



MEDIA ALERT

New Bruegel Essay

Politics and trade: lessons from past globalisations

By Kevin O'Rourke

BRUSSELS, 13 FEBRUARY 2009- In this essay, the fourth in the Bruegel Essay and Lecture Series, Kevin O'Rourke provides us with a globalisation reality check. It is easy to forget that the current round of globalisation is barely two decades old. The last round, in the late-nineteenth century, ended in catastrophe.

After tracing the link between politics and trade over a millennium, O'Rourke identifies certain permanent features of international economic relations. His timing is perfect. The crisis has switched the balance of power within and between countries. **Government is back in the driving seat and corporations look fragile.** No one can predict how the cards will fall, but politics is making a come-back and will inevitably play a bigger role in shaping our future than commonly assumed before autumn 2008.

To download the essay, free of charge, please click [here](#).

For more information, please contact Vanessa Witkowski, Media and Communications Officer, at vanessa.witkowski@bruegel.org, or by phone at +32 2 227 42 90