

A man in a white short-sleeved shirt and dark trousers with a backpack is standing on a sandy beach. The background shows the ocean with a ship on the horizon and a person walking in the distance. The text is overlaid on this image.

# Travels of a Trade Economist: Journals for Family and Friends

Volume I: 1979-2005

By  
Alan V. Deardorff

Cover Photo: On beach in Cancun at WTO Ministerial Meeting 2003

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Journals for Family and Friends

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## Preface

These are journals that I wrote for family and friends during some of my international trips as a trade economist. I did my first in 1979 on a trip funded by the United States Information Agency that took me for the first time to three countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, and Australia. I don't recall what motivated me to write it, but these were such far-away places and so different than any I had experienced before, I may have felt the need to document them. Or this may have been suggested by my therapist, whom I had been seeing for a year or so and had encouraged me to express my thoughts and feelings.

After the 1979 journal, I either did not write another until 1991, or I did but have no record of it. I again don't recall what got me started writing them again, but I do know that from then on, I was encouraged to continue by several of the people listed below. I made some effort to write them when I traveled to a new country, but there were many trips and countries that I missed.

Several years ago, our son Ryan encouraged me to add photographs to the journals, now that the iPhone makes taking them so easy. He also suggested collecting the journals into a book. This volume is the result of following his suggestions. Unfortunately, while I took many photos with film cameras during the early trips, I've managed to find only very few of them. To replace the photos that I might have taken, I've included photos from the Web, especially from Wikipedia wherever possible. The captions identify these, though you can probably guess them without the captions, as my own photos are seldom as good.

Because I was writing for non-economist family and friends, these journals say relatively little about my professional activities on these trips. And they do not even touch on the economics that I was doing and reporting on. If a reader wonders what I might have been talking about in talks I was giving, Appendix 2 lists all my international activities that I have record of for the 1979-2005 period of Volume I and includes the titles of the papers and lectures that I was giving.

Also because of my intended audience when I wrote these, I refer to family and friends by first names and without explanation. They are:

Pat: My wife

Minda: Our oldest daughter

Ryan: Our son

Allie: Our youngest daughter

Josh: Our first grandson

Christian: Our second grandson

Dylan: Our third grandson

Helene and Vincent: Our dear friends, who frequently encouraged these

Sue and Jim: Our close friends

My plan is to edit and insert photos into all the journals that I have. There seem to be over 40 of them, however, and once I'd completed the first 20, I realized that there were way too many for one book. This is therefore only Volume I, and I hope to work on the rest of them over the coming months or years.

## Preface

I mention that I have edited these. The editing was very minor and mostly at the suggestion of either Microsoft Word's spell and grammar checkers, or of my wife, Pat. What you see is mostly what I wrote at the times mentioned. If I add a comment now, I put it in square brackets.

Some may wonder how all these trips were paid for. None of them would be considered part of my professional responsibilities as a professor of economics and public policy, and I can think of only one that was funded by a unit of the University of Michigan (China 2006 was part of a faculty exchange program of the Ford School and Renmin University). On rare occasions I used some of the faculty research funds that I was allocated by the Department of Economics and the Ford School. A few were funded by grants channeled through the University of Michigan – most obviously multiple trips to India for research on the Indian economy, funded by the Ford Foundation (not the same Ford as the Ford School). I, by the way, have never succeeded in getting a grant myself; Bob Stern did all of that.

