
ECONOMIC REGULATION OF THE AIR TRANSPORT MARKET

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Outline of presentation

- 1 - The regulated period
 - 1-1 International traffic
 - 1-2 The domestic US market
 - 1-3 Europe
- 2 - The deregulation years
 - 2-1 The US deregulation
 - 2-2 International traffic
 - 2-3 The European single market
- 3 - An evolving situation

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1- The regulated period : a historically regulated industry

- ➔ Domestic traffic in the USA regulated until 1978
- ➔ European “Domestic” traffic liberalized between 1987 and 1997
- ➔ International traffic still regulated by bilateral agreements between countries
 - limited competition : some freedom in prices and frequencies but limitations in numbers of airlines



1-1 International traffic

- ➔ 1918-1939 : the era of absolute national sovereignty
- ➔ 1944-1978 : the era of regulation : the Chicago-Bermudas organization
- ➔ 1978 ... : gradual liberalization of international relations



The era of absolute national sovereignty (1918 – 1939)

- Paris conference in 1919 : principle of national sovereignty
 - airspace above a country belongs to that country
- International relations based on reciprocity
 - much haggling (commercial bargaining)
 - much distrust and political considerations
 - little efficiency
- System not favorable to the development of international trade

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The era of regulation : 1939-1978

- The Chicago conference (November 1944)
 - organized a standard framework for international aviation
- The bilateral agreements
 - The UK-US agreement “Bermuda” in 1946
 - How it worked until 1978
- IATA and the price fixing conferences
 - International Air Transport Association (IATA) created in 1945

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The Chicago conference : conflicting positions

- The USA propose a bilateral framework for negotiations
 - in a liberal context (prices, frequencies...)
- The UK proposes a world authority to allocate traffic rights and manage all regulations
 - economic regulation (prices, frequencies...)
 - other areas (security, standards...)
- Choice made of a bilateral framework
 - with possibilities of regulating prices and capacities



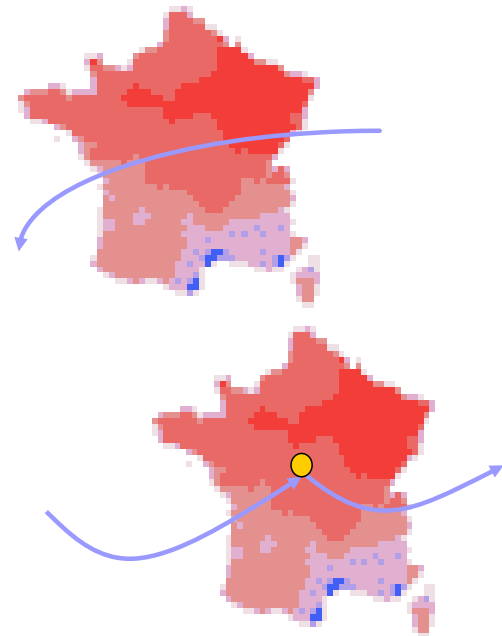
The results of the Chicago conference

- Creation of ICAO
 - world authority, establishing standards in terms of transport, security, air traffic control...
 - no powers of economic regulation
- Definition of “freedoms of the air”
 - “exhaustive” list of what kind of routes an airline can do
 - definition of 5 “freedoms”
- Framework of bilateral agreements



The technical freedoms

- First freedom : right to fly over a territory
 - The British carrier BA overflies France
- Second freedom : right to make technical stops in a foreign country
 - BA stops in France without taking passengers



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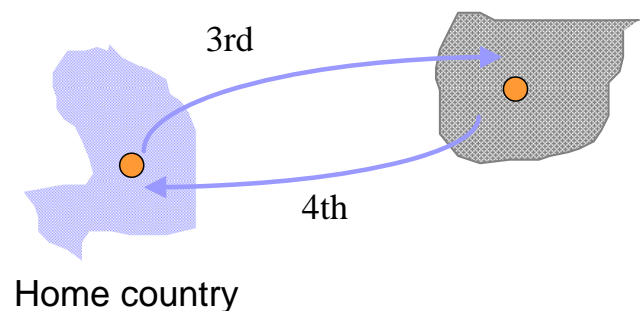


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The commercial air freedoms

- 3rd freedom : right to disembark passengers in a foreign country when coming from home state
 - 4th freedom : right to embark passengers in a foreign country and take them to home country
- Air China flying from Beijing to Tokyo (3rd), and taking passengers in Tokyo back to China (4th)



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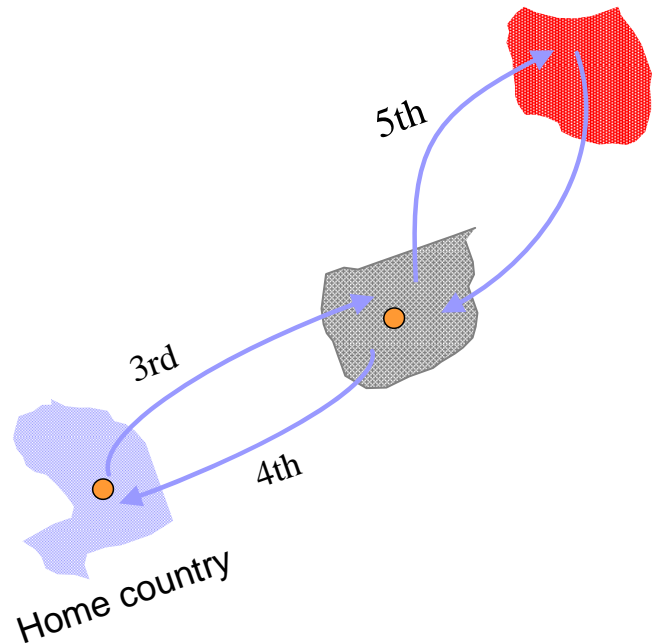
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The commercial air freedoms

✈ 5th freedom : Continue service of 3rd or 4th freedom to third country.

