

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910984647303321
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Titolo	National Power and the Structure of Foreign Trade
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley : , : University of California Press, , 2018 ©1945
ISBN	9780520378179 9780520301337
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (197 pages)
Classificazione	QM 200
Disciplina	382.1/04
Soggetti	Commerce International economic relations International trade World politics POLITICAL SCIENCE / Public Policy / Economic Policy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Cover -- Title Page -- Copyright -- Preface to the Expanded Edition -- Preface -- Introductio -- Content -- Part One: Theoretical and Historical Aspects -- I. Economic Thought on the Relationship Between Foreign Trade and National Power -- II. Foreign Trade As an Instrument of National Power -- The Two Effects of Foreign Trade -- The Influence Effect of Foreign Trade (Section 1) -- Gain from Trade and Dependence on Trade -- Adjustment Difficulties and Vested Interests -- The Influence Effect of Foreign Trade (Section 2) -- An Illustration: German Trading Methods under National Socialism -- Notes on the Theory of International Trade -- Equilibrium in International Trade under Varying Assumptions on the Institutional Framework -- A Note on Bargaining Power -- A Note on Gain from Trade -- III. The Question of "Economic Aggression" During World War I -- IV. Problems of Reconstruction -- Part Two: Three Statistical Inquiries into the Structure of World Trade -- Introduction to Part Two -- V. The Preference of Large Trading Countries for Commerce with Small Trading Countries -- Method of Measurement -- Interpretation of the Statistics -- VI. Concentration upon Markets and Supply Sources of the Foreign Trade of Small or

Weak Nations -- Method of Measurement -- Interpretation of the Statistics -- Concentration of Imports Compared to the Concentration of Exports -- Analysis According to Groups of Countries: Europe -- British Empire -- South America -- VII. The Commodity Structure of World Trade -- Method of Measurement -- The Main Result of the Calculations -- Detailed Analysis of the Statistics for Countries and Groups of Countries -- The Commodity Structure of British Foreign Trade Since 1854 -- Historical Importance of the Traditional View of the Commodity Structure of World Trade -- Appendix A. Note on Statistical Methods.

Appendix B. Resolutions of the Paris Economic Conference of the Allies, June, 1916 -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

This study begins with a brief survey of economic thought on the relationship between foreign trade and national power, from the Mercantilists on. Chapter II attempts a systematic theoretical approach to the subject. It first makes clear the fundamental basis of the possible use of foreign trade as an instrument of national power policy. Using well-known concepts of economic analysis, it proceeds to show under what conditions and by means of what policies this instrument is likely to attain its highest efficiency. The principles of power policy thus deduced theoretically are then compared with the actual practices followed by German trading methods in recent years. Toward the end of this chapter the reader will be carried into a detailed discussion of certain problems of the theory of international trade, which are touched upon earlier in the chapter. Chapter III is applied to the historical background of our problem. It gives a survey of the literature on "economic aggression" before and during World War I and brings out the importance of the Paris Economic Conference of the Allies in 1916 for the Versailles Treaty and postwar economic policies. In Chapter IV we review in the light of our theoretical and historical analyses certain safeguards or remedies which could be or have been proposed to prevent the use of foreign trade as an instrument of national power policies. Certain questions raised in Part 1 can be answered in quantitative terms. Part 2 consists, therefore, of an exposition of various trends of international trade in recent years disclosed by statistical analysis. In Chapter V we calculate an index number expressing the extent to which the trade of the large trading nations is or has been directed by preference toward the smaller trading countries. Chapter VI gives index numbers for the degree of concentration of their foreign trade on one or a few big markets or sources of supply. Finally, in Chapter VII we measure the extent to which world trade has been based primarily on an exchange of manufactures against raw materials and foodstuffs. This title is part of UC Press's Voices Revived program, which commemorates University of California Press's mission to seek out and cultivate the brightest minds and give them voice, reach, and impact. Drawing on a backlist dating to 1893, Voices Revived makes high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarship accessible once again using print-on-demand technology. This title was originally published in 1945, with an expanded edition published in 1980.