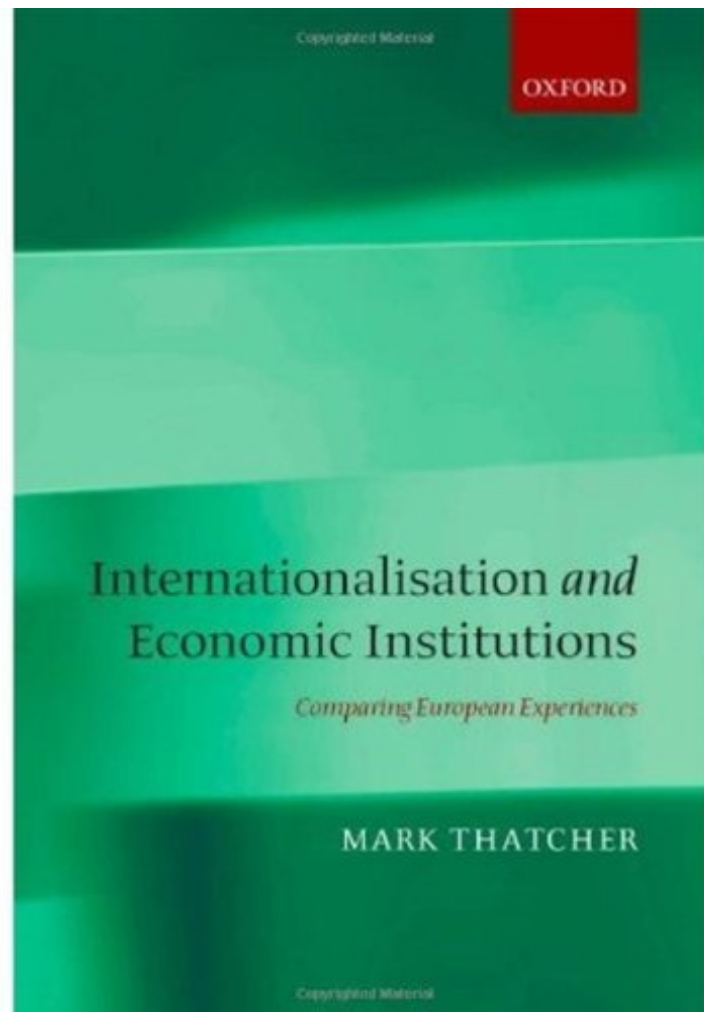


(Download pdf) Internationalization and Economic Institutions: Comparing the European Experience

Internationalization and Economic Institutions: Comparing the European Experience

Mark Thatcher

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Mark Thatcher : Internationalization and Economic Institutions: Comparing the European Experience before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Internationalization and Economic Institutions: Comparing the European Experience:

This book examines when, how and why internationalization affects national economic institutions. It confronts questions at the heart of debates in political economy and comparative politics: What does internationalization of markets mean? Who are its carriers in domestic arenas? Through which mechanisms does it affect decisions about national institutional reform? What are institutional outcomes in the face of internationalization?The book responds to

its questions by looking at key economic institutions in five strategic sectors: securities trading, telecommunications, electricity, airlines, and postal services. It compares across four countries that represent different 'varieties of capitalism', namely Britain, France, Germany and Italy, over the period between 1965 and 2005. Thus it combines cross-national, historical and cross-sectoral comparisons. The author distinguishes technological and economic forms of internationalization from policy forms, notably decisions in powerful overseas nations and supranational regulation. He argues that, contrary to expectations, the first was met with institutional inertia. In contrast, policy forms of internationalization, namely reforms in the US and European Union regulation, played significant roles in undermining long-standing national institutions. The book explores the mechanisms whereby policy forms of internationalization were influential by looking at the strategies, coalitions and resources of key actors in national arenas. It also shows that institutional outcomes were surprising: all four countries, albeit through different routes, adopted increasingly similar reforms of economic institutions--privatization, the ending of monopolies and delegation to independent regulatory agencies. The book rejects the view that technological and economic forms of internationalization drive institutional change. It suggests that policy forms of internationalization are more important because they become part of domestic decision making and aid the reform of well-established national institutions.

About the Author Mark Thatcher is Reader in Public Administration and Public Policy, Department of Government, London School of Economics and a member of the Centre for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation (CARR), LSE. His research lies in the field of comparative public policy and regulation in Europe. His interests lie in the way that institutions are designed and created, and then the effects of those institutions on the relationships between politics and markets. He has worked on the regulation of telecommunications and other utilities in Britain, France, Germany and Italy, and at the EU level. He is currently studying the regulatory reform in Western Europe and the effects of independent regulatory agencies.