Foreign Policy or Industrial Policy? The Design of Trade Bureaucracy

Christina Davis, Yon Soo Park, Diana Stanescu

Harvard University

November 13, 2020

Trade as a Cross-Cutting Issue

- Central role in economic growth; tool of industrial policy
- Foundation of interdependence; instrument of diplomacy

Cannot separate domestic and international levels of policy-making

The Bureaucratic Design of Trade Policy

- Research question: When is trade policy treated as foreign policy or industrial policy?
- Different design choices for which ministry holds oversight:
 - Diplomacy first: Foreign Affairs Ministry
 - Industrial policy first: Commerce Ministry
 - Independence/joint management: Trade Ministry

Inter-ministry coordination, but one ministry leads

Trade Policy Dilemma

- Tradeoff between cooptation of trade as foreign policy or capture by economic interests
 - Issue Linkage
 - Firewalls
 - Delegation

Hypotheses

- Foreign policy lead: Governments with an active foreign policy will be more likely to locate trade policy within the foreign ministry.
- Industrial policy lead: Governments with an active industrial policy will be more likely to locate trade policy within the ministry of commerce.
- Institutional complementarity: Parliamentary government supports higher levels of delegation to the foreign ministry including the jurisdiction over trade policy.

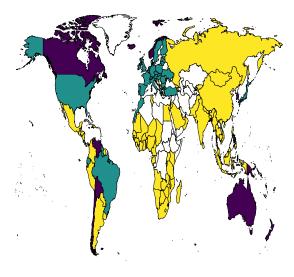
Motivating Cases

- Creation of USTR through series of legislative acts (1962-1979)
 - Congress protects trade from foreign policy linkage
- Canada integrates trade within foreign affairs ministry
 - Brief debate about separation in 2003 ends without change
- Korea alternates ministry control over trade policy
 - Industry-led trade policy as developmental state
 - In 1998, foreign affairs ministry is given authority over trade to promote free trade negotiations
 - Revive Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy in 2013

Trade Policy Jurisdiction Data

- Scope
 - 134 countries from 1995 to 2017
- Source
 - WTO Trade Policy Review reports
 - WTO Ministerial Conference plenary speeches
- Three categories of trade policy design
 - Foreign Affairs Ministry Lead
 - Industry Ministry Lead
 - Independent Bureaucracy Lead

Mapping Trade Policy





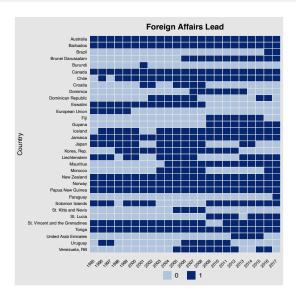




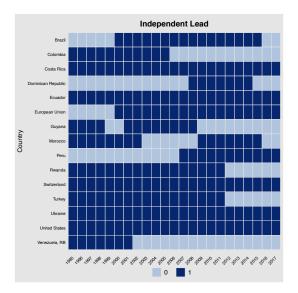




Foreign Affairs Lead: Variation over Time



Independent Trade Ministry: Variation over Time



Modeling Choice of Lead Ministry

- Explanatory variables
 - Foreign policy activism
 - Outward engagement (embassies count)
 - Multilateralism (IGO membership count)
 - Conflict involvement (MIDs)
 - Industrial policy activism
 - Protection levels (MFN tariffs)
 - Industrialization (manufacturing share)
 - Parliamentary government indicator
- Control variables: income, polity score, trade share of GDP
- Multinomial logit regression model

Analysis of Bureaucratic Design of Trade Policy

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	FA	Industry	FA	Industry	FA	Industry
IGO memberships	0.958	0.956				
	(-1.64)	(-1.86)				
Embassies Sent			0.975*	0.986		
			(-2.46)	(-1.91)		
MIDs (logged, 3yrs prior)					0.527	0.703
((199-1)					(-1.56)	(-1.09)
GDP per capita (1000s)	1.014	0.960*	1.020	0.961	1.006	0.947*
, ,	(0.82)	(-2.18)	(0.84)	(-1.69)	(0.27)	(-2.43)
Trade as share of GDP	0.997	1.004	0.994	1.004	0.997	1.006
	(-0.28)	(0.40)	(-0.66)	(0.47)	(-0.25)	(0.56)
Parliamentary	6.173*	2.321	7.762*	2.863	6.594*	2.452
,	(2.19)	(1.08)	(2.56)	(1.52)	(2.33)	(1.25)
Polity	0.989	0.894	0.988	0.883*	0.955	0.866*
•	(-0.16)	(-1.70)	(-0.17)	(-1.96)	(-0.65)	(-2.15)
N	2160		2487		1829	

Exponentiated coefficients; t statistics in parentheses

^{*} p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

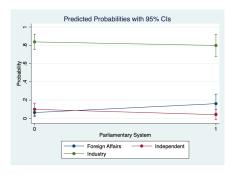
Analysis of Bureaucratic Design of Trade Policy

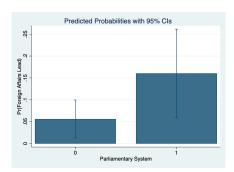
	Model 1		Model 2	
	FA	Industry	FA	Industry
MFN tariffs (weighted)	1.044	1.045		
	(0.48)	(0.50)		
Manufacturing Share (%)			0.936	0.929
			(-0.84)	(-1.73)
GDP per capitra (1000s)	0.999	0.941**	0.995	0.943**
	(-0.06)	(-2.74)	(-0.23)	(-2.83)
Trade as share of GDP	1.006	1.012	1.011	1.020
	(0.50)	(1.14)	(0.99)	(1.88)
Parliamentary	7.285*	3.246	8.428*	4.056
,	(2.18)	(1.35)	(2.13)	(1.63)
Polity	0.985	0.852*	0.973	0.885
•	(-0.19)	(-2.11)	(-0.37)	(-1.78)
N	1688		2152	

Exponentiated coefficients; t statistics in parentheses

^{*} p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

Result: Marginal Effect of Parliamentary System





Conclusion

Mixed results

- Little evidence of relation between policy orientation (foreign policy vs industrial policy) and the bureaucratic design of trade policy.
- Pattern of complementary institutional structures as parliamentary governments delegate to the foreign ministry.

Next steps

- Modeling nonlinear relation between industrial policy activism and trade bureaucracy design.
- What are the effects of trade bureaucracy design?