

Chapter 19 The World Trade Organization

I. Objectives

- *To learn the history and development of the WTO;*
- *To obtain some knowledge about the functions, structure and subordinate organizations of the WTO;*
- *To gain insight into the new rules set up in the Uruguay Round;*
- *To understand how the decisions are made in the WTO*
- *To grasp the main idea and the structure of the text;*
- *To master the usage of key special terms, words and phrases in this chapter;*
- *To conduct a series of listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating activities concerned with the theme of the chapter.*

II. Introduction

In brief, the World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only international organization dealing with the global rules of trade between nations. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.

世界贸易组织（WTO）是惟一处理国家间贸易规则的国际组织，它的主要作用是确保贸易尽可能顺利、自由并可预见地进行。世界贸易组织的正式成立并取代关贸总协定，并非只是名义上的变化，而是具有更为深刻的内涵和深远的历史意义。它标志着世界各国的经济合作共同发展从此进入了一个崭新的时代。

III. Main points of the text

1. The creation of the WTO
2. WTO Agreements
3. WTO Functions
4. WTO structure

IV. Background and terminology

1. **The World Trade Organization (WTO)** 世界贸易组织
the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
2. **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)** 关贸总协定
3. **trade negotiation** 贸易谈判 **non-tariff measures** 非关税措施
4. **Uruguay Round** 乌拉圭回合
5. **intellectual property** 知识产权
6. **customs duty** 关税
7. **trade dispute** 贸易争端

8. **General Council** 总理事会 **Goods Council**

9. 货物理事会

10. **Services Council** 服务理事会

11. **Intellectual Property Council** 知识产权理事会

12. **merchandise** goods bought and sold in business; commercial wares 商品

13. **antidumping** intended to discourage importation and sale of foreign-made goods at prices substantially below domestic prices for the same items 反倾销的

14. **rulebook** 规则手册[说明]

15. **schedule** a program of events or appointments expected in a given time 日程计划

16. **delegation** a group of persons officially elected or appointed to represent another or others 代表(团)

17. **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**

Treaty and international trade organization in existence from 1948 to 1995. GATT members, known as contracting parties, worked to minimize tariffs, quotas, preferential trade agreements between countries, and other barriers to international trade. In 1995 GATT's functions were taken over by the World Trade Organization (WTO), an international body that administers trade laws and provides a forum for settling trade disputes among nations. [Microsoft Encarta 2005]

18. **The Second World War**

Also called World War II, global military conflict that, in terms of lives lost and material destruction, was the most devastating war in human history. It began in 1939 as a European conflict between Germany and an Anglo-French coalition but eventually widened to include most of the nations of the world. It ended in 1945, leaving a new world order dominated by the United States and the USSR.

A rough consensus has been reached on the total cost of the war. The human cost is estimated at 55 million dead—25 million in the military and 30 million civilians. The amount of money spent has been estimated at more than \$1 trillion, which makes World War II more expensive than all other wars combined. [Microsoft Encarta 2005.]



been reached
The human
million
million
military and 30
amount of
estimated at
which makes
expensive than
[Microsoft

19. **Cancún, Mexico**



City and adjacent island resort area, southeastern Mexico. Cancún city is located on the northeastern coast of the Yucatán Peninsula and is essentially a service town for the resort area of Cancún situated on L-shaped Cancún Island, with its skyscraper hotels and sprawling resorts, and the coastal area occupied by Cancún city have abundant white sand beaches, palm groves, and coral reefs, with virtually no rainy season, as the jungles in southern Quintana Roo state draw off almost all the yearly rainfall. Pop. (1990) 167,730. [Britannica]

20. **Geneva**



Picture on the left: Lake Geneva, Switzerland

Geneva (Switzerland), city in western Switzerland, the capital of Geneva Canton. The city is located at the western extremity of Lake Geneva, where the Rhône River issues from the lake. The Rhône divides Geneva into two almost equal parts. On the south, or left, bank stands the older part of the city, containing the financial and business districts and two old residential districts: Eaux Vives and Carouge, the latter a working-class neighborhood. Geneva became a world center in 1920

with the founding of the League of Nations, which established its headquarters in the city. In 1947 Geneva was designated the European center for the United Nations, and in 1948 the International Labor Organization and the World Health Organization set up headquarters here, followed by other international agencies. In 1995 the new World Trade Organization established headquarters in Geneva. [Microsoft Encarta]

V. Language Points

1. One of the youngest of the international organizations, the WTO is the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) established in the wake of the Second World War.