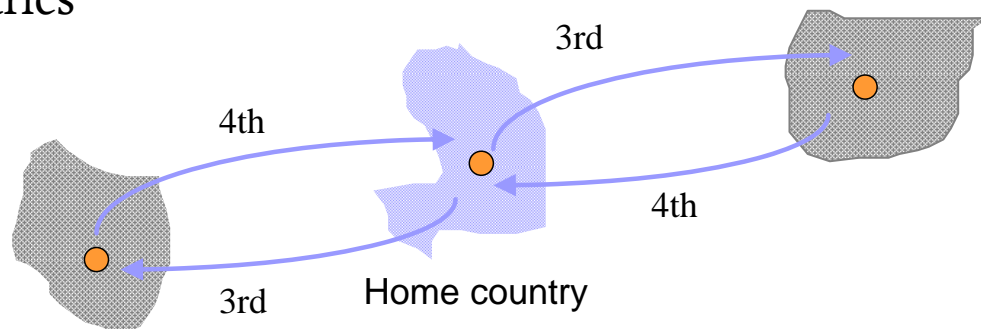
- Air China flying from Beijing to Tokyo and then on to Los Angeles and taking passengers in Tokyo



The additional freedoms

✈ 6th freedom*: combine 3rd and 4th freedom rights, to open a service between two foreign countries

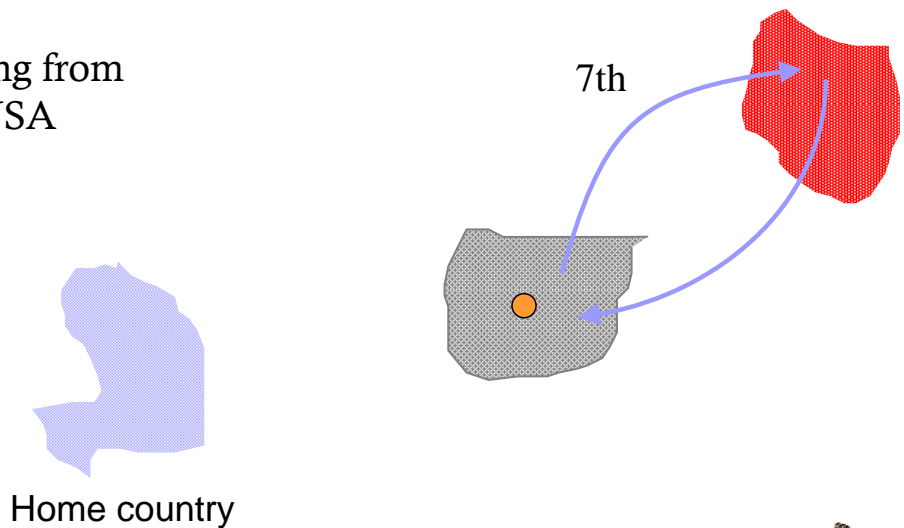
- Example : Air China flying from Paris to Tokyo through Beijing



The additional freedoms

✈ 7th freedom : 5th freedom without restrictions

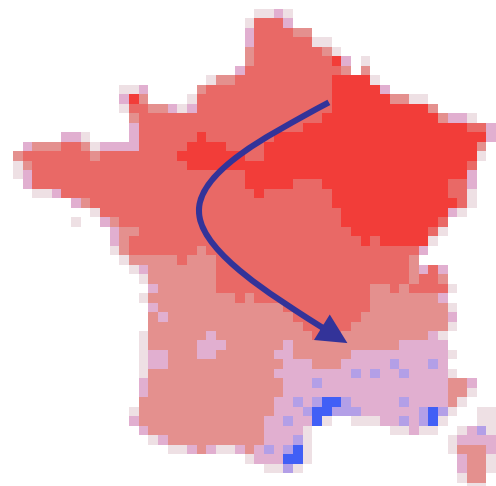
- Air China flying from Japan to the USA



The additional freedoms

✈ 8th and 9th freedom : “cabotage” with or without restrictions : right to fly inside a foreign country

- British Airways flies inside France
- Air China flies inside Japan



The Agreements

- ➔ The Transit Agreement : 97 countries over 159 in Chicago, agree to sign this agreement to exchange technical freedoms. Many signed later on.

- ➔ The Transport Agreement : a second agreement was proposed in Chicago, to exchange commercial freedoms. It was however not signed, and never came into effect



Framework of bilateral agreements

- ➔ Points of entry between countries
 - Different from routes opened!
- ➔ Freedom exchanged (3-4-5)
- ➔ Designated carrier(s) for each country
 - carriers designated by name
- ➔ Capacities (fixed or not)
 - 50/50 if fixed
- ➔ Pricing rules



IATA : International Air Transport Association

- Created in 1945 as an association of airlines
- Role of IATA :
 - Organize price fixing conferences
 - Organize cooperation between airlines : interlining, pooling agreements.
- Counter-power to the governments
- Today most major airlines and others...
 - about 230 members worldwide



IATA members : North America

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| ➤ Air Canada | ➤ Delta Air Lines |
| ➤ Air Transat | ➤ FedEx |
| ➤ Alaska Airlines | ➤ Hawaiian Airlines |
| ➤ American Airlines | ➤ JetBlue |
| ➤ Atlas Air | ➤ United Airlines |
| ➤ Cargojet Airways | ➤ UPS |
| ➤ Continental Airlines | ➤ US Airways |

Who is missing ?



