

Preface

We come from diverse backgrounds, but have a common interest. We discovered our common interest in the political economy of trade policy at conferences at which we met and explored our varying but complementary methods and findings. Our unity and diversity are nicely symmetrical. One of us is a Scot at an American university; one a Scot at an English university; one an American at an American university; and one an American at an English university.

Our case studies cover the 'long nineteenth century' from 1778 to 1914. This was the period in which emerged both classical patterns of trade and classical modes of thinking. We have found that, in thinking about our themes, our understanding of both trade and trade theory has deepened. Although each case study, and the conclusion, are individually authored, we have each reviewed one another's work. We almost (but not entirely) agree with one another. Our case studies are designed to work as 'analytic narratives' (cf. Bates et al., 1998). Whether they work as such is for the reader to judge. We thank each other, and our families, for mutual assistance and support. We are proud to dedicate this book to our children as inadequate compensation for seeing too little of them while we were working on it. Two of them arrived while this labour was also under way, and another is due before the book is published.

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