们对外经济贸易大学的一些同志看到了自己的责任,一致认为需要做一点工作,来改变这种状况。经过商议,我们决定用比较浅近通俗的英文编写一套外经贸方面的专业丛书,供有一定英语基础的

外经贸工作者和在校的大学生阅读,以扩大他们的外经贸专业知识,提高英语水平。我们希望这套丛书能为促进我国的对外经济贸易事业的发展起到一定的作用

孙维英

一九九二年十二月五日

于北京

前 言

近来,有关我国恢复关贸总协定缔约国地位的消息接踵而来;已经历了八年复关谈判艰难曲折的路程,现在是胜利在望。关贸总协定没有中国的参加就不能成为完整的世界贸易组织,中国也必须参加关贸总协定才能更有效地发展经济贸易并有力地促进世界经济的良性发展。乌拉圭回合谈判的胜利结束,说明了世界各国需要开创一个经济开放,贸易发达的世界经济新秩序。

由于历史原因,中国与关贸总协定长期隔绝,我们对它的了解是有限的,一般的外经贸工作者也不例外。复关以后,我们在外经贸工作中必须按照国际规则办事,所以我们亟须了解关贸总协定的产生与其发展,总协定的重大意义,组织机构,原则,规则和运作,以及各协定的内容等等;知道如何利用这些规则,更进一步扩大对外经济贸易活动。

我国已经步入世界第十一位贸易大国行列,然而,在国际市场上,却属于贸易待遇最差的国家之一。从总体和长远看,重返关贸总协定能促进国民经济转入良性循环,并会加速改革开放的进程。可是复关既给我们带来了机遇,也给我们带来了挑战。面临这些情况,我们必须学习它,熟悉它,运用它,研究复关后面临的挑战和对策。

本书用浅易英语编写,只作简单介绍,同时提供有关的专业英语词汇,便于外经贸院校的学员和外经贸工作者学习参

考,在获取关贸总协定有关知识的同时,提高英语水平,俾能直接阅读国外资料,迅速了解世界经济变化情况与外经贸活动中产生的争端与解决方法。

本书由诸葛霖编写第一篇,王关富和邹丽编写第二篇。由于编者水平有限,希望专家与读者指正。

编 者

一九九五年春

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Part I

An Overview^① of the GATT^②

The GATT, the acronym^③ of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade founded in 1947, is the only system which provides in 'legal form'^④ a framework^⑤ of rules^⑥ and procedures^⑦ governing international trade relations and embodies^⑧ legal rights and obligations^⑨ among its members. Over these 40 odd^⑩ years after its founding, a number of special agreements were negotiated^⑪ to make the GATT more effective and productive^⑫ as a legal framework for the conduct^⑬ of trade relations between members, a forum^⑭ for trade negotiations and for the adaptation^⑮ of its legal framework and also an organ^⑯ for conciliation^⑰ and settlement of disputes.

With a view to promoting the world trade which had been hampered^⑱ by protectionism^⑲ and bilateralism^⑳ of the 'Great Depression'^㉑ and World War II, the participating countries of the GATT at the very beginning committed themselves to non-discrimination^㉒ in their trade relations so that equal access to market and reciprocity in trade concessions could be ensured.

① 概论,总的看法 ② 关税与贸易总协定 ③ 首字母缩写字 ④ 法律形式
⑤ 框架 ⑥ 规则 ⑦ 程序 ⑧ 包含 ⑨ 责任 ⑩ 零数 ⑪ 谈判,协商 ⑫ 富
有成效的 ⑬ 指导,引导 ⑭ 论坛,讨论会 ⑮ 适应 ⑯ 机构 ⑰ 和解 ⑱ 阻碍
⑲ 贸易保护主义 ㉑ 双边进行谈判主义 ㉒ 大萧条 ㉓ 不歧视

The GATT system was designed to bring stability and transparency^① to the conditions in which trade takes place. The aim of the GATT is to promote progressive trade liberalization^② in the contemporary^③ world. During the past forty-eight years up to now the world has witnessed a spectacular^④ development in international trade; its volume having increased more than ten-fold. The number of its members has increased from 23 to 117, their trade volume exceeds 90% of the total world trade, and more countries are now applying for membership. The GATT has made great contributions to the world trade and world economy.

