Preface

Although the relationship between trade and security has been a matter of long-standing interest, the ways that countries link these two spheres in their international negotiations is now ripe for further examination. With problems in the Doha Development Round of the World Trade Organization (WTO), states are increasingly engaged in the active pursuit of bilateral and minilateral trade accords, resulting in a much more complex web of trade arrangements. Moreover, the relatively recent appearance of "non-traditional" security issues such as labor and the environment has further complicated the nexus between trade and security. Many of these dynamics are most obvious in the context of the Asia-Pacific, which is the focus of this volume.

This book addresses several key gaps in the literature: (1) the concept of "non-traditional" or "human" security as a driver and potential result of trade arrangements, independent of and distinct from "traditional" security concerns; (2) the role of different types of trade arrangements in defining the nature of security-trade linkages; and (3) the effects that trade arrangements have on the security environment. In particular, we connect the experiences of the EU and US with those of the Asian region in order to draw larger insights about the interplay between trade and security. A more nuanced understanding of trade-security linkages represents a step forward for contemporary international relations scholarship, much of which still deals with these spheres as artificially separate entities.

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Berkeley, California

Vinod K. Aggarwal
Kristi Govella

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