# **Global Logistics**

### 8th Edition

# **Global Logistics**

New directions in supply chain management

Edited by Edward Sweeney and Donald Waters



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# **PREFACE**

The first edition of Global Logistics and Distribution Planning: Strategies for Management appeared in 1988. My own supply chain journey has in many ways mirrored developments in the logistics field during the intervening decades. Now in its eighth edition, Global Logistics: New directions in supply chain management also reflects the many changes which have taken place in the logistics world during that time. I am writing this preface in late 2020, towards the end of a year during which we have faced unprecedented challenges as a society and as a profession. Our response to the Covid-19 pandemic as a society has highlighted the critical role of supply chains not just to economic but also to wider societal wellbeing. In the early part of the year, many supply chains were reimagined as the lockdown and other restrictions forced radical changes in consumer behaviour, including but not limited to the shift to online shopping. Logistics processes in the healthcare sector proved vital in ensuring reliable supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other critical commodities. In addition, the UK's departure from the European Union put our profession at the vanguard in dealing with the many supply chain challenges that Brexit threw up. At the time of writing, the full extent of the economic and other damage caused by Brexit remains to be seen. What is quite clear though is the key role that logisticians and other supply chain professionals will play in dealing with the inevitable fallout.

The underpinning tenets of *Global Logistics: New directions in supply chain management* reflect some key overall drivers. First, the supply chains of 2020 are much more international in complexion than those in which I first worked in the late 1980s and early 1990s. This is a direct result of significant structural changes that have taken place in the international economic and business environment in recent decades. Some recent evidence of 'deglobalization' notwithstanding, the general trend over time has been one of reductions in the many barriers to international trade that have historically existed. It is now possible to move products, services, money, information, knowledge and other resources across international frontiers with relative ease. It is in this context that truly international – sometimes genuinely global – supply chain architectures have been developed. This requires innovation in supply chain processes – ie the identification of new and better

ways of carrying out upstream and downstream logistics and other activities. It is the planning and implementation of this innovation that holds the key to improving supply chain capability and performance, thereby enhancing the competitive advantage of firms and the wider supply chains of which they are part. It is these new directions that provide the framework for this book.

Martin Christopher sets the scene for this in Chapter 1 by making the case for the re-thinking – sometimes the quite radical re-thinking – of supply chain strategy. This re-thinking needs to have a clear focus on flexibility and meeting changing customer requirements in the marketplace. There can be little doubt that contemporary supply chain management (SCM) thinking has assumed a more strategic role than in the past when the focus was often largely on short-term cost reductions and service improvements. In this context, it is important to establish a clear link between SCM and financial performance. This is the focus of Heimo Losbichler and Farzad Mahmoodi in Chapter 2, based on the use of economic value added (EVA) as the primary financial metric. The challenges of 2020 sharpened our focus on the risk associated with disruptions of various kinds to business. The concept of supply chain risk management (SCRM) proposed by Carolyn Somorowsky and Lars Stemmler in Chapter 3 aims at minimizing the impact of supply chain disruptions through addressing finance risks. The management of supply chain vulnerability is a capability that is finding its moment in the development of supply chain thinking. 'The downside from supply chain risks is much greater than the upside from perfect supply chains', according to Alan Braithwaite in Chapter 4. In this context, developing a thorough understanding of how supply chain vulnerability can be managed effectively is becoming critically important as organizations strive to build more resilient supply chains.

The next part of the book begins with a discussion of fulfilment of customer needs using both marketing and logistics by David Grant in Chapter 5. My experience suggests that these are two critical but complementary business processes and that their effective engagement is pivotal to the creation and delivery of customer value. Also of critical importance in a supply chain context is procurement – as noted by Louise Knight, Frederik Vos and Joanne Meehan in Chapter 6: 'Procurement is often regarded as one "half" of supply chain management (SCM), with SCM defined as logistics and procurement.' Without doubt, the procurement aspect of SCM has a vital role to play in facilitating competitive differentiation and strategic advantage. The physical movement of product remains a core element of logistics and

SCM. In Chapter 7 Alan McKinnon discusses the critical issue of asset utilization optimization in freight transport systems. The retailing part of the business ecosystem has been changing over a long period of time with recent months having seen particularly rapid changes in response to pandemic pressures. John Fernie explores some of the logistical and supply chain challenges associated with these changes in Chapter 8.

As noted above, this book focuses specifically on those issues that are of most significance in an international or global context. In Chapter 9, Christian Durach and Frank Straube draw on evidence from a number of empirical research projects to highlight some key trends and strategies in global logistics and SCM. A key lesson from this work is successful companies will strategically integrate their logistics activities into the overall business system. In this context, global sourcing and supply is a central part of the business strategies of most large businesses. In Chapter 10, Alan Braithwaite explores some of the key issues in 21st-century global sourcing. For many firms the reality of global sourcing has required a reassessment and reappraisal of the way in which international relationships are management. This is the subject of Patrick Daly's discussion in Chapter 11.

