

dents looking for a general overview of how unions work, Taylor's study is a highly detailed examination of the specific topic of the development of labour education. Despite their differences in focus and method, both provide indications of the significance of unions in Canadian society, and make insightful suggestions as to the future possibilities for Canadian labour.

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Katherine Barbieri, *The Liberal Illusion: Does Trade Promote Peace?* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2002).

During World War II, U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull stated most clearly one of the central beliefs that came to define the international liberal order after 1945: "If goods can't cross borders, armies will." The idea that interdependence based on increased trade flows would avoid a repeat of the destruction caused by depression and war was institutionalized in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which, along with the United Nations (security) and the International Monetary Fund and World Bank (fiscal stability), became one of the pillars of the postwar multilateral world.

Barbieri poses fundamental questions that challenge this long-held shibboleth, and reconsider the entire field of trade-conflict studies: Does interdependence based on trade (if that notion actually exists) really prevent war? If so, what are the conditions that actually allow trade to promote peace? How does the liberal idea of interdependence hold up against critiques of that theory, which argue that trade's consequences vary depending on whether interstate relationships are equal or unequal in terms of relative power, or those who claim that trade interdependence actually increases conflict? What of the "null theory" that trade has no impact on interstate conflict whatsoever? In trying to answer these questions, her purpose is to "underscore the differences that exist in trading relationships and the manner in which these differences might produce outcomes that differ from the liberal model of commercial peace."

The methodology employed is expansive. A very useful literature and theoretical overview in which Barbieri helpfully conceptualizes trade relationships as a continuum, is followed by the core of the book: By analyzing more than 100,000 observations of pairs/dyads of states from 1870 to 1992, Barbieri aims to better assess the "generalizability of hypotheses related to the trade-conflict relationship." Employing a number of charts and graphs to simplify her detailed and complex evidence, Barbieri finds that the notion that trade promotes peace is erroneous, and that interdependent countries are actually more likely to engage in military conflict than countries with less extensive trade relationships.

Yet this does not mean that dependency theorists argue that conflict grows from a power imbalance. Barbieri concludes that instead of power imbalances resulting in greater conflict between states, states with symmetric ties were in fact more likely to experience conflict. In the end, while Barbieri has made a significant contribution to the field, she is willing to admit that while her findings are useful, questions still remain, and more research is needed to understand the exact nature of the interaction between trade and conflict. It is a noble admission from a scholar who has provided a spirited insight into this complex and important field.

The Liberal Illusion is not without its shortcomings, however. Although it is very dense, the book is, in fact, rather short, running to only 137 pages of text. There are sections in the book which provide some excellent analysis on how the Great Powers related to each other in terms of conflict and trade over the last century: The reader would appreciate more of this insight. Moreover, although it is brief, the book devotes considerable detail to explaining the nuances of Barbieri's methodology. While important, readers would likely have traded the extensive equations for more examples that actually address real world relationships and conflict. As a result, the book reads like a dissertation (it was), which, while brilliant, could have been expanded and refined somewhat. It also might be appreciated more by political theorists than historians, who will find the rigorous methodology and extensive data somewhat removed from historical events.

Nonetheless, the book provides a dynamic contribution to an important discourse that has far reaching implications. In the light of recent debates over the utility of bodies such as the World Trade Organization, or the nascent Free Trade Area of the Americas, Barbieri forces the reader to reconsider fundamental assumptions about the very nature of trade and conflict in our world. While Barbieri does not necessarily disprove Secretary Hull's dictum that "If good can't cross borders, armies will," she has certainly cast doubt on what so many have held as conventional wisdom. This is the essence of good scholarship.

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Jennifer A. Delton, *Making Minnesota Liberal: Civil Rights and the Transformation of the Democratic Party* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2002).

Minnesota produced an array of leaders in the civil rights movement including Roy Wilkins, executive director of the NAACP; Clarence Mitchell, Jr., lobbyist for the NAACP; Whitney Young, executive director of the National Urban