INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

TRANSACTIONS, POLICY,
AND REGULATION

SIXTH EDITION

HAL S. SCOTT
PHILIP A. WELLONS

University Casebook Series

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

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SIXTH EDITION

By

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PREFACE

This is the sixth edition of our textbook on international finance. Six major changes in the area have occurred since the fifth edition was published a year ago. The International Accounting Standards Committee completed its basic work on international accounting standards, covered in Chapter 2. The Basle Bank Supervisors Committee issued new proposals to revise the 1988 Basle Accord's approach to credit risk, covered in Chapter 4. The Euro was successfully launched in 11 countries on January 1, 1999. This is primarily dealt with in Chapter 7, but the effect of this adoption on financial markets is discussed throughout the book. Japan's financial system continues to struggle, and new measures under the banner of Big Bang have been adopted to restore it to health. covered in a throughly revised Chapter 8. The Long-Term Capital Management hedge fund collapse and rescue is dealt with in Chapter 18. Finally, the new "financial architecture" spawned by the 1997 Asian crisis is covered in Chapter 21.

The book is organized into three parts. Part One deals with the international aspects of major domestic markets, Part Two with instruments and offshore markets, and Part Three with emerging markets. There are also four infrastructure chapters woven throughout the three parts covering capital, foreign exchange, the payment system and clearance and settlement. We have updated the data throughout the book wherever possible, and once again thoroughly reedited existing material to increase the book's readability.

While our approach is rooted in government policy and regulation, the book introduces the student to basic financial concepts and transactions. Exchange rate regimes, for example, are necessary background for an understanding of the European Monetary Union. And a student of futures, options and swaps must understand the basic characteristics and functions of these instruments. Only the most basic financial theory is presented. We believe our approach is original and complements existing texts written for finance or economics courses.

We gratefully acknowledge the dedicated assistance of our secretaries Stephanie Bright and Debra Mattina.

> Hal S. Scott Philip A. Wellons

Cambridge, Massachusetts June 1999

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INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

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SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

	FACEii
ACK	NOWLEDGMENTS V
A. B. C. D.	APTER ONE Introduction
PAI	RT ONE. INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF MAJOR DOMESTIC MARKETS
CIT	
	APTER TWO International Aspects of U.S.
	Securities Regulation
	Internationalization of U.S. Securities Markets
	The Basic Securities Law Framework
	GAAP Reconciliation
	Issuing Securities Abroad
Ŀ.	Issuing Securities Abroad
сн	APTER THREE International Aspects of U.S.
	Banking Regulation
A.	The Importance of Foreign Banks
	Basic Features of U.S. Regulatory System 93
C.	Regulation of Foreign Banks 96
	The GATS
E.	U.S. Banks Abroad
CH	APTER FOUR Infrastructure: Capital Adequacy 216
	Section I. Commercial Banks and Credit Risk 216
A. '	The Background of the Accord
В. '	The Basle Accord
C.	The Performance of the Basle Accord
	Section II. Capital Adequacy for Securities Operations 251
A. :	Risks Associated With Securities Operations 253

^{*} There are four infrastructure chapters—capital, foreign exchange, the payment system and clearance and settlement—covering subjects that are important to international finance generally, not just to the Part of the book in which they happen to appear. We take them up when needed.

B. C.	Other Risks and Capital for Non-Credit Risks 280
D.	The Search for a Common Treatment of Banks, Their
E.	Affiliates, and Unaffiliated Securities Companies 282 Overall Evaluation of the Market Risk Capital
	Adequacy Rules 285
CI	HAPTER FIVE The European Union: The Single
	Market in Financial Services
A.	Introduction
B.	Securities Markets
C.	
CI	HAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange
	Regimes
A.	Exchange Rate Systems
B.	
C.	Purchasing Power Parity and Interest Rate Parity 360
	The European Monetary System in the 1990s:
	A Case Study of Exchange Rates
CH	IAPTER SEVEN Europe's Economic
	and Monetary Union 378
A.	The Design of the European Monetary Union
B.	The Transition: Getting to Stage Three
C.	Stage Three: How Does It Work?
CF	IAPTER EIGHT Japanese Banking and Securities
	Markets: International Aspects 423
	Section I. Banks 424
A.	History
B.	Issues in the 1990s
	Section II. Japanese Securities Markets
A.	
B.	Foreign Access to Securities Markets in Japan 466
C.	The Japanese Role in Foreign and International Securities
	Markets
D.	The Stock Market Crisis and the Government's Response 487
E	