The bilateral agreements

- First agreement signed between the US and the UK in 1946 : The Bermuda I agreement
- How it worked until 1978 : principle of reciprocity
 - Exchange of entry points (3rd and 4th freedom) and fifth freedom
 - mono-designation
 - equal share of capacity
 - very restrictive rule until 1978 : double approval rule
- No competition on international routes !



1-2 The domestic US market

- 1925 - 1938 : Beginnings of commercial aviation with the Air mail Act
- 1938 - 1978 : The era of regulation under the Civil Aeronautics Board
- 1978 ... : liberalization of domestic aviation with the “Airline Deregulation Act”



The beginnings : 1925 - 1938

- Air Mail Act signed in 1925
 - Postal service entrusted to private carriers
 - Generous contracts from federal government : efforts to develop postal air services
- Important development of air transport even for passengers
 - In 1926, 13 airlines, 2 millions of RPKs
 - In 1930, 38 airlines, 137 millions of RPKs



1934 - 1938 : Crisis years

- In 1934 federal subsidies are questioned and contracts cancelled
 - The Post Office Department (POD) and the airlines are under suspicion of “complicity”
 - The POD is accused of protecting the airlines
- The system is not economically sound
 - Airlines use subsidies for mail to transport passengers
 - Prices are linked to costs neither for post nor for passengers
 - bankruptcies and incidents are multiplying



1938 : A global regulation (1)

→ Aim:

- promote development of air transport : air transport seems particularly promising in this large territory
- protect the industry from bankruptcy and the public against abusive prices

→ Tool: government agency regulating the market

- as exists in other transport industries (railroads, 1887, roads : “motor carrier act” 1935)
- In the USA public services regulation began with transport modes



Global networks and cross subsidies

→ In a global network, some routes are more profitable than others

→ One means of developing such a global network is to use cross-subsidies :

- use profits from profitable routes to subsidize non profitable ones
- possible only if there is no price competition on routes, when airline is in monopoly situation on the network or when prices are regulated



1938 : A global regulation (2)

→ Why use regulation of the market?

- there seems to be economies of scales : no competition possible
- Fragile industry: protection from destructive competition
- the objective is to develop a small number of large airlines and a global US network covering many cities

→ How to do it :

- by protecting airlines from competition,
- by subsidizing them
- by promoting cross subsidies



1938 : The civil Aeronautics Act

→ Creation of CAB : Civil Aeronautics Board

- Federal agency (at first Civil Aeronautics Authority)

→ CAB regulates all economic aspects of air transport

- Entry on the market: certification of trunks, locals
- Traffic rights on each route
- Tariffs
- Agreements and mergers between airlines
- Subsidies for small routes

→ After 1940, the CAB regulates also safety aspects



The policies of CAB (1)

- Allow very little or no entry on the markets
 - by certification of airlines : certification of trunk airlines in 1938 (19 trunks), no certifications of trunks thereafter. Certification of local airlines(23 locals) in 1940
- Allow little or no competition on routes
 - by restricting routes to one or two airlines (depending on traffic)
 - by forbidding price competition : CAB regulates prices
 - but no control over frequencies or capacities



The policies of CAB (2)

- Regulates mergers
 - prevents bankruptcies by allowing some mergers
 - try to prevent monopolization of markets by preventing others
- Subsidizes small routes
 - in 1938 subsidies are one third of revenues for airlines
 - later CAB encourages cross-subsidies (by authorizing high prices on profitable routes) : after 1959 no subsidies for trunks
 - until 1978 still some subsidies for small routes



The effects of regulation : the US air transport system

- Important development of traffic
 - x 300 between 1938 and 1978
- Services to medium sized markets
 - Thanks to CAB subsidies and cross subsidies
 - the longest routes subsidize the shortest in the sixties (CAB study)
- Development of large (profitable) airlines
 - 11 trunks in 1978 dealing with all continental traffic, 13 locals, many smaller airlines (the commuters)
- Safe activity



The effects of regulation : the perverse effects

- No price competition, but frequency competition
 - too many flights, bad load factors (50% in 1976)
 - high costs (flying empty costs the same as flying full !)
 - high tariffs (airlines asked CAB for higher prices)
- Airlines are too well protected :
 - no incentives to reduce costs : at the end of the seventies, the trunks are called “the dinosaurs”
- The public is faced with too high prices
 - air transport still largely reserved to business travelers



1-3 Europe before liberalization

- ➔ Until the mid 80th, international traffic is ruled by (non liberalized) bilateral agreements
 - no competition : the aim is to protect the national airlines
- ➔ The canvas :
 - one “main” airline for each country
 - capacity is shared equally (and revenues can be shared)
 - prices are fixed by IATA
 - double approval rule



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2 - The deregulation years : from 1978 until today

- Domestic traffic in the USA deregulated in 1978
- International agreements evolve towards more competition since 1978 between the USA and the rest of the world
 - gradually more price freedom since 1978
 - new “open skies” agreements proposed since 1992
- European “Domestic” traffic liberalized between 1987 and 1997
 - a largely free European market



2-1 The US deregulation

- Context and objectives
- The Airline Deregulation Act
- What happened ?
 - Market structure
 - Networks
 - Prices
 - Airlines
- The results