世界贸易组织是最年轻的国际组织之一。它的前身是成立于第二次世界大战后的关贸总协定。
in the wake of 随.....之后到来

1. [Biz]: The company's sales volume increased rapidly in the wake of its advertising campaign.
广告宣传活动之后，该公司的销售量猛增。
2. A very fine day came in the wake of the storm.
那场暴风雨之后天气非常好。

2. So while the WTO is still young, the multilateral trading system that was originally set up under GATT is well over 50 years old.

因此，虽然关贸总协定还很年轻，但是最初在关贸总协定框架下建立的多边贸易机制已经有50多年的历史了。

在这个句子中 so 是连词起承上启下的作用，while 引导让步状语从句，主句是一个系表结构，that 引导的定语从句，修饰主语 the multilateral trading system。

3. The past 50 years have seen an exceptional growth in world trade.

在过去的50年里，世界贸易有了惊人的增长。

这是动词see的一种特殊用法。See在这里有“经历”，或“进行”的意思。例如：This stadium has seen many thrilling football matches.在这个体育场里举行过很多场精彩的足球赛。这种用法不用于进行时态和被动语态。

4. on average 平均，按平均数计算

1. [Biz]: The company makes a profit of two million dollars on average every year.
该公司每年平均盈利两百万美元。
2. Each student has 15 minutes on average to make a presentation.

每个学生平均有15分钟的时间做演讲。

5. GATT and the WTO have helped to create a strong and prosperous trading system contributing to unprecedented growth.

Paraphrase: Thanks to the trading system developed by GATT and the WTO, the growth in world trade has been faster than ever before.

关贸总协定和世界贸易组织大大促进了强健繁荣的贸易机制的形成,这一机制带来了史无前例的贸易增长。

6. The system was developed through a series of trade negotiations, or rounds, held under GATT.

这一机制带来了史无前例的贸易增长,它是通过关贸总协定下一系列贸易谈判或谈判回合而发展起来的。

Round *n.* a complete course, succession, or series 一轮, 一回合.

In order to join the WTO, China has held many rounds of negotiations with WTO members.为了加入世贸组织,中国同世贸成员进行了多轮谈判。

7. The first rounds dealt mainly with tariff reductions but later negotiations included other areas such as anti-dumping and non-tariff measures.

最早的几个回合主要是针对削减关税的问题,但后来的谈判包括了诸如反倾销和非关税措施等其它领域。

Antidumping *adj.* intended to discourage importation and sale of foreign-made goods at prices substantially below domestic prices for the same items 反倾销的.

Antidumping investigation/measures 反倾销调查/措施

8. How can you ensure that trade is as fair as possible, and as free as possible? By negotiating rules and abiding by them.

如何才能确保贸易尽可能公平、自由地进行?——通过协商贸易规则并遵守它们。

abide by 遵守, 信守

1. [Biz]: The party which fails to abide by the contract will be heavily punished.

没能遵守合同的一方将会受到严惩。

2. Everyone who joins the club must abide by its rules.

凡是加入该俱乐部的人都必须遵守它的规则。

8. The Uruguay Round also created new rules for dealing with trade in services, relevant aspects of intellectual property, dispute settlement, and trade policy reviews.

乌拉圭回合也制定了一些新规则用以处理服务贸易、知识产权有关方面、争端解决和贸易政策审议等问题。

该句子的主要结构是The Uruguay Round also created new rules, 介词for引导的是目的状语,而介词in后面的名词和名词短语是并列成分,它们都是in的宾语,与in构成介词短语作trade的定语。

Review *n.* an inspection or examination for the purpose of evaluation 评估,为评价而进行的视察或检查

Trade policy review 贸易政策评估

10. The complete set runs to some 30,000 pages consisting of about 60 agreements and separate commitments(called schedules) made by individual members in specific areas such as lower

customs duty rates and services market-opening.

