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This book investigates the scope and limitations of the transformative power of European Union enlargement in the Western Balkans.

The extension of EU enlargement policy to the region has generated high expectations that enlargement will regulate democratic institution-building and foster reform, much as it did in Central and Eastern Europe. However, there is very little research on whether and how unfavourable domestic conditions might mitigate the transformative power of the EU. This volume investigates the role of domestic factors, identifying 'stateness' as the missing link between the assumed transformative power of the EU and the actual capacity to adopt EU rules across the region. Including chapters on Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina, leading scholars in the field offer up-to-date comparative analysis of key areas of institutional and policy reform; including state bureaucracy, rule of law, electoral management, environmental governance, cooperation with the International Court of Justice, economic liberalization and foreign policy.

Looking to the future and the implications for policy change, *European Integration and Transformation in the Western Balkans* provides a new theoretical and empirical focus on this little understood area. The book will be of interest to scholars and students of EU politics, comparative democratization, post-communist transitions and Balkan area studies.

Arolda Elbasani is Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

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Europeanization or business as usual?

Edited by **Arolda Elbasani**



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