The US deregulation: the context

✈️ Politic context

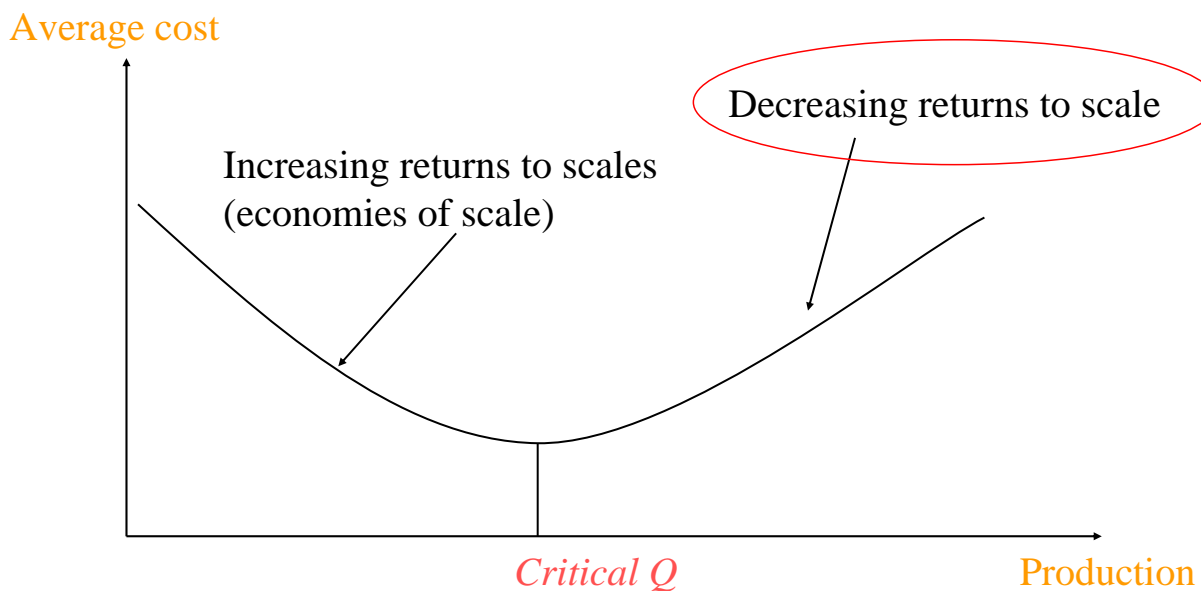
- Liberal policies: “Markets do better than the government”
- Many deregulations to come in all sectors of the economy (the Reagan era: 1980-1988)

✈️ Economic context

- Profitable industry (very few subsidized routes)
- Large (and inefficient) airlines
- Potential oligopolistic competition
- Skepticism about economies of scales



Returns to scale



The objectives of the US deregulation

- The first step is to introduce more competition by deregulating
- Competitive pressure will then give airlines incentives to lower their costs
- More competition and lower costs should result in lower prices and better services
- Lower prices will then lead to a faster development of traffic and a higher social welfare
 - more people will have access to air transport



The Airline Deregulation Act (Oct. 1978)

- After a short transitory period, the market become «free» for all airlines (old and new) to access and serve
- Access to the market
- Traffic rights (after 3 years)
- Prices (after 4 years)
- Mergers and agreements ruled by the Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Subsidies allocated by auctions (Essential Air Services)



What happened ?

- Difficult to really know the pure effects of deregulation!
 - The industry would also have evolved without deregulation
 - It is very sensitive to the economic environment
- Short term and long term effects on:
 - The structure of the market
 - Networks : development of the hub and spoke
 - Prices
 - Airlines



The structure of the market : 1978 - 1983

- The first post deregulation period is one of intense competition
 - New airlines are created (about 120)
 - Existing small airlines (commuters) enter the nationwide market (about 80)
- Severe competition between new and old airlines
 - Price competition (price wars)
 - Aggravated by the 1981 crisis of overcapacity (oil shock)
 - In 1983 bankruptcy of Branif, ending this period



The structure of the market : 1983 - 2007

- Progressive concentration of the market
 - Bankruptcies and mergers, few new entrants
- Development of « mega carriers » with an extensive network, owning smaller subsidiaries
 - The large 1978 airlines have either disappeared (Pan Am, TWA, Eastern Airlines, Branif...)
 - Or they have turned into « mega carriers » (American Airlines, United, Delta, Continental)
- A new model of airline has been developing: the low-cost airline (following Southwest)



The US majors : from 1978 to 1998

1978

Trunks	
Airline	Market Share
United	21,9%
American	13,6%
Eastern	12,2%
Delta	11,0%
TWA	9,6%
Western A.L.	5,2%
Continental	4,6%
Braniff	3,9%
National	3,6%
Northwest	2,7%
Pan Am	1,2%
Total	89,4%

1998

Majors	
Airline	Market Share
Delta	17,1%
United	17,0%
American	16,1%
Northwest	8,2%
USAir	7,9%
Continental	7,8%
Southwest	6,8%
TWA	4,3%
America West	3,4%
Alaska	2,2%
Total	91,0%



The US market in 2011

- From the post deregulation new actors, only 2 large remain (Southwest, US Airways)
- The market is more concentrated than in 1978
 - Several mega-carriers have been merging
 - US Airways + America West
 - Delta + Northwest
 - United + Continental
- The low-cost market is a dynamic and profitable «niche»
 - And another merger : Southwest + Airtran



Networks : the hub and spoke system

- Looking at the European airlines, the US airlines invent the hub and spoke network :
 - Network centered on a main airport : the hub,
 - With routes (nearly) all going to and from the hub
 - Add the idea of optimizing the connection times (banks of arrivals and departures)
- They choose hubs in un-congested airports, in large cities (Denver, Atlanta, Dallas...)
- All large airlines choose this type of network and abandon the point to point network



The effects of deregulation on prices

→ Old price structure :

- 2 prices + 2 discount prices
- prices based on distance : $p = a \times \text{distance} + b$

→ New prices :

- several discount prices with restrictions
- prices based on competition and revenue optimizing (development of revenue management)
- price wars



Have prices gone down ?