The theory of "comparative advantage"^⑤ can easily explain why the increase of international trade can benefit the participating countries, whether they are developed or developing countries. When the countries concentrate on what they can produce best and exchange with others for what they need, they will prosper^⑥. Most enterprises recognize that the bigger the market, the greater their potential—in terms of achieving efficient scales of operation and having access^⑦ to larger numbers of customers. In other words, liberal trade policies which allow the unrestricted flow of goods, services and productive inputs^⑧ multiply the rewards that come with producing the best products, with the best design and at the best price. But

① 透明度 ② 自由化 ③ 当代的 ④ 十分可观的 ⑤ 比较成本理论 ⑥ 兴旺发达 ⑦ 进入 ⑧ 投入

the comparative advantage in a particular category of products can move from country to country when the market changes or new technologies^① make cheaper and better products possible. This is, in general, a gradual process.

Being aware of the benefit of open trading system, China applied in 1986 for the re-entry into the GATT or the restoration^② of its original status in the GATT, to be exact, and has made great efforts to meet the requirements, so it is useful for us to make a study of the GATT rules, functions^③ and the related agreements in order to improve our work in the field of international trade and economics.

① 技术 ② 恢复 ③ 功能

Chapter 1

History and Significance^① of the GATT

1. International Economic and Trade Background

After World War I, two years of economic boom^② ensued^③ owing to the increased demand arising from economic reconstruction and rehabilitation^④, but after that, economic crisis occurred in most industrialized countries in 1920-1921. They soon took a turn to economic recovery^⑤ in 1924 which continued until 1928, thus a period of economic stability in the capitalist countries of about 5 years followed, bringing about economic growth in the industrialized countries. Nevertheless the living standard of the broad masses remained stagnant^⑥ on the same level as in the pre-war years. The production surpluses^⑦ could not find the markets that were big enough to absorb^⑧ them, and at the same time the high tariffs prevailed^⑨ in most of the international trade which showed very little increase over these years, only a 30% increase between 1913 and 1929. The

① 重要意义 ② 繁荣 ③ 接踵而来 ④ 复兴 ⑤ 复苏 ⑥ 停滞 ⑦ 剩余
⑧ 吸收 ⑨ 盛行

resultant over-production^① led to the inevitable^② economic depression in the early 1930s.

The motivation^③ for maximum profits made the monopolistic^④ capitalists pressure their governments to raise high tariffs in order to protect their domestic market from foreign competition especially in the years of the Great Depression. In 1930 the Smoot-Hawley Act was passed in the US Congress^⑤. Originally the bill was intended to give moderate^⑥ protection to US farmers who faced import competition. But following the stock market crash^⑦ of 1929, protectionist pressure was very strong and widespread, so much so that average tariffs were raised to some 53% on protected imports. This move^⑧ was extensively viewed as a beggar-thy-neighbour^⑨ attempt to export US depression abroad. It triggered^⑩ a series of retaliation^⑪ and trade restrictions from other capitalist countries, especially those European countries, resulting in a decline of the volume of international trade. By 1933, the volume of international trade was down by two-thirds of that of 1929. The tariff-war actually aggravated^⑫ the seriousness of the economic crisis and much delayed the advent of economic recovery. Over these years the volume of US exports witnessed a greater deterioration^⑬ than that of any other industrialized countries. The US share of

① 生产过剩 ② 不可避免 ③ 推动因素 ④ 垄断 ⑤ 国会 ⑥ 适度 ⑦ 崩溃 ⑧ 举措 ⑨ 损人利己,以邻为壑 ⑩ 促发,引起 ⑪ 报复 ⑫ 使恶化 ⑬ 恶化

world trade fell from 16 percent to about 11 percent. So the worst hit was on the USA, the then leading industrialized country in the world. Domestically the industrial output of the USA dropped by 55% and its foreign trade volume declined by 70%. The combined impact^① on American exports of the Great Depression and the foreign retaliatory tariffs imposed in reaction to the Smoot-Hawley Act was widely felt in the US economy.

In 1933 President Roosevelt's^② Administration of the USA came to power with a pledge^③ to fight the Depression by increasing the exports rather than by restricting imports and generally to pursue^④ a policy of world-trade liberalization. The Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act of 1934 was enacted^⑤, providing the legislative basis for this historical reversal^⑥ of US trade policy. The new legislation^⑦ reflected a growing recognition in the USA that the beggar-thy-neighbour policy embodied in the excessively high tariffs jeopardized^⑧ not only the interests of other countries, but also the interests of its own industry and agriculture. It became obvious to seek a general reduction in tariffs and other trade barriers throughout all trading world would benefit the USA. It was the first time that the US Congress delegated^⑨ to the President the authority^⑩ to reduce tariffs and enter into other commercial commitments in

① 影响, 打击 ② 罗斯福(总统) ③ 保证 ④ 奉行 ⑤ 制订 ⑥ 反复 ⑦ 立法 ⑧ 损害 ⑨ 委托 ⑩ 权力