

Does the WTO still enjoy
priority?”

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INTRODUCTION

- The development of the WTO
- The development of Regional and bilateral Agreements

Evolution of Regional Trade Agreements in the world

1948-2002 Number of RTAs (source website of the WTO)

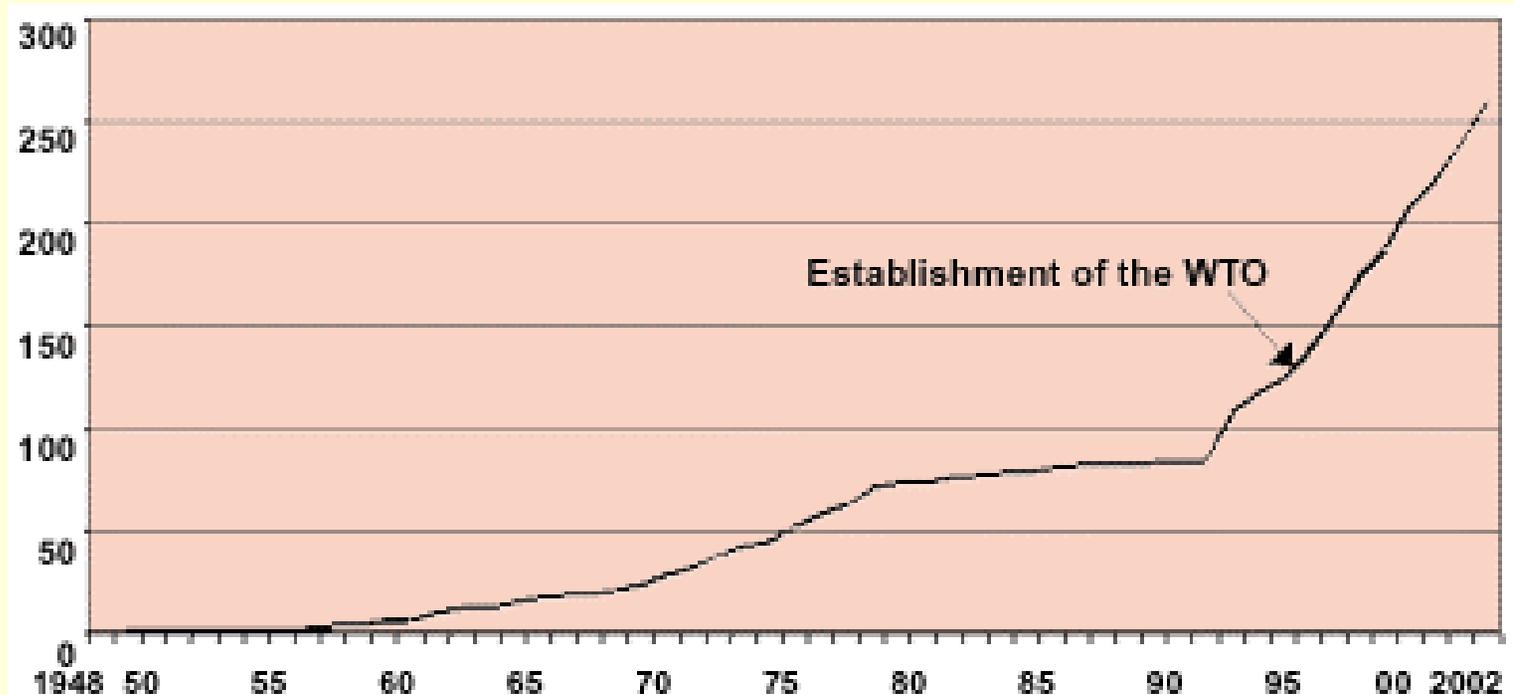
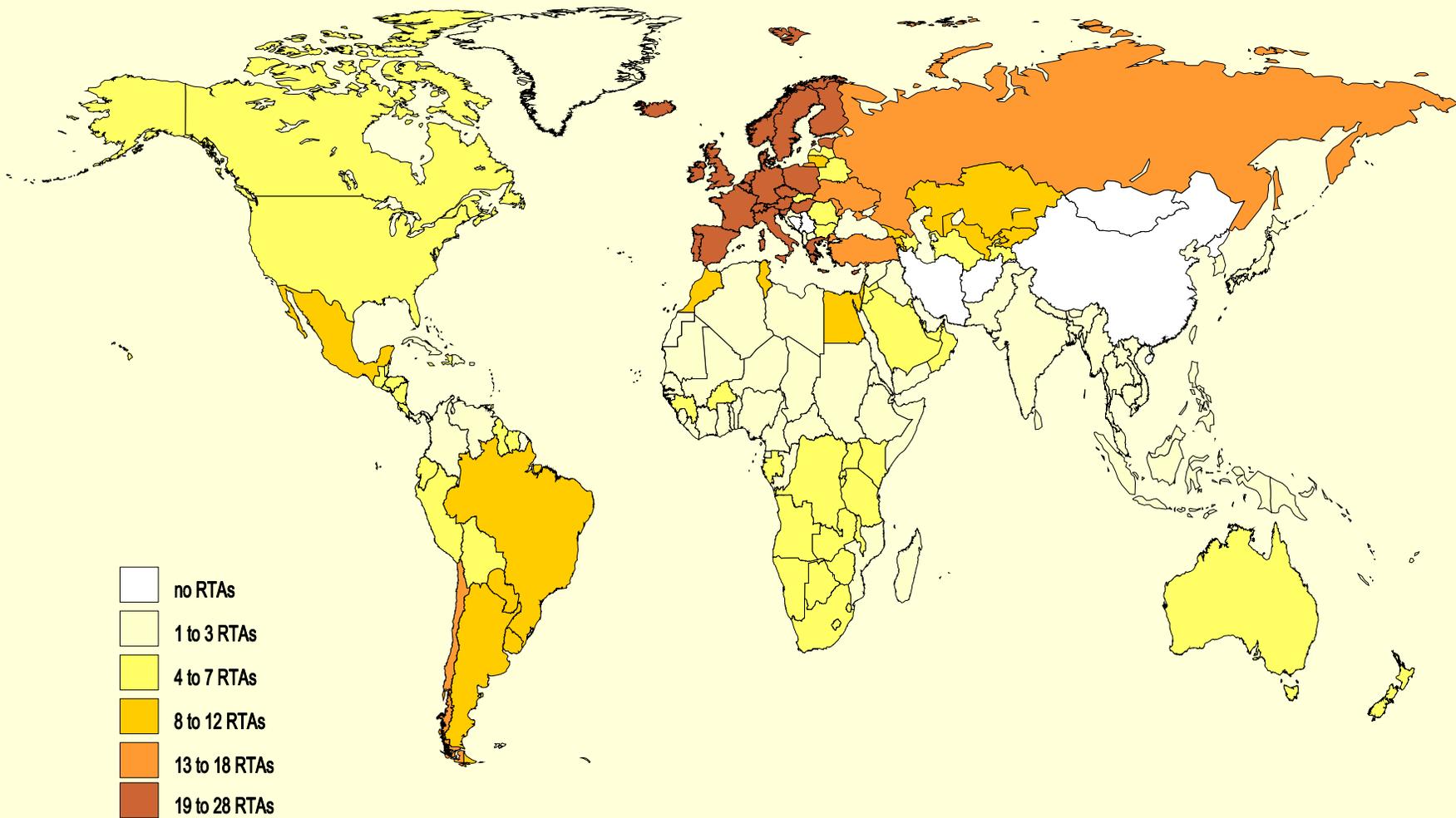