→ A sure decrease in prices on average

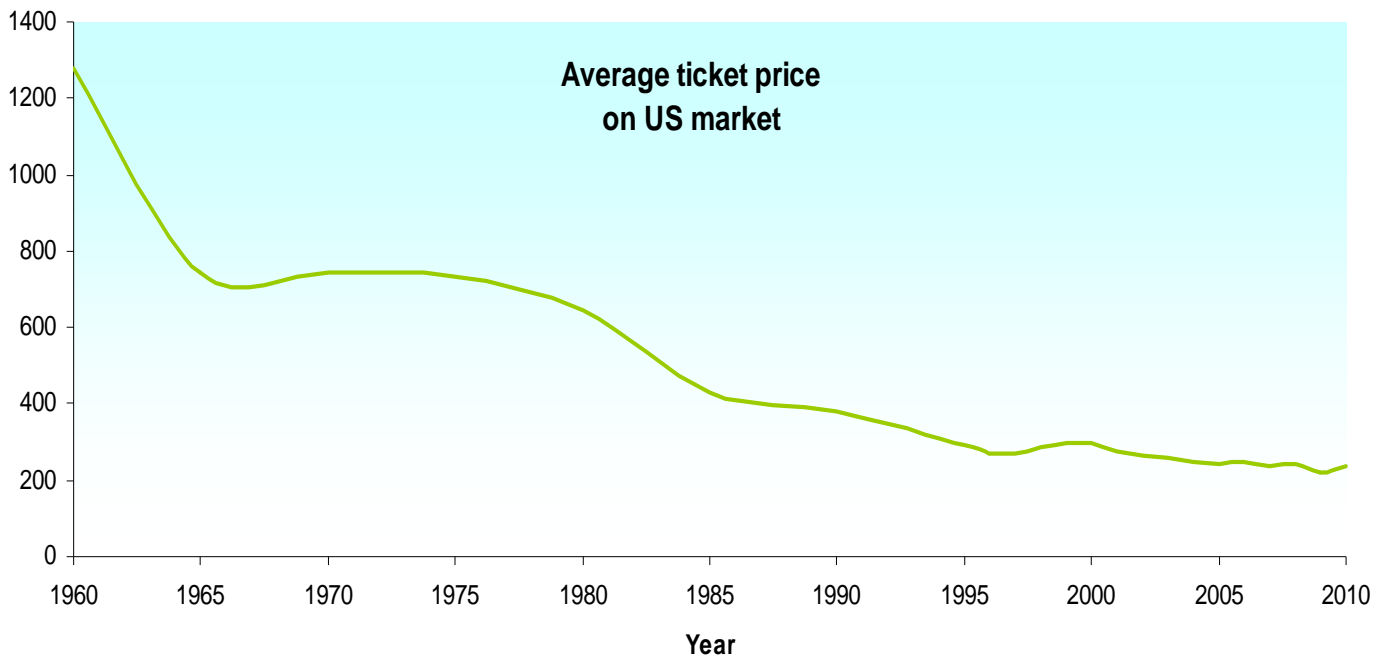
- A study (G. William) concludes that prices are 15% lower than they would have been without deregulation

→ but differences due to competition level

- Other studies (GAO) show that prices are higher (+30%) on non competitive routes than on others



Evolution of prices on the US market



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The effects of deregulation on airlines

- ✈ Restructuring of existing airlines
 - costs reductions
 - productivity increases
 - fleet restructuring (hubs !)
- ✈ Development of new management and commercial tools :
 - Computerized reservation systems (CRS)
 - Frequent Flyers Programs (FFP)
 - Revenue (or Yield) management
- ✈ New concept of airline : the low-cost airline

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The results : 30 years later

- ➔ Important increase of traffic
 - larger access to air transport
 - better services, lower prices
 - with the negative effect of congestion
- ➔ No safety problems
- ➔ Concentration of the market and profitability problem for majors
 - competition from “low cost” airlines
 - Majors too dependent on the domestic market

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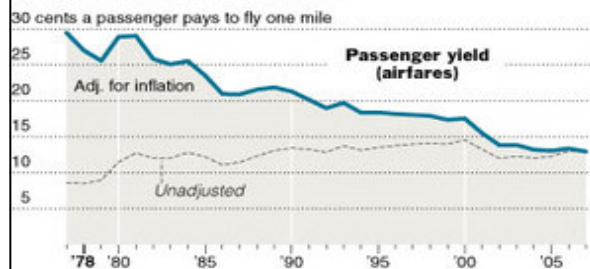


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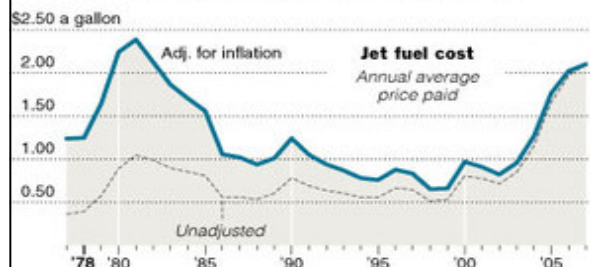


A Deregulation Scorecard

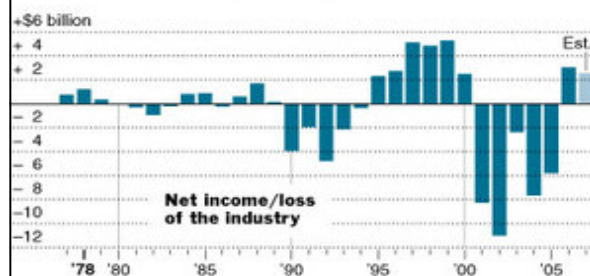
Since the airline industry was deregulated in 1978, real ticket prices have fallen steadily ...