Twenty-first-century supply chains need to be sustainable, not only from an economic perspective but also from environmental and social points of view. Chapter 12 by Maria Huge-Brodin and myself provides an overview of the concept of sustainability for businesses and the wider supply chains of which they are part. The anthropogenic impact of logistics activities is now widely understood and the development of more environmentally sustainable logistics practices is a key concern among policy-makers and supply chain professionals. This is the focus of Chapter 13 by Alan McKinnon. It also needs to be recognized that supply chains are fundamentally human or people constructs. In Chapter 14 John Gattorna recognizes that people are the power behind contemporary supply chains. His chapter focuses specifically on the adoption of 'outside-in' mindsets when designing resilient supply chains for the volatile operating environments of the future. Gattorna's signature strategic alignment concept recognizes the critical role of leadership in supply chains. Richard Atkinson uses his many decades of leadership in a variety of logistics settings to provide practical guidance for supply chain professionals in Chapter 15. In the context of social sustainability, there is a wide range of ethical issues that present challenges for logisticians and other supply chain professionals. This is the subject of Chapter 16 by Steve New. Whilst the focus of much of this book is on logistics and SCM issues in commercial businesses, we know that effectiveness in this area is critical in a humanitarian context. Yasmine Sabri provides an overview of this subject in Chapter 17.

The connectivity and integration of global supply chains is fundamentally dependent on our ability to manage information flows efficiently and effectively. In this context, the effective adoption of existing and emerging digital technologies is a critical success factor. In Chapter 18, Andreas Taschner and Hazel Gruenewald explain the digitalization process and its role in global supply chain operations. In a logistics context specifically, the Industry 4.0 concept has and will continue to have a major impact. This is the subject of Chapter 19 by Pietro Evangelista.

The final part of the book focuses on some of the key issues that need to be considered in ensuring that supply chain strategies and plans are well executed in practice. Chapter 20 by Alan Braithwaite recognizes that 'what gets measured gets done' and provides a range of valuable insights into performance measurement and management in the supply chain. The proactive design of supply chains depends critically on the effective alignment of technology, manufacturing and the supply chain itself. In Chapter 21, Aris Matopoulos, Brian Price and Yuchun Xu provide some practical guidance on this issue in the context of three-dimensional concurrent engineering (3DCE).

The changing economic and political landscape in the 21st century has fostered discussions about the sustainability of globalization. Hence, any book on global logistics would be remiss if it did not bring this discussion into the supply chain domain. It is in this context that Chapter 22 discusses issues related to 'deglobalization', an antithesis to globalization.

The 30 contributors to this book are all acknowledged experts in their fields and each brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to their treatment of the various topics. Some are eminent academics who have undertaken leading-edge supply chain research over recent decades (eg Christopher, McKinnon and New). Others have experience as consultants to leading firms (eg Braithwaite and Daly) while some, myself included, have worked primarily at the academic/business interface and/or in a mix of academic and practitioner roles. This blend of backgrounds brings a rich mix of content to this book. Some chapters present a profile of state-of-the-art research-informed knowledge in areas under consideration, while others provide more practical guidance to those charged with the implementation of this knowledge in a range of practical settings. It is also worth noting that the contributors are based in over a dozen countries across three continents – this is important in the context of a book that purports to be global in its

orientation. Each gives an authoritative view of current thinking. Of course, this does not mean that they present the only view, and we hope that the material will encourage informed discussion.

This edition has been rewritten with new examples to support its theses. The focus is contemporary, data has been refreshed and some of the previous chapters have been replaced. The book continues to evolve, maintaining its focus on current issues that are relevant to an international readership.

The book can be read profitably by anyone with an interest in logistics and the supply chain. This includes: researchers and academics; undergraduate and postgraduate students: supply chain professionals across different industry sectors and in different geographical settings; public policy-makers grappling with myriad logistics-linked challenges; and consultants and others whose work would benefit from an appreciation of current thinking about the supply chain.

As noted by previous editors of *Global Logistics*: 'One of the greatest pleasures of being editor is to be the first to enjoy the riches of the chapters as they are written. I now leave it to new readers to explore the chapters that follow, in the anticipation that they too will benefit, both professionally and personally, from the wealth of knowledge and expertise that they contain.'

Do enjoy reading this book.

**Edward Sweeney** 

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In line with good practice in supply chain management the timely publication of this book has required effective teamwork and collaboration. In this context, there are several people to whom I would like to convey my sincere thanks.

First and foremost, I recognize that an edited volume of this kind is only as good as the team of contributing authors. This book brings together the knowledge and insights of 30 individuals who collectively bring hundreds of years of experience to the endeavour. They represent a mix of academics, consultants and practitioners, thereby ensuring that the book is an effective blend of theory and practice. This is important as we have worked to ensure that this volume can be read equally profitably by those working as supply chain professionals in business and industry, as well as by academics, researchers and students.

This book was written during the Covid-19 period and this in itself brought many unexpected challenges. I am hugely grateful to my friends and family in Ireland, the UK and elsewhere for their support as we have all battled through this difficult period together. The experience has certainly taught us that we can only survive and prosper when we work collaboratively based on a recognition of shared goals and values.

Finally, this book would never have seen the light of day without the unwavering support of Joyce Byrne. As well as providing moral support when I was struggling with various facets of this project during the lockdown period, she brought her many talents – attention to detail and inimitable communication skills in particular – to the onerous task of proof-reading and related tasks. I send my love to Joyce as always, as well as my thanks for her practical support.

Edward Sweeney