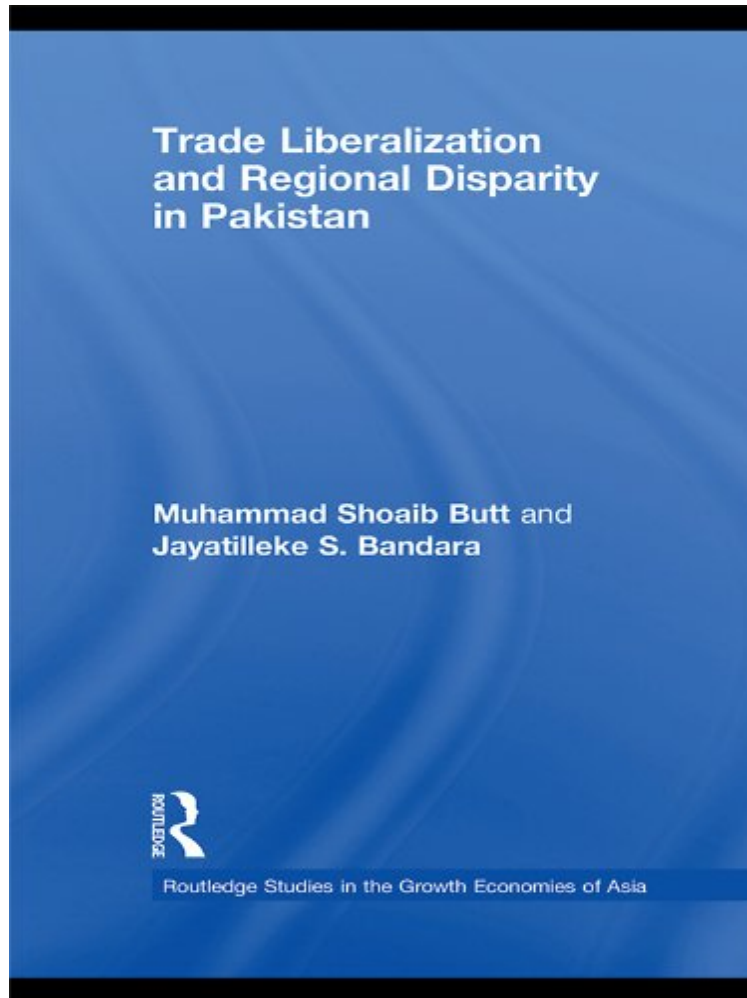


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## Trade Liberalisation and Regional Disparity in Pakistan: Volume 69 (Routledge Studies in the Growth Economies of Asia)

*Muhammad Shoaib Butt, Jayatilleke S. Bandara*  
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Pakistan's military, which has directly controlled the country's affairs for more than half of its post-independence history and which often retained real political power even during periods of democratic rule, has played a significant role in trade liberalisation. Regional disparities have increased since the beginning of major trade

liberalisation attempts in the 1980s and at present, regional conflicts and the associated regional disparities are extremely high. The authors critically review the country's post-independence political economy of trade liberalisation, the resulting structural change and the story of regional disparities, identifying possible relations with political regimes. Using a regional computable general equilibrium (CGE) model, the effects of trade liberalisation on regional disparities are quantitatively examined, with an emphasis on the key export industries at a national level and on the relative output and employment growth at a regional level. In the first study to distinguish a possible link between trade liberalisation and regional disparities under dissimilar political regimes, such as autocracy and democracy, Butt and Bandara use Pakistan as a case study to draw broader lessons for other developing countries. This book will be of interest to academics, economists, political analysts and policymakers interested in development economics in general and South Asia in particular.

About the Author Dr Muhammad Shoaib Butt is an acting Assistant Director at the Policy and Evaluation branch of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra, Australia. He has also worked as an economist in the Macroeconomic Policy Division and the International Economy Division of the Commonwealth Treasury, Australia. His research interests include economic modelling, trade, and banking and finance. Jayatileke Semasinghe Bandara is an Associate Professor at the Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia. He has published extensively in the areas of trade, development and economic modelling, particularly focusing on South Asian countries.