... fuel expenses rose, then fell, but have recently risen again ...



... and maintaining consistent profits has proved to be difficult, with about \$35 billion in losses in the five years since 2001.



Source: Air Transport Association

Results of deregulation in the USA

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2-2 Deregulation of International traffic

- ➔ Trend initiated by the USA
 - liberal context
 - “bad” re-negotiation of the Bermuda agreement (Bermuda II, 1977)
 - domestic deregulation in 1978
- ➔ The USA will try to impose more competition between airlines in all their bilateral agreements
 - they think that competition is better for everybody
 - but especially for the US airlines



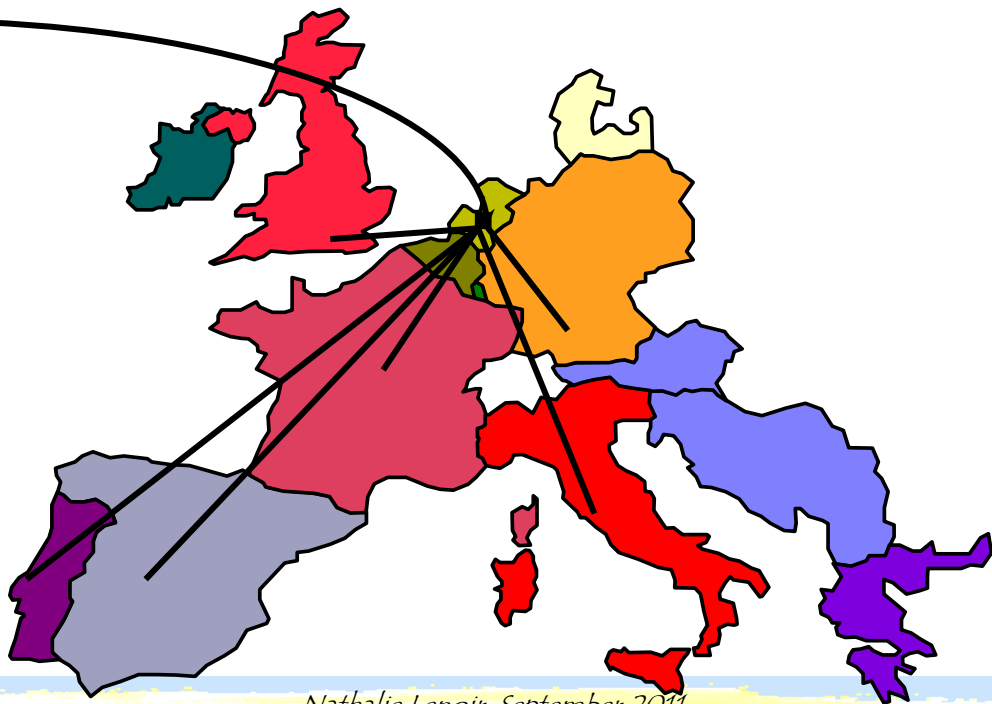
Re-negotiation of bilateral agreements 1978 -1985

- ➔ Agreement in 1978 between The USA and the Netherlands
 - Double disapproval rule : free prices (or nearly free)
 - In exchange for the Netherlands cooperation : 2 new entry points in the USA for KLM
- ➔ The result is diversion of European traffic towards the Netherlands
 - The other European countries are obliged to renegotiate (1978 -1985)
 - Same strategy in the Pacific area (with Singapore)



The traffic diversion of 1978

USA



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The effects of the first steps of liberalization

- Traffic growth : x3 between France and the USA between 1982 and 1994 !
 - Falls in prices
- Disappearance of charter traffic on the North Atlantic routes
- The US airlines increase their traffic shares on some markets (France, Germany, ...) but loose on others
 - overall the market is divided rather equally
- Price wars

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The North Atlantic market 1982-1993

Compagnies :	1993		1982		% croissance du trafic
	US	Europe	US	Europe	
USA/France					
Passagers (000)	2 419,6	1 176,9	675,9	666,1	168,0%
Part de marché	67,3%	32,7%	50,4%	49,6%	
USA/Royaume-Uni					
Passagers (000)	4 995,2	6 563,8	3 090,6	2 210,1	118,1%
Part de marché	43,2%	56,8%	58,3%	41,7%	
USA/Allemagne					
Passagers (000)	3 289,7	2 369,1	1 103,2	1 235,9	141,9%
Part de marché	58,1%	41,9%	47,2%	52,8%	
USA/Total					
Passagers (000)	14519,27	16867,6	6815,9	8301,5	107,6%
Part de marché	46,3%	53,7%	45,1%	54,9%	

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1991, a difficult year

- The Gulf war, and its effects on air transport:
 - higher fuel prices,
 - economic slowdown,
 - reductions in demand
- Over-capacity on the markets
 - Aircraft deliveries
 - American, United and Delta arrive in Europe
 - Leading to new price wars on the North Atlantic
- The USA want to review their bilateral agreements

