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Introduction

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GUIDO CALABRESI (Dean, Yale Law School): At a time when so much of the attention of our country is focusing on issues that seem great and are great—issues of constitutional moment, issues of Supreme Court confirmations, all sorts of things about which we all should care deeply—it may seem easy to lose track of all sorts of other issues that are fundamental to the workings of our society and of our legal system. Trade and international relations somehow get pushed from the center of the stage in these times. And yet, it is hard to say whether over the long pull these are not at least as important—even more important, perhaps—than some of the ones that look flashier at any given moment.

So, I am particularly glad that the Yale Law & Policy Review, a review run by students at the Yale Law School concerned with policy issues, has decided to focus on these questions for a symposium. It is important to raise these questions, to call them back to our attention, because they are always there, and rarely more pressingly than now.