



*Biographien*

## *Jagdish Natwarlal Bhagwati*

**b. July 26, 1934**

Jagdish Natwarlal Bhagwati (July 26, 1934) is an Indian economist. He is a University Professor of economics and law at Columbia University. Bhagwati is notable for his research in international trade and for his advocacy of free trade.

Bhagwati was born in Bombay, India to a Gujarati family; he spent his early years in Bombay where he received his BA from Sydenham College. Bhagwati later travelled to England to further pursue his education; he studied at St Johns College, Cambridge where he received his second BA in economics. He went on to MIT where he got his PhD in economics; here he was advised and supervised by Charles Kindleberger for his thesis entitled 'Essays in International Economics'.

After completing his PhD, Bhagwati returned to India in 1961, first to teach briefly at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, and then as professor of international trade at the Delhi School of Economics at the University of Delhi, from 1962 to 1968. From 1968 until 1980, Bhagwati was an economics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and by the time he left, Bhagwati was Ford International Professor of Economics.

Bhagwati currently serves on the Academic Advisory Board of Human Rights Watch (Asia) and on the board of scholars of the Centre for Civil Society. He is a Senior Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations. Bhagwati has previously served as an external advisor to the Director General of the World Trade Organization in 2001, as a special policy advisor on globalization to the United Nations in 2000, and as an economics policy advisor to the Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, from 1991 to 1993. He has also worked as a member of group appointed by the director-general of the WTO on the future of the WTO and the advisory committee to Secretary-General Kofi Annan on The New Partnership for Africa, and was also a part of the Eminent Persons Group under the leadership of Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso on the future of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

In 2000, Bhagwati was signatory to an amicus briefing, coordinated by the American Enterprise Institute, with the Supreme Court of the United States to contend that the Environmental Protection Agency should, contrary to a prior ruling, be allowed to take into account the costs of regulations when setting environmental standards.

Jagdish Bhagwati has submitted pieces in almost all renowned international newspapers and journals including the Wall Street Journal, Times Literary Supplement, Foreign Affairs, The New Republic, and New York Times

Book Review, . He has also frequently appeared on TV shows such as Charlie Rose Show, PBS NewsHour, Bloomberg and CNN. Bhagwati is a champion of free trade and is described as 'the most creative' international trade theorist of his generation. He has published several books including "Why Growth Matters: How Economic Growth in India Reduced Poverty and the Lessons for Other Developing Countries" and "Termites in the Trading System: How Preferential Agreements Undermine Free Trade", Termites in the Trading system discusses the harmful effects for preferential trade agreements while Why Growth Matters describes the beneficial effects of economic growth in India and how they can be imitated in other developing countries.

In January 2004, Bhagwati published *In Defense of Globalization*, a book in which he argues:

"...this process [of globalization] has a human face, but we need to make that face more agreeable."

In May, 2004, Bhagwati was one of the experts who took part in the Copenhagen Consensus project.

In 2006, Bhagwati was a member of the Panel of Eminent Persons who reviewed the work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In early 2010, Bhagwati joined the advisory board of the Institute for Migrant Rights, Cianjur - Indonesia.

Throughout his lifetime, Bhagwati has been recipient of several awards and honorary degrees. The more notable of his awards include the Mahalanobis Memorial Medal from Indian Econometric Society (1974), Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1982), Seidman Distinguished Award in International Political Economy (1998), Padma Vibhushan Award (2000), Lifetime Achievement Award from Indian Chamber of Commerce (2004) and Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star (2006).

Bhagwati is married to Padma Desai, also a Columbia economist and Russia-specialist; they have one daughter. He is currently lives with her, a Professor of Comparative Economic Systems at Columbia University. Their joint 1970 OECD study *India: Planning for Industrialization* was a notable contribution at the time.

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