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1992, the "open skies" agreements

- The USA want more competition on the markets
 - no limits on capacity
 - no restrictions on price
 - more 5th freedom rights
- They need to give something in exchange
 - entry points !
- New type of agreement "proposed" by the USA
 - same strategy as in 1978 to impose their view
 - first country to sign agreement : the Netherlands in 1992



Structure of an "open skies" agreements

- No restrictions on frequencies and capacities
- Permission to operate between all points of both countries without restrictions
- No restrictions on price
- All possible 5th freedom rights are automatically granted
- Possibility of signing code sharing agreements with US airlines
 - a compensation for the absence of cabotage rights in the USA



2-3 The European single market

→ Steps of European liberalization

- The three packages

→ Consequences of liberalization

- Airlines
- Infrastructure
- Passengers
- International traffic



The steps of the European liberalization

→ 1957: Treaty of Rome

→ 1986: Single European Act

→ 1987: first package of European liberalization

→ 1990: second package of European liberalization

→ 1992: third package of European liberalization

→ April 1997: end of transitory period, full effects of liberalization laws



1957 : Treaty of Rome

- Creates the European Economic Community
 - ...to promote...a harmonious and balanced development of economic activities... the raising of the standard of living and quality of life...
- The means (among others):
 - the abolition of obstacles to the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital
 - a common policy in the sphere of transport
 - a system ensuring that competition in the common market is not distorted



The first steps

- 1983 : inter-regional air services liberalized
- 1986 : single European Act
 - creation of the single European market (01/01/1993)
 - decision to include air transport in the common market
- 1986 : the “Nouvelles Frontières” ruling
 - decision of the European court of justice in favor of “Nouvelles Frontières”
 - The European commission encourages competition



The first package (1987)

- Extension of 1983 law on regional services
- Prices : 2 pricing areas
 - reduced prices : between 65 and 90% of full fare
 - very reduced price : between 45 and 65% of full fare
- Routes : Multi-designation on routes of more than 250000 passengers
- Capacity shares : from 50/50 to 60/40
- Limited 5th freedom rights
 - with restrictions: one airport is not a first category airport



The second package (1990)

- Final extension of 1983 law
 - all 3rd and 4th freedom right liberalized
- Prices : 2 pricing areas
 - reduced prices : between 80 and 94% of full fare
 - very reduced price : between 30 and 79% of full fare
- Routes : Multi-designation on routes of more than 140000 passengers
- Capacity shares : from 60/40 to 25/75
- More 5th freedom rights and limited cabotage rights



The third package (1992)

- ➔ Free prices (01/01/1996)
- ➔ Capacity shares : no limitations
- ➔ 5th and 7th freedom rights liberalized (01/01/1995)
- ➔ Cabotage liberalized (01/04/1997)
- ➔ Free access to the market for all airlines from the community
 - new legal concept



Consequences of liberalization : the airlines

- ➔ Restructuring of major European airlines
 - privatization of most public national airlines
 - costs reductions, search for efficiency
 - more cross-border restructuring to come...due to new bilaterals
- ➔ New entrants : the low-cost
 - Following the model designed by Southwest
 - Main ones are : Ryanair, Easyjet
 - low-cost, low fares



Consequences of liberalization : infrastructures

→ Old and new hubs

- large hubs have been re-organized : scheduling of flights more efficient in order to minimize connection time
- new hubs are appearing : medium size hubs mostly

→ Traffic increase and smaller planes

- pressure on airports and airspace
- problem of the slot allocation on major airports : barrier to entry for competitors



Consequences of liberalization : the passenger

→ More frequencies and more destinations

- consequence of the increase in traffic
- and of the shuttle system
- and of the new organization of hubs

→ Lowered fares

- more competition on domestic routes
- but most international routes are still operated by only 2 carriers
- Fares difficult to measure (lack of statistics)



Consequences of liberalization : International traffic

- International traffic inside Europe liberalized for European airlines
 - New routes opened, new airlines operating them
 - Only restrictions are airports slots at busy airports
- International traffic with the rest of the world
 - Old bilateral agreements challenged by EC
 - Nov. 2002 ruling by European Court of Justice: “the open skies judgments”
 - It led to new rules and new agreements

