

Limits to Regional Integration (The International Political Economy of New Regionalisms Series)

By Søren Dosenrode



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Regionalization in general and regional integration in particular have taken place at a growing pace since the end of the Cold War, when states were set free from various security overlays. Regional integration is 'logical' as it is supposed to advance wealth and peace. Still, the picture is far from clear and the process of regional integration is not automatic; disintegration takes place, as we saw in the cases of the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia to mention a few. This is the case not only in states recently brought together but also in traditional states like Britain, The Netherlands and Spain where strong groups strive for independence. In some places regionalization is flourishing, but regional integration is not. Some regional integration projects like the North American Free Trade Agreement and Mercosur seem to stagnate. Certainly there are limits to regional integration. This comprehensive volume, written by high profiled academics, covers these themes by examining eleven cases ranging from the lack of integration in the Arctic and the Middle East, to ongoing or progressing integration in Europe to uncover what 'blocks' regional integration, the results of which are used for developing new theoretical insights.



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Review

'Dosenrode deserves credit for putting these chapters together, with very perceptive comparative conclusions, based on diverse case studies stretching from the least (the Arctic) to the most integrated region (the EU). The book successfully brings back the classical theories, somewhat neglected in recent years. It is a most welcome addition to the literature on comparative regional integration.' Finn Laursen, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark 'This is an important book on an increasingly important subject with contributions from a distinguished group of international scholars. Unlike many writing in this area, the contributors make no prior assumptions about the future paths of regional integration, but instead provide detailed analysis of the limits to integration drawn from a wide range of empirical examples. Dosenrode should be congratulated both for the broad scope of this collection and for placing diverse integration experiences in theoretical context.' David McKay, University of Essex, UK

About the Author

Søren Dosenrode is a Professor of International Politics, Jean Monnet Professor of European Studies, and Director of the Centre for Comparative Integration Studies at Aalborg University. He holds an MPhil from the University of Copenhagen, and a DPhil from the University of Zù⁄₄rich. Søren currently heads a research project on indicators for potential regional integration. His latest Ashgate publication was The European Union after Lisbon: Polity, Politics, Policy.

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