Chart 1: RTAs in force and under negotiation as of July 2000, by type of RTA



Map/Carte/Mapa: 16
2005



Source: **WT/REG/W/41- October 2000**

REASONS FOR THIS DEVELOPMENT

- The increase of WTO members
- The Multilateral Trade Negotiation
- The Dispute Settlement Body
- The increase of topics
- The weakness of Article XXIV

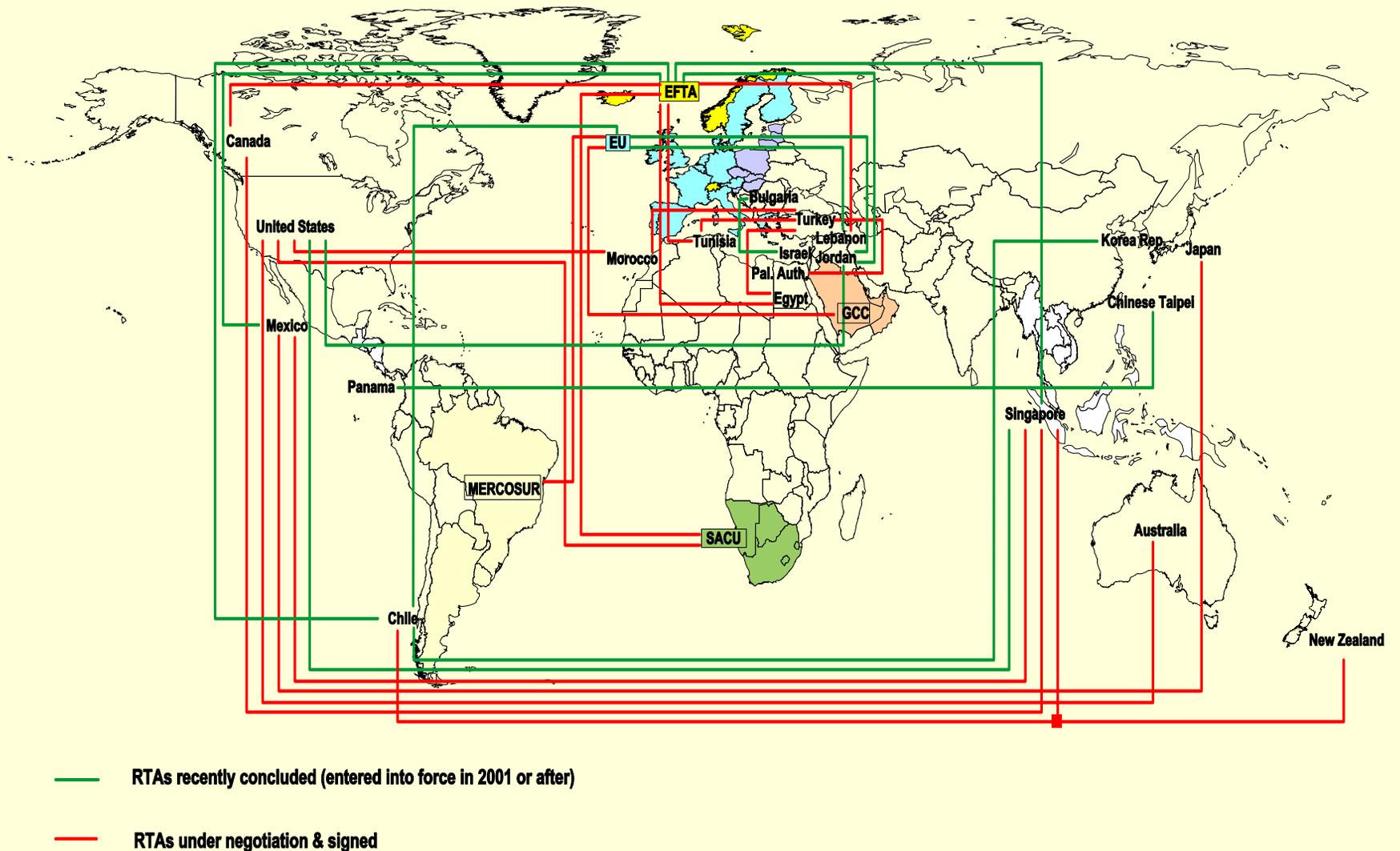
CONSEQUENCES

- **Positive aspects**
 - RTAs force others to the multilateral negotiation table
 - RTAs limit the number of players
 - RTAs can lead to open global trade
 - RTAs ...

CONSEQUENCES

- **Negative aspects**
 - RTAs lead to the end of multilateralism
 - RTAs are discriminating
 - Every RTAs is different
 - RTAs are developing exponentially
 - RTAs = Spaghetti bowl phenomenon

Map 1: Cross Regional RTAs recently concluded or under negotiation (2003)



Source: Presentation done by the Trade Policies Review Division (WTO)

SOLUTIONS

- More bilateral / Regional developments
- More WTO
 - Structural changes
 - Transparency

CONCLUSIONS

- **Question:**

Does the WTO still enjoy priority?”

- **Answer:**

Two questions:

For whom?

and

which WTO?