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Nota di contenuto	1. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION: THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS -- I. Introduction -- II. Defining International Economic Integration -- III. Promoting International Economic Integration Through Law -- IV. Economic Integration Through the WTO -- V. Economic Integration Through Regional Trade Agreements -- VI. The Multilateral Framework for Regional Trade Agreements -- VII. Summary -- 2. ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN EAST ASIA-ORIGINS, DEVELOPMENTS AND PROSPECTS -- I. Introduction -- II. East Asia-Definition and Characteristics -- III. Dominance of Market-led Integration and Economic Cooperation in East Asia in the Twentieth Century -- IV. First Experiences of East Asian Countries with Limited RTAs -- V. Rapid Surge of RTAs in East Asia in the Twenty-first Century -- VI. Summary -- 3. THE LEGALISATION OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS IN ASEAN, ACFTA, JSEPA AND CEPA -- I. Introduction and Objectives -- II. Background Information -- III. The Legal Framework for Economic Integration-Goods, Services, Investment and Labour -- IV. The Legal Framework for Dispute Settlement -- V. Comparing and Evaluating Levels of Legalisation -- VI. Summary -- 4. EAST ASIAN RTAS-SIGNIFICANCE AND CHALLENGES FOR THE REGION AND BEYOND -- I. Introduction -- II. The Significance of RTAs for East Asia -- III. RTA Challenges for East Asia: Managing East Asia's 'Noodle Bowl' -- IV. The

The accession of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 significantly transformed the global economy both de facto and de jure. At the regional level, China's WTO accession served as an important catalyst for the establishment of Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) in East Asia. This was a novel development for the region, since East Asian States had previously followed a largely informal, market-driven approach to regional economic integration. By contrast, rules-based economic integration involving East Asian States was traditionally limited to multilateral integration under the GATT/WTO framework. This book systematically analyses and explains the development, nature and challenges of rules-based regional economic integration in East Asia with particular attention to the region's first four RTAs. While also addressing the socio-economic, historical and political factors influencing the development of RTAs in East Asia, the book focuses on the legal institutions governing economic integration in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as under the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Economic Co-Operation Agreement (ACFTA), the Japan-Singapore New Age Economic Partnership Agreement (JSEPA), and the Mainland China-Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA). The book provides a systematic, comparative account of the scope, depth and (hard law versus soft law) quality of rules-based economic integration achieved under these four RTAs in the areas of trade in goods and services, investment liberalisation and protection, labour mobility, and dispute settlement

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