Mad About Trade: Why Main Street America Should Embrace Globalization

Daniel Griswold. Cato Institute, $24.95 (203p) ISBN 9781935308195

In 10 well-organized chapters, international trade expert Griswold, director of the Cato Institute's trade policy center, reaches out to low- and middle-class readers to make a persuasive case against U.S. protectionism by illustrating how have-nots are the most likely to benefit from the global marketplace in the form of lower prices, greater variety and better quality of goods. Criticizing everyone from President Obama to CNN's Lou Dobbs for fostering anti-trade sentiment, Griswold presents a "clean view" of "America's changing place in the world economy." Bringing complex issues home, literally, Griswold opens his examination with a survey of his closet, containing items from Australia, Bulgaria, China, Costa Rica, and Vietnam, but little from the U. S. How and why these faraway items wind up here is something few Main Street Americans think about, but Griswold explains the complicated mechanisms of world trade with brisk, easy-to-read prose. Griswold also claims that, despite the loss of American jobs to other countries, most new U.S. jobs (created in part by free trade) are in well-paying service industries that form the backbone of today's middle class. Griswold also presents an eight-point "trade agenda for a free people," but doesn't miss an opportunity to tout his organization's public policy efforts. *(Nov.)*