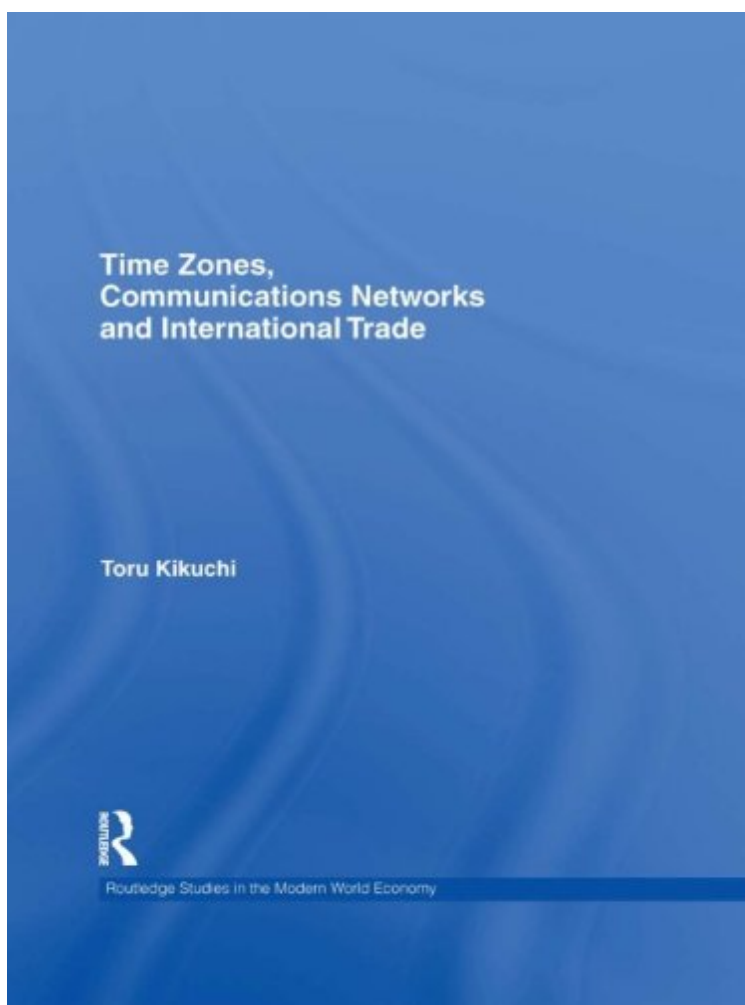


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## **Time Zones, Communications Networks, and International Trade (Routledge Studies in the Modern World Economy)**

*Toru Kikuchi*

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Advances in digital technology have driven large decreases in the costs of data transfer and telecommunications. There is a consequent increase in many kinds of international trade. One of the fastest-growing parts of this industry is

"remote maintenance" whereby Indian companies debug software for companies in other parts of the world, often taking advantage of time zone differences to offer overnight service. In the existing literature on trade theory, however, relatively few attempts have been made to address the theme of communications networks and the role of time zones. The main purpose of this book is to illustrate, with simple models of international trade, how the introduction of communications networks and the utilization of time zone differences can affect both the structure of international trade and world welfare. Other technological aspects of recent international trade (e.g., competition between international standards, the impact of switching costs on imported products' introduction) are also examined. Although a focus on theoretical trade models, the book will appeal to scholars, policy makers and business units who wish to learn from the recent changes in communications networks and its impact on the global economy. It provides information and suggestions for better policy formulation in the fast-changing world economy.

About the Author Toru Kikuchi is Professor of Economics at the Graduate School of Economics, Kobe University, Kobe, Japan. He began his study of economics at Otaru University of Commerce, Japan. After earning a Ph.D. in Economics from Kobe University, he began teaching at Kobe University at 1995 and was promoted to full Professor in 2009. He regularly teaches in both undergraduate and graduate courses in international economics. His main research field is the theory of international trade under increasing returns and imperfect competition. Recently, his research has focused on the relationship between communications networks and time zone differences. His research papers have appeared in scholarly journals such as Canadian Journal of Economics, Economic Modelling, Japanese Economic Journal, Journal of Economics, Manchester School, Open Economies, Journal of Development Economics, and of International Economics.