



How Germany Unified and the EU Enlarged: Negotiating the Accession through Transplantation and Adaptation

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provide a rich account of the two contrasting approaches characterised by calls for bans of parties and associations, criminal containment, and surveillance in Germany and the broad toleration of non-violent extremist activities in the US. The first two clusters moreover provide explanations for the contrasting approaches, such as the differing historical experiences with political extremism and differences in the electoral system, protecting the American political system much better from the entrance of small extremist parties than the German one. Flümman furthermore aims at evaluating the two approaches from a normative perspective of democratic legitimacy. Even though his assessment criteria remain relatively vague, he compiles several recommendations which have the potential to enrich reform debates on both sides of the Atlantic.

The book focuses primarily on non-violent right-wing and left-wing extremism. Flümman himself admits that these are, with the exception of the National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD), only a marginal phenomenon in both countries. They definitely do not pose a threat to the existence of democracy. One is therefore left wondering whether the inclusion of state responses to more recent threats, such as extremist Islamism, would have been a valuable addition to the analysis.

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How Germany Unified and the EU Enlarged: Negotiating the Accession through Transplantation and Adaptation, Tereza Novotná, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015, 235 pp., \$110 (hardback), \$79.99 (ebook).

Tereza Novotná's latest book takes the reader on a fascinating journey into the political dynamics of one of the most dramatic periods in recent European history – the reintegration of former Communist states into the Western European state system. Novotná has carried out an impressive amount of interviewing to get to the heart of the question as to *how* the former DDR was integrated into the Federal Republic and how the states of Central and Eastern Europe, exemplified here by the Czech Republic, were accommodated by the Western European framework of the European Union. Novotná's nuggets of personal reflection from a large number of the key actors involved in these two transitions is both illuminating and gripping, throwing new light on these dramatic transformative challenges. For the scholar of contemporary political history, this makes for fascinating reading and is an elegant reflection on the complexities involved in both transitions.

Novotná's formulation of a model for capturing the specific dynamics of these integration processes – transplantation and adaptation – is solidly grounded and offers a fresh perspective on these momentous events. That said, however, they both appear to downplay some significant factors in both cases – the lure of greater economic opportunity (and stability) presented by the larger entity which these former Communist states were joining. The framework also does not do justice to the dominant narratives of 'belonging' which were so convincing in both cases – on the one hand to a greater German community and the 'return to Europe' undertaken by the Central and East

European states. These ideas serve to root these transformations in a historical moment, one which Novotná downplays in suggesting that these processes offer lessons to other states in transition.

There is also a sense that despite the substantial elite interviewing undertaken, a more sober assessment of the top-down imposition of change, as opposed to the direction of change, would help to explain both the mobilisation and the commitment of local actors to the processes of change that Novotná rightly argues played such a significant role in both cases.

In essence, then, this book is a great read for anyone looking to explore the dynamics of state integration in a period of rapid change, and offers fresh insights into a hugely significant aspect of contemporary European history.

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