现行的世界贸易组织整套规则长达3万多页，其中包括大约60个协定和一些单独承诺（也叫日程）。这些单独承诺是由个别成员针对特殊领域，如低关税和开放服务市场而制定的。

这个句子的主要结构是The complete set runs to some 30,000 pages. “Some”及“about”在此均是“大约”的意思。现在分词短语consisting of...是pages 的后置定语，其中about 60 agreements 和separate commitments是并列结构，同时做of的宾语。短语make commitment意思为“做出承诺”。

run (to) v. to amount to 共计，合计

The number of the students of that university has run to 20,000. 那所大学的学生人数已达20 000人。

11. Through these agreements, WTO members operate a non-discriminatory trading system that spells out their rights and their obligations.

通过这些协定，世界贸易组织成员国实行非歧视贸易机制，该机制详细解释了成员国的权利和义务。

spell out 清楚说明，详细解释

1. [Biz]: Each term of the contract must be spelt out to avoid future dispute.

为了避免将来出现争议，合同中的每一项都必须详细说明。

2. [Biz]: The report spells out the next five-year plan of the company.

这个报告详细说明了该公司的下一个五年计划。

12. forum. a public meeting place for open discussion 论坛，公共集会场地

The WTO is a forum for trade negotiations. 世贸组织是贸易谈判的论坛。

A forum for settling trade disputes among nations 解决各国贸易争端的论坛。

13. The WTO has nearly 150 members, accounting for over 97% of world trade.

世界贸易组织大约有150个成员，占世界贸易总量的97%

account for 占，占据

1. [Biz]: This brand of mobile has accounted for 35 percent of Chinese market.

这个品牌的手机已占据中国市场 35%的份额。

2. Male members account for three fourths of the seats of the committee.

男士成员占了该委员会四分之三的席位。

14. The WTO's agreements have been ratified in all members' parliaments.

世界贸易组织的各项协定均由全体成员的国会签署批准。

Ratify vt. to approve and give formal sanction to; confirm 批准，认可。

The agreements have been ratified by consensus. 协议已一致通过。

15. Numerous specialized committees, working groups and working parties deal with the individual agreements and other areas such as the environment, development, membership applications and regional trade agreements.

还有许多专门委员会、工作组和工作队处理个别协定以及诸如环境、发展、申请成员国身份和地区贸易协定等其它领域的问题。

这个句子的主语由三个名词短语 specialized committees, working groups and working parties 并列构成，谓语是 deal with，后面全部是宾语，其中 such as... 部分对 other areas 进行解释说明。

16. the structure of WTO:

the Ministerial Conference



the General Council



the Goods Council, Services Council and Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Council



Numerous specialized committees, working groups and working parties deal with the individual agreements and other areas

VI. Summary of the lesson

The World Trade Organization came into being in 1995. It is the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) established in the wake of the Second World War. The past 50 years have seen an exceptional growth in world trade. You ensure that trade is as fair as possible, and as free as possible by negotiating rules and abiding by them. The WTO's overriding objective is to help trade flow smoothly, freely, fairly and predictably. The WTO has nearly 150 members, accounting for over 97% of world trade. Around 30 others are negotiating membership. Decisions are made by the entire membership. This is typically by consensus. The WTO's top level decision-making body is the Ministerial Conference. Below this is the General Council (normally ambassadors and heads of delegation in Geneva, but sometimes officials sent from members' capitals) which meets several times a year in the Geneva headquarters. At the next level, the Goods Council, Services Council and Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Council report to the General Council. Numerous specialized committees, working groups and working parties deal with the individual agreements and other areas such as the environment, development, membership applications and regional trade agreements.

VII. Comprehension questions

1. When was the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade established?
2. How has the world trade developed in the past 50 years?
3. How did GATT and the WTO help in the development of world trade?
4. What were the areas ever dealt with in trade negotiations?
5. What were the new rules created in the Uruguay Round?
6. What does a non-discriminatory trading system guarantee?