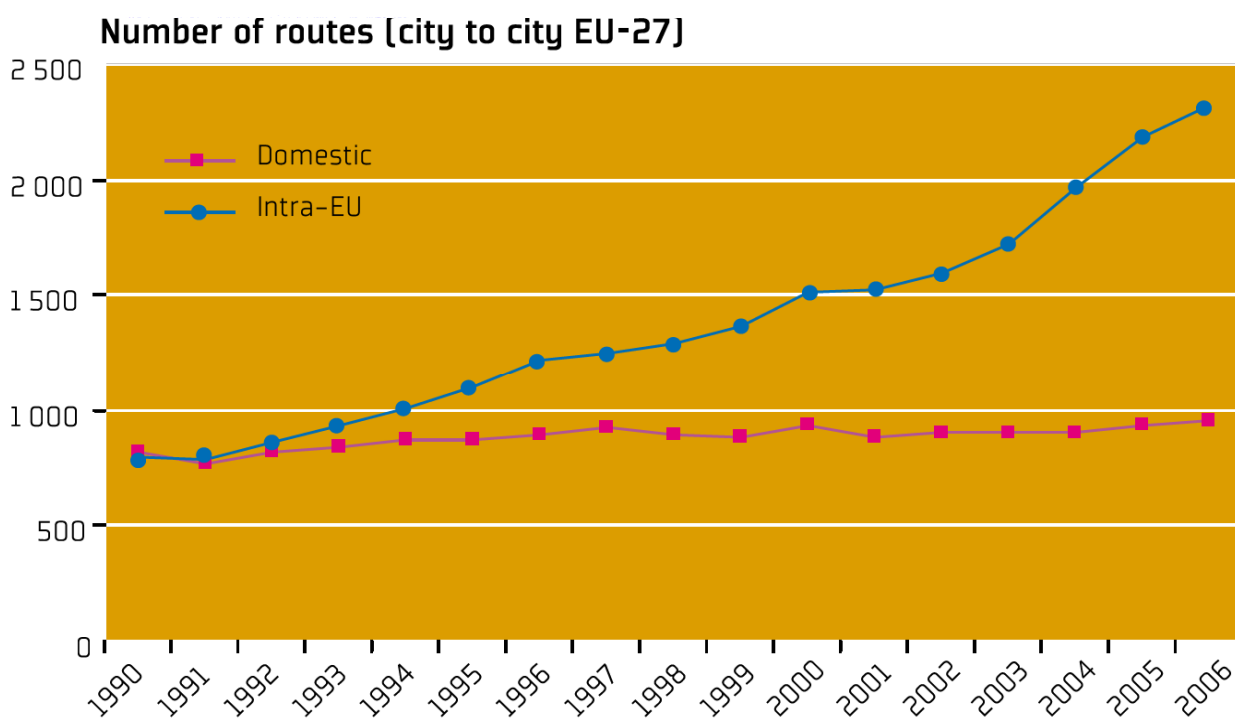
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New routes opened !



Source: OAG schedules, European Commission

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The open skies judgments

- With old bilaterals, European carriers had only access to international routes from their home countries
- The EC considered this as a distortion of competition between EU airlines and went to court over 8 agreements with the USA.
- The ruling stated that these agreements were contrary to the EU Treaty.
- As a consequence, all of the bilateral agreements between EU Member States and other countries contained illegal elements and had to be modified



International traffic: new rules

Two options:

- Let countries revise bilateral to include non-discrimination
 - 114 agreements corrected*
- The European Commission negotiates new “horizontal agreements” with foreign countries
 - changes with 35 partner states and one regional organization with 8 member states*, representing formerly 615 bilateral agreements
 - Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, Singapore, USA...

*Source European Commission, may 2008



International traffic: the case of US-EU negotiations

- Negotiations June 2003-march 2007
 - Several conflicting points
 - Agreement reached in march 2007: new agreement came into force in march 2008
- Three problems to address :
 - ✓ European airlines have international access only from their home country
 - ≠ US airlines can only be owned by foreigners up to 25% (49.9% for European airlines)
 - ☹ No access to the US market for European airlines (US airlines do have a large access to the European market!)



The European Common Aviation Area (ECAA)

- Integrate neighbor countries inside European aviation area
 - 8 countries from south east Europe (Balkans)+ Iceland and Norway have signed
 - Second group : Mediterranean countries
 - Morocco has signed
 - Third group : Russia and neighbors
- Benefits :
 - Same market operation rules, improving security, safety, air traffic, environmental protection
 - development of markets: economic benefits



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3- An evolving situation today (1)

- ➔ For better or for worse, air transport has been largely deregulated
 - USA
 - Europe
 - International markets
- ➔ This trend will go on, and more markets will become deregulated, or more lightly regulated
 - Trend strongly encouraged by the USA except on domestic market, and by Europe (ECAA)



An evolving situation today (2)

- As a result, more and more competitive markets
 - Inside deregulated areas (US market, Europe)
 - Between those areas : North Atlantic market, US-pacific market
- At odds with an old regulatory structure which limits airlines freedom
 - The bilateral system still holds
 - Ownership restrictions : system of national airlines in a world of multinational companies because of bilateral agreements



The "old" bilateral system

- Prevents airlines from restructuring over borders, for fear of losing traffic rights
 - maintains small, unprofitable "national" airlines (Asia)
 - Partly solved in Europe by the new rules at European level
- Leads them to an alliance policy, inadequate substitute to restructuring
 - Is questioned by IATA and ICAO
 - evolutions in the years to come



Possible evolution of bilaterals

- The ownership clause could be replaced by an activity clause
 - an airline having its operations in one country (airport base, employees, management) instead of having its capital owned by nationals, would be considered as a “national airline” in bilateral agreements
 - this airline would be controlled by the country’s authorities (to prevent flags of convenience)
- This would enable cross border restructuring
 - and maintain high level of control (safety, finances...)



Or no bilaterals ?

- Creation of large « free » area like ECAA :
important degree of freedom inside those areas
 - No need of bilaterals inside
- If ECAA is successful, it could be enlarged, or copied elsewhere...



Remaining role of the Authorities

- Monitor the markets :
 - traffics, prices, airlines financial situation...
 - give actors in the industry a fair access to information
- Look for anti-competitive practices and prevent them as far as possible
 - monitor competition conditions
 - make sure airlines have access to the markets
- Monitor partnerships and mergers
 - in order to avoid monopolization

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Remaining questions

- Internationalization of airlines
 - On what conditions: safety and security aspects, social aspects...
- What Authorities ?
 - In a global airline industry, there is a need for a “global” Authority, even if local ones remain useful : ICAO ?
- Some countries may want to stay aside
 - In order to “keep” the domestic market for national airlines (China ?)

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