



International Supply Chain Management

A. Mert AYKOR

*The Art of Creating
Cutting-Edge Solutions
for Global Trade and Commerce.*



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Supply chain management is the **process of coordinating the flow of goods and services from supplier to customer**. A strategic supply chain management comprises functions such as **planning, organizing, directing and controlling** procurement as well as distribution activities within an organization to meet customer demand, while enhancing profitability and efficiency as well as gaining a competitive edge in the marketplace. Supply chain management is the coordination of all activities in relation to producing and distributing goods and services. In order to keep up with the competition, companies need to have an explicit vision and strategy for their supply chain as well as the latest technology.

The modern concept of supply chain management originated in the early 20th century. In 1924, Henry Ford implemented a revolutionary new system for supplying parts and materials to his automotive factories. Ford's Just-In-Time (JIT) delivery system eliminated waste and improved efficiency. Other companies began to adopt similar strategies and by the 1950s, supply chain management and modern supply chains were becoming a fundamental part of business operations.

While supply chains refer to the network of suppliers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers, who work together to bring products to market, supply chain management, on the other hand, is the process by which the participants in these networks manage their interactions with each other. Hence, international businesses adopt the global supply chain management concept, which enables them to source materials and products worldwide. Supply chain management is a crucial part of any business and it is becoming increasingly complex, as the world becomes more digital.

Companies need to have an explicit vision and strategy for their global supply chains as well as the latest technology in order to keep up with the competition. In the years ahead further advances in artificial intelligence and increased digitalization of supply chain management are expected.

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