

ROUTLEDGE RESEARCH IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Drivers of Integration and Regionalism in Europe and Asia

Comparative perspectives

Edited by Louis Brennan and
Philomena Murray



This is a scholarly, comprehensive and timely study of the different experiences of regional integration that Europe and Asia, two of the world's most diverse and important areas, have had in recent history. Covering issues like trust, sovereignty, reconciliation and values, the contributors show that in spite of differences, there is much that both can learn from each other as they strive for a more dynamic relationship in the twenty-first century.

Kerry Brown, *Director of the China Studies Centre and Professor of Chinese Politics, University of Sydney, Australia*

The book offers rich insights into the drivers and development of regionalism in Europe and Asia, covering a wide range of themes and providing comparative perspectives between the two regions. This worthy analysis represents an invaluable guide and a must-read for all who are interested in regional studies.

Emil Kirchner, *Jean Monnet Chair, University of Essex, UK*

This is an excellent book that fills a much needed gap in the literature on regional integration by analysing the comparative drivers of regional cooperation in Europe and Asia. What is especially welcome in this volume is a comparative approach that does not take European regional integration as a benchmark for Asian regional integration. It sets out an exciting agenda for future work on comparative regionalism which will be invaluable for researchers working on regional governance. Highly recommended.

Kanishka Jayasuriya, *Professor of Politics and International Studies and Director of the Indian Pacific Governance Research Centre, University of Adelaide, Australia*

Detailed yet highly accessible, a cutting-edge account of the key driving forces behind regional integration in Europe and Asia. Carefully avoiding a Eurocentric approach, the contributing authors provide scholars and policymakers alike with an essential source of conceptual, empirical, comparative and multidisciplinary insights into the study of regions.

Bart Gaens, *Senior Research Fellow, The Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Finland*

The European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are two relatively successful regional organizations in the world, and their trans-regional cooperation in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is likely to redefine and affect both regional and global politics. In this context, there is an increasing demand for knowledge in order to understand both regional organizations and their collaborative relations and efforts. This edited book meets this demand by undertaking a comprehensive comparative study of European and Asian regionalism. The intellectual virtue of this book lies in the fact that it brings together diverse scholars from both regions and offers a variety of fresh perspectives. The uniqueness of this book is its focus on the multifaceted drivers of, as well as impediments to, regionalism in comparative terms. It covers a wide range of issues such as the role of crisis, traditional and non-traditional security, economic dynamics, regional institutions, and processes of European and Asian regional integration. I strongly recommend it as a textbook for graduate courses on international relations, comparative regionalism and global politics.

Baogang HE, *Professor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*

Drivers of Integration and Regionalism in Europe and Asia

This book examines the drivers of regionalism and integration in both Europe and Asia and seeks to forge comparative perspectives between the two regions.

Comprising contributions from scholars, analysts and policymakers, this volume explores and debates how and why regional bodies such as the European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are formed and sustained. Furthermore, it examines the drivers of, and impediments to, regionalism and integration. The debates regarding what and who constitute drivers are presented in a fresh, thematic and comprehensive manner. Leadership and core states are also critically examined whilst material, ideational and normative factors are all assessed comparatively. Significantly, in light of the global financial crisis, the book considers the role of crisis as a driver of regionalism and integration.

This book will be of interest to students, scholars and policymakers interested in Asian and European politics and comparative politics.

Louis Brennan is Professor in the School of Business and Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin. Until recently he was the Director of the Institute for International Integration Studies.

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To Margaret and Michael, with appreciation (LB).

To John and Stephen, with love (PM).

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Preface and acknowledgements

The genesis of our collaboration on this book came about when Louis Brennan was the director of the Institute of Integration Studies at Trinity College and Philomena Murray had been recently appointed research associate of that institute. Occasional conversations in due course developed into a joint interest in aspects of integration and regionalism in Europe and Asia. We identified a gap in the literature regarding drivers of regionalism and integration across these two regions. This project developed from those interactions.

We secured funding from European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme grant 2012-2728/001-001 (Jean Monnet Programme – Key Activity 1), which we gratefully acknowledge. The funding allowed us to organise an international symposium that was held at Trinity College Dublin in July 2013, hosted by Trinity College Dublin and the University of Melbourne. At this symposium, the authors presented and discussed the draft chapters for this volume. We would like to thank the authors for the committed discussions and chairs at this productive and animated symposium. We would also like to thank Colette Keleher, Frauke Wolf and Dr Margherita Matera for their assistance with the grant and the symposium. We are grateful to the members of the symposium steering committee, Prof. Bernadette Andreosso-O'Callaghan and Dr Paul Gillespie, for their contribution to the planning of this event.

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This volume brings together contributions that seek to advance our understanding of the drivers of integration and regionalism in European and Asia. The 23 chapters were written by 23 contributors, who are Asian, American, Australian and European. The contributions come from not only eminent academics and rising scholars, but also policy actors. The volume also features important chapters from thought leaders in think tanks and research institutes.

The approach is comparative, transnational and interdisciplinary. This volume has been subject to thorough preparation, with a careful and rigorous editing process, bringing together the substantial expertise of the contributors.

We expect that this volume will fill a gap in an area that has been largely unexplored, which has the potential for further enquiry and indeed merits great scholarly attention. The book provides frontier knowledge for undergraduate and graduate courses in related topics. This volume illustrates the value of interdisciplinary and transnational collaboration and will no doubt lead to greater and deeper connections among researchers, scholars and policymakers internationally.

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Louis Brennan and Philomena Murray

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