

IMPACT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT ON THE LEGAL SYSTEMS OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT

ABSTRACT

The paper explores the impact that international trade agreements, NAFTA in particular, have had on the legal systems of the American Continent. The author describes the change processes that are the result of the application of new economic models on Latin American development, and the role played on this development by legal instruments of economic integration. After that, some of the innovations introduced by these instruments are analyzed, as well as their implementation problems. Among others, the work reviews the effects of the transparency principle, the reduction of the discriminatory character of regulation principle, and the effect of international agreements on some administrative procedures. Finally, NAFTA's role on the future of trade and economic integration in the American Continent is discussed.