

Acknowledgements

The idea for this study was largely prompted by the reading of Thomas Franck's magisterial work on *Fairness in International Law and Institutions* (1995). The section of that book that appeared perhaps less developed, and the one that was of the greatest professional and academic interest to me, was that relating to economic fairness and trade. As the fairness discourse remains crucial to ensuring the legitimacy of the trading system, and as the notion had become in the 1980s and 1990s almost a synonym of protectionism in many circles, it seemed to me useful and academically challenging to go back through history and try to disentangle its core meaning. Since the USA was the main intellectual architect of the postwar trade regime, as well as the country where the notion of fairness has the largest currency, the focus on US trade policy discourse was inescapable. Franck's work provided the intellectual launching pad, for which I am indebted to him.

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