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Title: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE OF BUSINESS

International Trade: Definition, Functions, Forms, and Factors

Introduction to International Trade

• Definition:

• International trade refers to the exchange of goods and services between countries. It enables nations to obtain products they do not produce domestically, fostering economic growth.

Importance:

- Promotes global economic integration
- Enhances consumer choice
- Drives innovation and competition

Functions of International Trade

1. Resource Allocation:

• Helps countries utilize their resources efficiently by specializing in products they can produce most effectively.

Market Expansion:

• Allows businesses to reach new markets, increasing their customer base and revenue potential.

Foreign Exchange:

• Facilitates currency exchange, enabling countries to engage in transactions that require different currencies.

Economic Development:

• Contributes to GDP growth, job creation, and technological transfer between nations.

Risk Diversification:

• Companies can spread their risk by operating in multiple markets, reducing dependency on a single economy.

Forms of International Trade

1.Bilateral Trade:

• Trade between two countries, often formalized through trade agreements.

2. Multilateral Trade:

• Involves multiple countries and is often governed by international organizations (e.g., WTO).

3. Free Trade:

• Minimal restrictions and tariffs between trading nations to encourage trade.

4. Protectionism:

• Government actions (like tariffs and quotas) aimed at protecting domestic industries from foreign competition.

5. **E-commerce:**

• Online trading of goods and services, which has expanded the reach and ease of international trade.

Factors Affecting International Trade

1. Economic Factors:

• Currency exchange rates, inflation, and economic stability can influence trade flows.

2. Political Factors:

• Trade policies, political stability, and diplomatic relations affect trade agreements and tariffs.

3. Cultural Factors:

• Language, customs, and consumer preferences can impact market entry strategies.

4. Technological Factors:

• Advancements in technology (e.g., logistics and communication) enhance trade efficiency and reduce costs.

5. Legal and Regulatory Factors:

• Different countries have varying laws regarding trade, labor, and environmental standards, which can impact international operations.

Conclusion

• Summary:

• International trade is crucial for economic development and globalization. Understanding its functions, forms, and influencing factors can help businesses navigate the global marketplace effectively.