

Resisting **P**rotectionism

Global Industries
and the Politics
of International
Trade

Helen V. Milner

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Why didn't the protectionist spiral of the 1920s reappear in the 1970s in light of similar economic and political realities? In *Resisting Protectionism*, Helen Milner analyzes the growth of international economic interdependence and its effects on trade policy in the United States and France. She argues that the limited protectionist response of the 1970s stems from the growth of firms' international economic ties, which reduces their interest in protection by increasing its cost. Thus firms with greater international connections will be less protectionist than more domestically oriented firms. The book develops this thesis by examining the international ties of export dependence, multinationality, and global intrafirm trade.

After studying selected U.S. industries, Milner also examines French firms to see if they respond to increased interdependence in the same way as American firms, despite different historical, ideological, and political contexts. She notes that small domestic firms in need of protection increasingly oppose large multinational corporations interested in freer trade, often weakening an industry's capacity to realize its policy preferences. But she concludes that industry preferences strongly influence policy outcomes in the United States as well as in France, where, in spite of a "strong state" image, policy is not so much controlled by the state as it is mutually negotiated.

Helen V. Milner is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Columbia University.

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