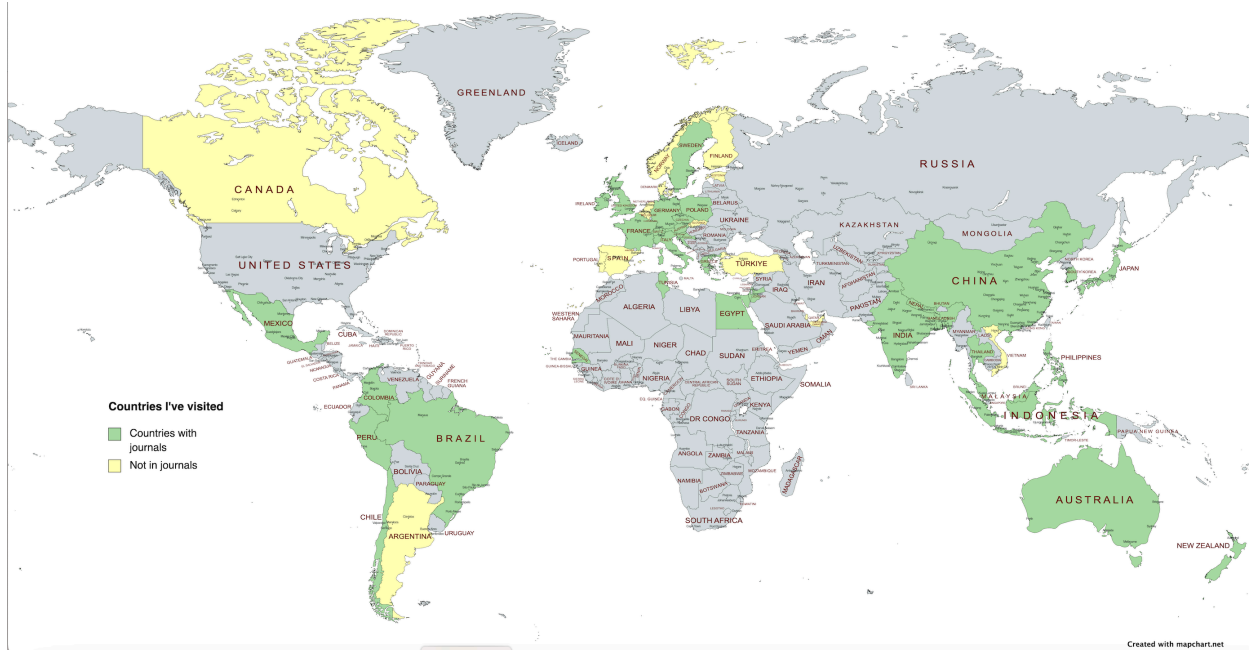
Most of my trips by far were done at the invitation of, and funded by, either institutions in other countries (governments or universities) or international organizations. Only rarely did these pay for first- or business-class travel, though I was occasionally upgraded due to my frequent-flyer status. I am very fortunate to be based in Ann Arbor, closer to the Detroit Airport than are parts of Detroit, with Detroit a hub for Northwest Airlines and later Delta Airlines. This makes it convenient to travel almost exclusively on a single airline and accumulate the miles there that both give me these upgrades and pay for travel by my family members.

You may think that I have been very lucky to have been able to do all this travel. I completely agree. My accidental specialty in the economics of international trade made both international research and international invitations more likely than for those in other specialties. As you will see from these journals, I mostly enjoy both long plane trips and poking around unfamiliar places. I enjoy the work that I do, which happens to have made a reputation that attracted these invitations. And I enjoy standing on my hind legs and talking about economics and international trade. So yes, I've been extraordinarily lucky.

But seeing now how much I have traveled during my career as documented in these journals – which cover only part of my international travel and none of my domestic travel – I realize with some surprise how much I have been away from Pat and my kids. I never thought of myself as driven to devote all my attention to work, but I'm now sure that my family must have thought that I was. It may be small consolation, but I hope these journals – which I shared with them after each trip – show that I often had them in mind.



## Travels of a Trade Economist



### Deardorff's Countries Visited

Country	Year(s)	Country	Year(s)	Country	Year(s)
Argentina	06 08 17	Germany	90 93 95 98 07 14 16 19	Norway	64
Australia	79 95 16 19	Germany, East	64	Peru	09
Austria	64 93 98 13	Germany, West	64	Philippines	95 08 10 13
Bangladesh	07	Greece	96 00 17	Poland	17
Belgium	64 81 83 85 99 02 07 08	Grenada	11	Portugal	02
Brazil	01	Hong Kong	97 99 04 05	Qatar	12
Canada	*	Hungary	13	Scotland	64
Cape Verde	13	India	94 95 96 98 99 04 09 13 14	Senegal	09
Chile	09	Indonesia	79	Singapore	12 17
China	01 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 12 13 15 16 17	Ireland	18	Slovakia	13
Croatia	06 13	Israel	11	Slovenia	06
Colombia	18	Italy	64 93 94 97 99 00 01 02 04 05 11 12 13 19	Spain	03
Czech Republic	98	Japan	97 98 00 01 04 09 10 14 16 19	Sweden	64 77 01 02 03
Czechoslovakia	64	Jordan	11	Switzerland	85 98 05 06 09 12
Denmark	64 96 02 08	Korea, South	91 07 07 12 15 18	Taiwan	91 98 10
Dubai, UAE	08	Macao	07	Thailand	92 03 09 11
Egypt	95 96	Malaysia	79 10	Tunisia	14 15
England	64 77 93 99 02 04 05 07 10 18	Mexico	93 03	Türkiye	08
Estonia	07	Nepal	96	Vietnam	04
Finland	04	Netherlands	64 99 02 13		
France	64 85 93 94 03 09 11 12 15	New Zealand	97		

\*I visited Canada first in about 1956, and too many times since then to count.

## Preface