

## PREFACE

Since China's accession to the WTO, China and the EU have witnessed dynamic growth in trade relations. The EU has become China's biggest trading partner and China, the EU's second biggest trading partner. Concurrently, bilateral trade relations with the two has emerged as a significant feature of the international trading system, with China being the world's most populous and second largest economy and the EU being the world's largest market. In the wake of the ongoing global financial crisis and against the backdrop of surging trade disputes between China and the EU, it is thus timely and useful to assess bilateral trade relations between these two powers, which are two very different types of international actors, with different economic and regulatory structures, and even value systems. This book is an attempt to identify the factors that are contributing to the trade disputes which have become part of, and have an immense impact on China–EU trade relations, and to address the issue of managing the surmounting trade disputes.