CFR Resources

Written in the wake of the failure of the Doha Development Round and in light of the Donald J. Trump administration’s trade policies, a backgrounder that examines the challenges faced by the World Trade Organization and what its future might be. (2,100 words)

Ankit Panda, “The Role of the UN Secretary-General,” last updated February 26, 2017.

A quick primer on the history and responsibilities of the United Nations’ chief administrative officer. (1,700 words)

“The Role of the UN General Assembly,” last updated September 24, 2018.

An accessible backgrounder on the central and most representative part of the United Nations. (1,800 words)


An introduction to the most powerful and highest-profile organ of the United Nations—how it works, why it faces criticism, and what its future may hold. (2,400 words)

Articles
Donald L. Barlett and James B. Steele, “Deadly Medicine,” Vanity Fair, January 2011.

An investigative piece on the globalization of pharmaceutical testing and manufacturing. (6,000 words)


A brief article on the vanilla trade that illustrates how changes in one country profoundly affect farmers in another. (800 words)

A charming story that uses three vignettes to show the ways in which globalization has reshaped the small town of Eastport in coastal Maine. Fallows has no political ax to grind in this article, and he links to previous reporting on Eastport that shows the change over time. (2,000 words)


Based on Friedman’s best-selling book The World Is Flat that includes his basic theory of globalization, a piece that is accessible and offers much to consider and critique. (5,200 words)


An excerpt from the author’s book Ninety Percent of Everything that describes the author’s journey on a container ship, while also retelling the history of maritime shipping. (4,200 words)


An op-ed piece that presents one example of how the world was globalized long before the twentieth century. (1,200 words)


A feature article that explores the ways in which globalization has caused job losses in many places. (4,500 words)

An essay—set against Brexit and the Donald J. Trump presidency—that analyzes the opposition to globalization and predicts what globalization will look like in the coming years. This is an advanced-level article and accessible to someone who has completed this module. (3,200 words)


An article that argues for free trade and against three common anti-trade claims, and makes recommendations for U.S. trade policy. (3,100 words)


A long essay that traces the conversation about globalization over the last twenty years, explaining the debates between supporters of globalization, most notably Thomas Friedman, and its critics. (5,800 words)


An op-ed that argues that President Donald J. Trump and the right are selectively anti-globalization: they want free movement of goods and money but not of people. (1,100 words)


An article that draws parallels between the Occupy movement of 2011 and the WTO demonstrations of 1999, arguing that both ultimately made good points. (1,000 words)


A fascinating story of how Cubans, despite poverty and restrictions on free speech, still manage to access the internet—an example of just how
strong the pull of globalization can be. (6,000 words)

Multimedia

A podcast series, hosted by a technology reporter, that provides a guided tour of container shipping today. (8 episodes, about 30 minutes each)

“MarineTraffic.”

An interactive map that shows the real-time position of ships around the world.


A multimedia story with short videos and text that tracks the global journey of a T-shirt, from raw materials to finished product.

Books

A clear and readable book that does just what its title suggests, taking on critiques from all sides with wit and evidence. (344 pages)


The third edition of Friedman’s well-known book, although prone to oversimplifying, is accessible and always provokes discussion. (660 pages)


A book that tells the story of globalization through the lives of major political, military, or industrial figures from the twelfth century to the twenty-first. (464 pages)

A succinct book that both clearly defines globalization and traces its history from 1750 to the present. (200 pages)


A fun, easy-to-read history of the invention of the telegraph and how it changed the world in many of the same ways that the internet would change the world in the following century. (256 pages)


A primer that does not skimp on academic rigor. (176 pages)


An updated edition of Siglitz’s best-selling 2002 book that adds a hundred pages on globalization in the wake of Brexit and the election of President Donald J. Trump to a thoughtful discussion of how the choices of international organizations and the governments of wealthy countries have often harmed developing countries. (528 pages)


A business memoir that traces the story of a man who traveled around the world as he built the supply chain for his gourmet chocolate company. (256 pages)