PART TWO. INSTRUMENTS AND OFFSHORE MARKETS 497
CHAPTER NINE Eurodollar Deposits and Syndicated Loans
CHAPTER TEN Infrastructure: The Payment System . 544 A. The Use of the U.S. Payment System for International Transactions
CHAPTER ELEVEN Asset Freezes
CHAPTER TWELVE Eurobonds and Global Securities 653 A. Eurobonds
CHAPTER THIRTEEN International Asset Securitization
CHAPTER FOURTEEN Stock Market Competition 748 A. U.S. Market 748 B. Foreign Markets 773 C. Worldwide Competition Between Stock Markets 784
CHAPTER FIFTEEN Infrastructure: Clearance and Settlement

CH	HAPTER SIXTEEN D	erivatives: Futur	res
	and Options		874
A.	Introduction		
B.	Futures, Options, Their Ma	rkets:	
	An Introduction		875
C.		Interest-Rate Futu	res
	and Options based on Ther	1	892
D.		nges: Competition	
	and Regulation		907
E	A Case Study in the Regul	ation of Futures an	d Options
۵.	Markets: The Barings Case		915
	Marie Danie		
CH	HAPTER SEVENTEEN	Swans	940
A.			
B.			
E.			
Ŀ.	Enforceability Issues		1002
OT	TADEED FIGURESIA	C-L M I T	
	HAPTER EIGHTEEN OF		
	United States Regulatory I		
В.	Tax Considerations		1071
D.A	ART THREE. EMERGING	ETNIANICIAT MA	DIZETE 1000
FA	KI IHKEE. EMEKGING	FINANCIAL MA	ILKE 15 1063
CH	HAPTER NINETEEN P	oject Finance	1004
B.			
C.			
	the state of the s		
E.	0		
F.	Financing Pagbilao		1107
OTT			•
СН	HAPTER TWENTY Emer		
	and Institutional Investo		
	Introduction		
	Privatization in the 1980s		
	Mexico's Evolving Economy		
D.	Telmex Under Government		
E.	Traditional Options the Go	vernment Could Us	se to Sell
	Its Telmex Stake		
F.	The Transfer of Control Ov		
G.	The Offer of Telmex Shares	in World Markets	1156
H.			
п.	Demand for the Telmex Of	er	1160

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE A. The Sources of the Crisis B. International Solutions	 	1183
International Finance Glossary .		
INDEX	 	1251

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRI	EFACE								iii
		MENTS							
CF	IAPTER	ONE	Introdu	iction .					1
A.		inition of a							
		rnational T							
В.		ional Finai							. 11
		Long-Term							
		estic to Int							
		ign Exchar							
		kets for Ind							
		kets for Di							
		kets for Di							
		kets for Di							
C.		d Benefits							
D.	The Imp	act of Inte	rnationaliz	zation: Th	ie Case o	f Korea	in 19	97.	. 22
CH	IAPTER			tional A	spects o	of U.S.			
	Securit	les rieguia	111011				• • • •		
A.	Internat	ionalization	n of U.S. S	ecurities	Markets				. 29
B.		ic Securitie							
ے.		eral Rules							
		ial Rules fo							
C.		econciliatio							
٠.		nler-Benz (
		mational A							
D.		up U.S. Se							
		144A and							
		MJDS App							
		Use of ADI							
E.		Securities A							
	1. The	Regulation	S Framev	vork					78
		lation S R							
		ng Securit							82
		cted Selling							
	4. Regu	lation S -	Rule 144A	Offerings	8				84

CI	HAPTER THREE International Aspects of U.S.
	Banking Regulation
	W. I. and the state of Fermion Domba
A.	The Importance of Foreign Banks
В.	Basic Features of U.S. Regulatory System
C.	Regulation of Foreign Banks
	1. Safety and Soundness
	2. Federal Deposit Insurance
	3. Permissible Activities
ъ	4. Interstate Banking and Foreign Banks
D.	
E.	U.S. Banks Abroad
CI	IAPTER FOUR Infrastructure: Capital Adequacy 216
	Section I. Commercial Banks and Credit Risk 216
A.	The Background of the Accord
B.	The Basle Accord
	1. General Elements and the Definition of Capital 220
	2. Risk-weighting
	3. The Treatment of Off-Balance Sheet Items 230
C.	The Performance of the Basle Accord
	1. The Transition to Full Standards
	2. The Accord and the Credit Crunch
	3. Toward A More Level International Playing Field 235
	4. Capital for Credit Risk and Internal Models 245
	5. The Basle Committee's 1999 Proposal to
	Amend the Accord
	Section II. Capital Adequacy for Securities Operations . 251
A.	Risks Associated With Securities Operations 253
B.	Capital Adequacy and Position Risk
	1. Position Risk and the Building Block Approach 258
	2. The Comprehensive Approach to Position Risk: the U.S 263
	3. A Comparison of the Building Block and Comprehensive
	Approaches to the Portfolio Approach
	4. Internal Models-Based Regulation of Capital 272
C.	

^{*} There are four infrastructure chapters—capital, foreign exchange, the payment system and clearance and settlement—covering subjects that are important to international finance generally, not just to the Part of the book in which they happen to appear. We take them up when needed.

