

The European Union and its Member States:  
Theory and Empirical Studies  
in the Field of Internal Market Integration

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In order to clarify factors that affect the outcome of EU-policies, this paper attempts to examine the implications of focusing on domestic politics in studying the relationship between the EU and its member states.

After the successful implementation of the Single Market Programme, scholars became aware of the development of the EU and suggested many theoretical approaches toward it. However, these theoretical approaches have problems due to their narrowed scopes: they tend to focus on specific (and timely) phenomena, in other words, they are partial/mid-range theories. In order to overcome the problems, this paper suggests an alternative approach that focuses on aggregations of policy preferences through domestic politics. Through three case studies in the field of internal market integration, this paper shows a mechanism to influence the relationship between the EU and its member states, and provides implications for further research on other “pillars” and the EU study as a whole.