Europeanization: Top-Down, Bottom-Up, Two Way

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What is the European Union?

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What is Europeanization?

- Contested and multifaceted concept
- No Europeanization concept is exclusive, rather complementary

What is Europeanization?

- * A single European culture (Roman Empire, Christianity, Renaissance, Baroque age, Enlightenment, French revolution)
- Europeanization of the Earth (colonization, soft power) exporting norms and values
- European continental identity, which is above national identities
- EU-nization (internal, external cooperation or coercion?)

Why would one want to study Europeanization as a process between the EU and the member-states?

Explanations of Europeanization as EU-nization:

Two major studies:

- 1. How member states shape EU policies, politics, and polity
- 2. How the EU triggers change in member state policies, politics, and polity

Let's distinguish between policies, politics, and polity

- Policies are planned formations (plans of actions) of social domains such as economy, environment, or education through collectively binding decisions (remember policy-making)
- * Politics describes the theory and practice of the power struggle between the players within a country or at the international arena
- * Polity is used in the sense of "community", means politically organized societies such as the nation-state

European Union through its institutions

The EU's Acquis Communautaire

National governments and other domestic actors

Top-Down

- How the EU triggers domestic change in member states and third countries
- Shared beliefs and norms are first consolidated at the EU policy level
- * How the EU downloads these norms to the national level?

European Union through its institutions

Triggers domestic change

The EU's Acquis Communautaire

National governments and other domestic actors

Misfit in domestic policies, politics, or polity

Top-Down

- * Rationalist approach: EU makes domestic changes happen by changing opportunity structures for domestic actors (cost-benefit: additional resources)
- Constructivist approach: logic of appropriateness: actors are guided by their understanding of socially accepted behavior (local actors – advocacy, NGOs – will push for compliance) – *Environmental Policy*
- More efficient administrations are better takers (Denmark, UK, Sweden vs. France, Italy, Greece)
- * Case of third countries: Copenhagen criteria, ENP

European Union through its institutions

Misfit between EU policies, politics or polity and states' preferences

The EU's Acquis Communautaire

National governments and other domestic actors

Triggers change in the EU

Bottom-Up

How states upload their preferences at the EU level

- * Rationalist approach: actors have fixed and predefined interests, which they lobby
- **Constructivist approach:** actors are open to persuasion (can change their interests in presence of good arguments)

Bottom-Up

Rationalist approach:

Intergovernmentalism – states with more votes at the EU Council are better positioned, they form winning coalitions and act through concessions (package deals and side payments) and threats (*Common Fisheries Policy – fishing quotas and access to fishing areas*)

Constructivist approach:

States are more successful in shaping policy outcomes, if their arguments resonate well with the beliefs and norms of other actors (*CAP Luxembourg – wanted to limit the EU budget spent on CAP*)

Two-Way: Sequential Perspective

Member states, which have enough powers to upload their preferences successfully, have fewer difficulties in downloading them