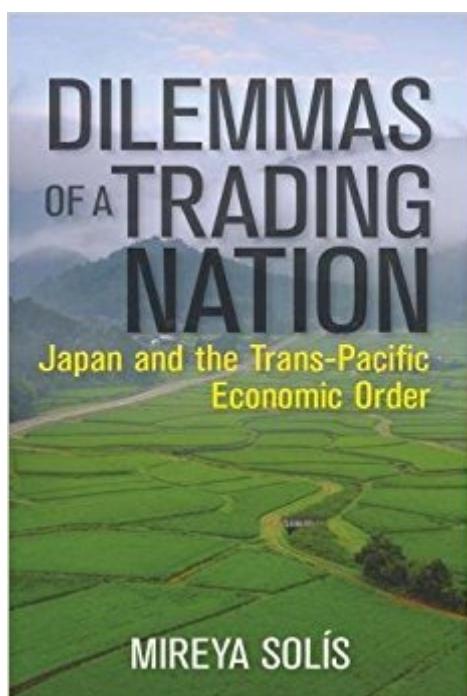


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# Dilemmas Of A Trading Nation: Japan And The United States In The Evolving Asia-Pacific Order (Geopolitics In The 21st Century)



## Synopsis

The balancing of competing interests and goals will have momentous consequences for Japan and the United States in their quest for economic growth, social harmony, and international clout. Japan and the United States face difficult choices in charting their paths ahead as trading nations. Tokyo has long aimed for greater decisiveness, which would allow it to move away from a fragmented policymaking system favoring the status quo in order to enable meaningful internal reforms and acquire a larger voice in trade negotiations. And Washington confronts an uphill battle in rebuilding a fraying domestic consensus in favor of internationalism essential to sustain its leadership role as a champion of free trade. In *Dilemmas of a Trading Nation*, Mireya Solís describes how accomplishing these tasks will require the skillful navigation of vexing tradeoffs that emerge from pursuing desirable, but to some extent contradictory goals: economic competitiveness, social legitimacy, and political viability. Trade policy has catapulted front and center to the national conversations taking place in each country about their desired future direction—economic renewal, a relaunched social compact, and projected international influence. *Dilemmas of a Trading Nation* underscores the global consequences of these defining trade dilemmas for Japan and the United States: decisiveness, reform, internationalism. At stake is the ability of these leading economies to upgrade international economic rules and create incentives for emerging economies to converge toward these higher standards. At play is the reaffirmation of a rules-based international order that has been a source of postwar stability, the deepening of a bilateral alliance at the core of America's diplomacy in Asia, and the ability to reassure friends and rivals of the staying power of the United States. In the execution of trade policy today, we are witnessing an international leadership test dominated by domestic governance dilemmas.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Japan and the United States face difficult choices in charting their paths as trading nations. Tokyo has long aimed for greater decisiveness, seeking to undertake meaningful internal reforms to override vested interests and foster productivity. At the same time, it has also strived to acquire a more influential voice in trade negotiations. Across the Pacific, a new U.S. administration has rejected the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade treaty, a consequence of the fraying domestic consensus in favor of the internationalism essential to sustain Washington's role as a leading champion of free trade. In *Dilemmas of a Trading Nation*, Mireya Solís offers a new understanding of the domestic politics of trade policy, bringing to light the vexing tradeoffs that emerge from the pursuit of desirable, but to some extent contradictory, goals: economic competitiveness, social legitimacy, and political viability. This broad analytical framework underscores the inherent tensions of trade policy design and illuminates the difficult choices that many countries face in an era of intensified questioning of globalization's payoffs. For Japan and the United States, trade policy has catapulted front and center to the national conversations taking place in each country about their desired future direction—economic renewal, a relaunched social compact, and projected international influence. Solís underscores the global consequences of these defining trade dilemmas for Japan and the United States: decisiveness, reform, internationalism. At stake is the ability of these leading economies to upgrade international economic rules and create incentives for emerging economies to converge toward these higher standards. At play is the reaffirmation of a rules-based international order that has been a source of postwar stability, the deepening of a bilateral alliance at the core of America's diplomacy in Asia, and the ability to reassure friends and rivals of the staying power of the United States. In the execution of trade policy today, the world is witnessing an international leadership test dominated by domestic governance dilemmas.

Mireya Solís is the Philip Knight Chair in Japan Studies and Senior Fellow in the Foreign Policy Program at the Brookings Institution, where she specializes in Japan's political economy, foreign policy, and Asia-Pacific trade integration. Her previous books include *Banking on Multinationals: Public Credit and the Export of Japanese Sunset Industries*, *Competitive Regionalism: FTA*

Diffusion in the Pacific Rim (co-edited), and Cross-Regional Trade Agreements: Understanding Permeated Regionalism in East Asia (co-edited).

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