The globalization of the economy and the conservative agenda of governments affect every aspect of Canadian society. A worldwide reorganization of markets poses new challenges for domestic industry while continental trade initiatives threaten the livelihood of Canadian workers and communities in all regions of the country. Environmental quality has been put at risk by development strategies driven more by the possibility of short-term gains from export sales than by attempts to achieve long-term sustainability.

In considering these changes, the contributors to *The New Era of Global Competition* first analyse recent public-sector initiatives — monetarist macro-economic policies, a trade deal with the United States, and the increasing use of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to make regulatory decisions — that have altered the Canadian economy and transformed Canadian society. They then consider the consequences of these changes for some of Canada's key industries and for Canadian social policy, noting the conservative agenda’s effect on workers' incomes, work conditions, collective bargaining, and social benefits as well as on the role of the state in the economy. The final chapters explore possible alternatives and the real and hard choices that Canadians must make in determining economic and social policies for the future, focusing on macro-economic management, employment, industrial strategy, and the environment.

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