

An Analysis of Accession Process of the Russian Federation to the World Trade Organisation.

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The purpose of this project is to analyse the accession process to the World Trade Organisation using Russia as the case study. It will be guided by the following hypothesis 'Russia's slow accession to the WTO can be explained in a two-level game context where administrative capacity, domestic lobbies, domestic political changes and relations with international actors are relevant'. The importance of such research lies at the heart of a debate in the literature which asks whether a country should liberalise its trade, integrate itself into the international system by limiting its freedom and increasing competition on domestic producers. In a thorough analysis of Russia's accession this paper intends to investigate how this dilemma was affecting the country's decision-making process. This paper attempts to deliver an original analysis of Russia's accession process by embedding it in a consistent theoretical framework, as the relevant literature lacks the theory implication and mostly focuses on economic benefits of Russia liberalising its trade.