

# IE - 7200 - Supply Chain Engineering

**Article link:** <https://www.wsj.com/articles/supply-chains-have-changed-forever-819d9afd>

**Presentation link:** [Sourodip Ghosh - SCM Final Project-20240419\\_194519-Meeting Recording.mp4](#)

## Summary of the Article:

The substantial changes in international supply chains following the COVID-19 pandemic are covered in the Paul Page article "Here's How Supply Chains Are Reshaped for a New Era of Global Trade." It emphasizes supplier diversification, increased automation, nearshoring, and a stronger emphasis on sustainability. Companies are reevaluating their supply chain strategies in light of the pandemic and geopolitical shifts. They are shifting away from a strong reliance on Asia, especially China, and toward more resilient and regionally focused strategies. The difficulties and ramifications of these adjustments are also discussed in the article, including rising costs and the difficulties of overseeing a more diverse supplier base.

## Relation to Course Topics:

- **Strategic Fit Framework:** Since businesses are reevaluating their supply chain strategies to better meet the demands of the market and the evolving business environment, the article is in line with the strategic fit framework covered in the course.
- **Supply Chain Design:** One important aspect of supply chain design that affects the distribution network and overall supply chain structure is the shift towards nearshoring and regionalization, as discussed in the article.
- **Supply Chain Planning:** The importance of supply chain planning and the utilization of cutting-edge tools for forecasting and scheduling is reflected in the article's emphasis on automation and technology.
- **Aggregate Planning:** To balance supply and demand while taking the increased complexity into account, supply chains are becoming more diverse and resilient, which calls for efficient aggregate planning.
- **Production Planning and Scheduling:** Automation technology adoption is essential for effective production scheduling and planning, guaranteeing timely and economical operations.
- **Inventory Management:** The article's analysis of the transition from just-in-time to more buffered inventory strategies connects to course material on inventory management.
- **Transportation Design and Analysis:** The article's concentration on the significance of transportation network design and analysis in the contemporary era of international trade is closely related to the subjects we covered in class, "Transportation Overview" and "Transportation Network Design and Analysis." Businesses are reassessing their transportation strategies as they move toward nearshoring and regionalization to preserve effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. This is consistent with what we've discussed in class about how to optimize transportation networks best to complement the overall supply chain plan.

- **Supply Chain Resilience and Risk Management:** The pandemic has brought attention to how important it is for supply chains to be flexible and resilient to unforeseen setbacks. The regionalization and diversification strategies discussed in the article are in line with the themes of our course, which are "Supply Chain Drivers and Metrics" and "Network Design under Uncertainty." These subjects cover methods for locating, evaluating, and minimizing supply chain risks so that businesses can become less reliant on a particular area or supplier.
- **Technological Innovation in Supply Chain:** The article talks about how supply chains are using technology and automation more and more, which is a reflection of the industry's larger trend toward digital transformation. This relates to the topics of our course, "Production Planning and Scheduling" and "Supply Chain Planning with Forecasting and S&OP," where we look at how cutting-edge tools and technologies can enhance supply chain planning, execution, and forecasting.
- **Ethical Considerations in Supply Chain Management:** Ethical issues are getting more and more significant as supply chains change. The article's discussion of sustainability is closely tied to the "Omnichannel" and "Distribution Network Design" course topics, which examine the significance of social responsibility throughout the supply chain and the environmental impact of logistics operations. For supply chain managers to balance social, environmental, and economic goals in their decision-making processes, these ethical considerations are essential.

Overall, the article offers insightful information that is in line with the topics included in our syllabus. It emphasizes the significance of supply chain management ethical issues, risk management, technology utilization, and flexibility in response to shifts in the global trade environment.

### **Feedback and Opinion:**

The article offers insightful information about how international supply chains are changing. Seeing how businesses are responding to the lessons learned from the pandemic and geopolitical tensions is an interesting observation. The article does not, however, address some issues, such as how these changes will affect smaller businesses and whether they will be sustainable in the long run. Supply chain engineering innovations like artificial intelligence (AI) for predictive analytics and blockchain for traceability could improve efficiency and resilience even more. There are also ethical concerns, especially about the effects of increased transportation on the environment and labor practices in nearshore areas.

All things considered, the article's emphasis on the evolution of global supply chains reflects the larger trends and issues covered in the course. To maintain the resilience and sustainability of their operations, future supply chain professionals will need to comprehend these changes and adjust accordingly.