	1. Other Securities Risks Addressed by Capital
	Adequacy Rules
	2. The Definition of Capital for Non-Credit Risk 281
D.	
	Affiliates, and Unaffiliated Securities Companies 282
E.	Overall Evaluation of the Market Risk Capital
	Adequacy Rules
	•
CH	IAPTER FIVE The European Union: The Single
	Market in Financial Services
	Introduction
В.	Securities Markets
	1. Disclosure
	2. Provision of Services
C.	Banking Markets
	1. The Second Banking Directive
	2. Deposit Insurance
	2. 2 opoli
	2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2
СН	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange
СН	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange
CH	•
	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes
	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange
	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes
	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes
	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes
	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes
	IAPTER SIXInfrastructure: Foreign ExchangeRegimes343Exchange Rate Systems3431. Fixed Rate Systems: The Gold Standard3442. Fixed Rate Standards: The Bretton Woods Dollar Standard3473. Floating Rate Regimes3504. The Debate in the 1990s About Replacing
	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes
Α.	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes 343 Exchange Rate Systems 343 1. Fixed Rate Systems: The Gold Standard 344 2. Fixed Rate Standards: The Bretton Woods Dollar 347 3. Floating Rate Regimes 350 4. The Debate in the 1990s About Replacing 353 Foreign Exchange Markets 354
Α.	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes 343 Exchange Rate Systems 343 1. Fixed Rate Systems: The Gold Standard 344 2. Fixed Rate Standards: The Bretton Woods Dollar 347 3. Floating Rate Regimes 350 4. The Debate in the 1990s About Replacing 353 Foreign Exchange Markets 354 1. The Spot Foreign Exchange Market 356
A. B.	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes 343 Exchange Rate Systems 343 1. Fixed Rate Systems: The Gold Standard 344 2. Fixed Rate Standards: The Bretton Woods Dollar Standard 347 3. Floating Rate Regimes 350 4. The Debate in the 1990s About Replacing the Non-System 353 Foreign Exchange Markets 354 1. The Spot Foreign Exchange Market 356 2. The Forward Market 359
A. B.	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes 343 Exchange Rate Systems 343 1. Fixed Rate Systems: The Gold Standard 344 2. Fixed Rate Standards: The Bretton Woods Dollar 347 3. Floating Rate Regimes 350 4. The Debate in the 1990s About Replacing 353 Foreign Exchange Markets 354 1. The Spot Foreign Exchange Market 356 2. The Forward Market 359 Purchasing Power Parity and Interest Rate Parity 360
A. B.	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes 343 Exchange Rate Systems 343 1. Fixed Rate Systems: The Gold Standard 344 2. Fixed Rate Standards: The Bretton Woods Dollar 347 3. Floating Rate Regimes 350 4. The Debate in the 1990s About Replacing 353 Foreign Exchange Markets 354 1. The Spot Foreign Exchange Market 356 2. The Forward Market 359 Purchasing Power Parity and Interest Rate Parity 360 The European Monetary System in the 1990s:
A. B.	Exchange Rate Systems
A. B.	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes 343 Exchange Rate Systems 343 1. Fixed Rate Systems: The Gold Standard 344 2. Fixed Rate Standards: The Bretton Woods Dollar 347 3. Floating Rate Regimes 350 4. The Debate in the 1990s About Replacing 353 Foreign Exchange Markets 354 1. The Spot Foreign Exchange Market 356 2. The Forward Market 359 Purchasing Power Parity and Interest Rate Parity 360 The European Monetary System in the 1990s: 364 A Case Study of Exchange Rates 364 1. The Mechanics of the EMS 364
A. B.	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes 343 Exchange Rate Systems 343 1. Fixed Rate Systems: The Gold Standard 344 2. Fixed Rate Standards: The Bretton Woods Dollar 347 3. Floating Rate Regimes 350 4. The Debate in the 1990s About Replacing 353 Foreign Exchange Markets 354 1. The Spot Foreign Exchange Market 356 2. The Forward Market 359 Purchasing Power Parity and Interest Rate Parity 360 The European Monetary System in the 1990s: 364 A Case Study of Exchange Rates 364 1. The Mechanics of the EMS 364
A. B.	IAPTER SIX Infrastructure: Foreign Exchange Regimes 343 Exchange Rate Systems 343 1. Fixed Rate Systems: The Gold Standard 344 2. Fixed Rate Standards: The Bretton Woods Dollar 347 3. Floating Rate Regimes 350 4. The Debate in the 1990s About Replacing 353 Foreign Exchange Markets 354 1. The Spot Foreign Exchange Market 356 2. The Forward Market 359 Purchasing Power Parity and Interest Rate Parity 360 The European Monetary System in the 1990s: 364 A Case Study of Exchange Rates 364 1. The Mechanics of the EMS 364 2. The Reasons for Joining the EMS 369