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# International Economic Cooperation



Edited and with an Introduction by Martin Feldstein

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### International Economic Cooperation



A National Bureau of Economic Research Conference Report

## International Economic Cooperation

Edited and with an Introduction by

Martin Feldstein



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Chicago and London

MARTIN FELDSTEIN is the George F. Baker Professor of Economics at Harvard University and president of the National Burcau of Economic Research. He is the author of more than 200 scientific papers and four books, including Inflation, Tax Rules, and Capital Formation (1983) and the editor of The American Economy in Transition (1980), Behavioral Simulation Methods in Tax Policy Analysis (1983), The Effects of Taxation on Capital Accumulation (1987), Taxes and Capital Formation (1987), and The United States in the World Economy (1988), all published by the University of Chicago Press in association with the National Bureau of Economic Research.

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Since this volume is a record of conference proceedings, it has been exempted from the rules governing critical review of manuscripts by the Board of Directors of the National Bureau (resolution adopted 8 June 1948, as revised 21 November 1949 and 20 April 1968).

### Contents

	Preface	ix
	International Economic Cooperation:	
	Introduction	1
	Martin Feldstein	
1.	Macroeconomic Policy	
	1. Stanley Fischer	11
	2. W. Michael Blumenthal	43
	3. Charles L. Schultze	49
	4. Alan Greenspan	61
	5. Helmut Schmidt	65
2.	<b>Exchange Rate Coordination</b>	
	1. Richard C. Marston	79
	2. Guido Carli	136
	3. Jacques Attali	147
	4. John R. Petty	151
	5. Robert Solomon	156
3.	Trade Policy	
	1. J. David Richardson	167
	2. Robert S. Strauss	204
	3. Michihiko Kunihiro	211
	4. Edmund T. Pratt, Jr.	218

### viii Contents

4.	Developing Country Debt	
	1. Jeffrey D. Sachs	233
	2. Anthony M. Solomon	278
	3. William S. Ogden	283
	4. Eduardo Wiesner	290
	5. R. T. McNamar	305
	Biographies	321
	Contributors	325
	Name Index	329
	Subject Index	333

### **Preface**

In April 1987 the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) held a conference on international economic cooperation. The conference focused on four general areas: macroeconomic policy, exchange rate policy, trade, and the international debt of developing countries. In preparation for this conference, NBER Research Associates prepared nontechnical background papers on each subject. At the conference itself, the discussion of each of these subjects was launched by prepared personal statements by individuals who have played leading roles in government or business in either the United States or another country. This volume brings together the background papers, the personal statements, and a detailed summary of the discussion at the conference.

The authors of the background papers met as a group on two occasions before the final conference to discuss the approach to be taken in each paper and to review critically the preliminary drafts of the papers. Each of the authors also benefited from the comments of an outside reviewer.

The fifteen individuals who prepared the remarks that launched the individual sessions included former government officials who held key positions dealing with international economic issues, current officials from Japan, France, and the International Monetary Fund with international responsibilities, and American business leaders who are actively involved in international business and finance. Their willingness to share their experiences and to participate throughout the conference made for a uniquely interesting series of discussions. The summaries of the discussions were prepared by Professor Kenneth Froot.

I am grateful to The Ford Foundation for financial support of both this conference and the research presented in the background papers. I am grateful also to the members of the NBER staff for their assistance with all of the details involved in the planning and execution of the meeting and this volume, particularly to Kirsten Foss Davis, Ilana Hardesty, Mark Fitz-Patrick, and Carolyn Terry.

Martin Feldstein