Authoritarian Regionalism in the World of International Organizations
Anastassia V. Obydenkova and Alexander Libman

The post-Cold War world has witnessed the extensive development of regional international organizations world-wide. The relationship between their membership and democratization remains a topic of intense scholarly debate. This book opens up a new aspect of the debate by examining regional organization as set up by autocracies (e.g. Iran, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Russia, and China)—referring to them as “non-democratic regional organizations.” How do these newly emerged organizations counteract and confront the democratization process in their own member states and beyond their borders? How and why do the political regimes, the economic development and the cultures of their member states impact the foundation and development of these organizations? What influence do these organizations have on migration, trade, conflicts, and democratization? The book addresses these questions by developing a new theory of authoritarian regionalism. Employing quantitative analysis of authoritarian regionalism world-wide and its historical development since the 1950s, as well as analysing case studies of post-Soviet Eurasia, the book argues that authoritarian regionalism is a new phenomenon in world politics and that modern non-democratic organizations differ from their historical predecessors and that their influence has radically increased in terms of geographic scope and intensity in the last few years. As such, authoritarian regionalism is an important addition to studies of comparative regionalism and the international dimension of authoritarianism. From the policy perspective, non-democratic regional organizations pose a challenge for Western actors in promoting democracy around the world.
Regionalism and Political Regimes
Anastassia V. Obydenkova and Alexander Libman

in Authoritarian Regionalism in the World of International Organizations: Global Perspective and the Eurasian Enigma

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This chapter contributes to these ongoing debates and critically re-examines existing literature on regional integration and modern autocracies. In particular, it addresses some of the streams of the literature: theoretical studies looking at regionalism world-wide; studies on whether autocracies can cooperate; and studies on autocracy diffusion and cooperation. The chapter identifies the research gaps in the literature and raises theoretical and empirical questions, which are addressed in the book. This chapter provides an overview of the existing literature on democratic peace and the emerging studies on dictatorial peace; on the external dimension of authoritarianism; and on the international cooperation of autocracies.

Informal Drivers of Regional Regulatory Integration
Moises Costa and Wade Jacoby

in Leveling the Playing Field: Transnational Regulatory Integration and Development

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We analyze the development of regulatory regionalism in emerging markets using the auto sector in both the influential European Union and the far less powerful MERCOSUR. Our conclusion is that regional integration regimes can, under certain conditions, have effects even outside their formal territorial and sectoral scope. In Central and Eastern Europe in the early 1990s, the auto sector both anticipated and promoted EU membership, culminating in enlargement by 2004 and bringing regulatory integration and substantial industrial upgrading. In Latin America, a series of powerful but unexpected feedback effects from MERCOSUR has affected the auto sector despite the fact that the sector is excluded from the formal regional accord. Thus, the advocates of integration in the auto sector—business in the EU but mostly politicians in the MERCOSUR case—each seem to be winning out in their own
way, generating regulative integration and, often, harmonization and industrial upgrading.