accession: in the context of trade, the process of joining the World Trade Organization.

acquisition: when one company takes over another.

agricultural subsidies: state funding, loans, tax breaks, or other forms of support given to agricultural businesses by their respective governments.

bilateral free trade agreements: free trade agreements between two countries.

Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS): an interagency committee created in 1975 that reviews the national security implications of foreign investments in the United States. Chaired by the U.S. secretary of the treasury, CFIUS is composed of representatives from sixteen U.S. departments and agencies.

Doha Development Round: a round of negotiations, also known as the Doha Development Agenda, that began in 2001 and intended to focus on a number of areas of trade, particularly the priorities of developing countries. After stalling in preceding years, the Doha Round was effectively ended in 2015 when countries decided not to reconfirm negotiations.

forced technology transfer: when companies are made to give up technological knowledge in exchange for market access.

foreign direct investment (FDI): when a person or firm in one country (the direct investor) controls a business entity (direct investment enterprise) in another country. Usually, "control" is defined as owning 10 percent or more of the ordinary shares or voting power of an enterprise.

free trade agreement (FTA): an agreement between at least two countries that reduces trade barriers and promotes the exchange of goods and services.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT): an agreement signed on October 30, 1947, that governed global trade until the establishment of the

World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1994. By the end of 1994, the GATT had 128 signatories. A modified version of the GATT still exists as a treaty within the WTO addressing trade in goods.

greenfield investment: a type of investment in which a company starts from scratch when establishing operations abroad, building facilities from the ground up.

i*nvestor-state dispute settlement (ISDS)*: a mechanism, often built into FTAs, through which investors can sue countries that take allegedly discriminatory legal action.

joint-venture partnership: a partnership between two or more companies in which risks, benefits, and control are shared between parties. In the context of foreign investment, China has been criticized for requiring foreign companies entering its market to create joint-venture partnerships with domestic companies and share information.

market access: the ability of a company or country to sell goods and services to a foreign market.

mega-regional trade agreements: large, deeply integrated FTAs between countries or regions that make enforceable certain rules established under earlier agreements that were not previously enforceable.

merger: when two companies agree to combine and form a single entity.

plurilateral negotiations: trade negotiations between several countries. Unlike multilateral negotiations, such as the Doha Development Round, they do not involve every member of the WTO and are not necessarily negotiated within the framework of the WTO.

portfolio investment: the purchase of a country's securities (e.g., stocks and bonds).

service: a nonphysical good transferred from the seller to the buyer (e.g., haircut, doctor's appointment).

sovereignty: supreme or absolute authority over a territory.

subsidiaries: companies that are controlled by another company, known as the parent or holding company.

trade deficit: the amount by which the value of a country's imports is greater than that of its exports.

trade surplus: the amount by which the value of a country's exports is greater than that of its imports.

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): a proposed agreement between the United States, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam that aimed to deepen economic ties and increase trade between countries. In addition to economic benefits, the TPP was meant to substantiate U.S. leadership and influence in Asia. President Donald J. Trump withdrew the United States from the agreement in 2017, killing the trade deal, though a smaller version, without the United States, advanced.

World Trade Organization (WTO): an intergovernmental organization that regulates trade between nations. As of 2018, the WTO had 164 members.