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COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION AMONG
EUROPEANIZED STATES

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EUROPEAN RESEARCH
RELOADED:
COOPERATION AND
INTEGRATION AMONG
EUROPEANIZED STATES

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PREFACE

The Three Waves of European Research

European cooperation and integration has continued to progress forward over the past five decades, with an ever deepening impact on the member states. The first wave of research into these processes concerned European integration, the process of institution building and policy developments at the European Union (EU) level. The second wave, on Europeanization used integration as an explanatory factor in understanding domestic political change and continuity related to the EU. What is now necessary is to link our understanding of these ‘bottom-up’ and ‘top-down’ processes of integration and Europeanization in the EU.

This book argues that a third wave of research on the EU is needed to adequately understand the increased interconnectedness between the European and national political levels. We posit that this third wave should be sensitive to the temporal dimension of European integration and Europeanization. In particular, we seek to link the processes of European integration and Europeanization in a new way by asking the question: how has Europeanization affected current modes of integration and cooperation in the EU?

Part I. Europeanization of the Member States. Preparing the ground for the third wave, the first part of the book concerns Europeanization. In order to fully understand the feedback of Europeanization on cooperation and integration it is important to analyze how European integration has had an impact on member states in the first place, in particular indirectly, beyond the direct mechanism of compliance with European policies. The research presented here stresses the role which domestic actors and in particular national governments have in utilizing indirect mechanisms to their advantage, hence guiding the Europeanization impact on the member states.

Part II. European Integration. The second part of the book concerns integration and cooperation, in line with what we see as the third wave of research. Here we analyze how prior integration effects, that is Europeanization, influences current preferences for integration. We find that earlier integration effects have had a significant influence on those preferences. This has resulted, perhaps somewhat surprisingly, not always in a preference for closer integration, but instead for new forms of looser cooperation between the member states.

Part III. Conceptual Challenges. The multi-faceted interrelationships between the EU level and the national level and the increased interconnectedness between them, cast doubt on the appropriateness of traditional readings of central concepts of political science and international relations such as territory, identity and sovereignty. The final section of the book therefore concerns the conceptual challenges faced by the continued development of multi-level governance. These contributions show that a

conceptual reorientation is necessary because up until now these concepts have been almost exclusively linked to the nation state.

One of the key findings of the book is the astonishing variation in modes of cooperation and integration in the EU. We suggest that this variation can be explained by taking into account the sources of legitimacy at the national level and at the EU level on which cooperation and integration are based. We argue that whereas economic integration, in particular the creation of a single market, could be sufficiently backed by output legitimacy, deeper integration in other areas requires a degree of input legitimacy that is currently lacking in the EU. Therefore, non-economic integration is often taking forms of looser types of cooperation, such as the open method of coordination and benchmarking, allowing domestic actors more control over the Europeanization of these policies onto the member state. We elaborate on this speculation in the conclusion and believe that it should be part of the future research agenda of the third wave of European research.

About the European Research Colloquium

This book emerged from the European Research Colloquium (ERC) of the Netherlands Institute of Government (NIG), which was founded by the editors of this volume in 2002. A small group of researchers from the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, and Denmark met every six months over the past three years to debate substantive topics, the choice of research design and methodology, and, in particular, the empirical research presented by each author in this book.

The ERC offers secondary mentoring to PhD students researching and writing on topics related to the European Union and European comparative politics. During each two-year period, a small group of 14-16 PhD students meet twice a year to discuss their comparative European and EU research with senior scholars from NIG. NIG is a network of eight political science and public administration departments from Universities across the Netherlands.

The ERC has the following objectives:

- Improve the quality of EU and European comparative PhD dissertations by focusing attention on research design, methodology, and theoretical innovation of the students' research.
- Build a cohort of young researchers stretching across Europe to build the next generation of comparative scholars who will know and cooperate with one another now and in the future.

- Create a book length manuscript, consisting of chapters written by each PhD participant, to share the results of the colloquium with the broader academic community.

The five 3-day conferences of the group were held at Erasmus University Rotterdam, the University of Twente, University of Nijmegen, University of Utrecht (University College Utrecht and the Utrecht School of Governance), and for the final meeting we returned to Rotterdam.

The following senior scholars met with the PhD students in small groups to discuss their research with them during our meetings at the different member institutions of the Netherlands Institute of Government. We extend our gratitude and thanks to them. The students greatly benefited from their wisdom and advice.

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We would also like to thank the NIG for their encouragement and guidance in launching the colloquium, including the previous management team at the University of Twente, Jacques Thomassen, Oscar van Heffen, Herman Lelieveldt, Marcia Clifford and Marie-Christine Prédéry, as well as the present one at the Erasmus University Rotterdam, Christopher Pollitt, Sandra van Thiel, and Vicky Balsem.