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Globalization, Democratization and Development

European and Japanese Views of Change in South East Europe

Edited by
Vojmir Franičević and Hiroshi Kimura

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About the book:

On more than 500 pages this book presents thirty edited papers written by reputable economists, sociologists and political scientists. These papers were first presented at the conference 'A new dialogue between Central Europe and Japan, part five: The South-East European Countries in Transition', organized by the Faculty of Economics - University of Zagreb, Zagreb, 12-14 September 2002 and for this volume the authors revised and updated them. The contributors to this unique volume, a majority of whom came from Europe and Japan, are specialists in the postsocialist transformation, economic, political or cultural.

The chapters in the book are focused, yet not exclusively, on *South East European transformation*. Intriguing and complex economic, developmental, social, political, ethnic, security and cultural issues are raised. The authors discuss some common economic and political patterns and trends, the causes and reasons for the lag behind the so-called 'Northern tier', and the prospects of EU and NATO integration. A number of contributors concentrate on issues of regional fragmentation and disintegration, cooperation, security and ethnic relations. Some papers deal with quite general topics such as globalization and democratization. Another group of papers deals with the experiences of the more advanced transition countries of Central East Europe and with their political and economic dilemmas. Finally, the volume includes issues of reforms facing modern Japan. This collection thus provides many challenging *comparative insights* in postsocialist economic and political transformation. In addition the book offers fresh theoretical and policy analyses and a number of *policy recommendations* in all realms of reforms, some also taking into account experiences from South East Asia and Japan during the 20th century.

The first group of papers deals with economic and political reforms in South East and Central East Europe, but also those in Japan. They offer general assessments of postsocialist transition and integration, thereby fully taking into account the global economic, political and security context. The second group of papers is centred around issues of political change. The central topics of these papers are linked to: democratization, conflict resolution, nationalism and ethnic issues. Finally, the third group of papers deals with a complex set of economic issues relevant for South East Europe. These papers concentrate on the regions macro and micro developments, trade, foreign direct investment, financial and labour markets and unofficial activities and on growth and development in the region.

Word from the editors

"The editors very much hope that researchers, teachers, students, journalists, experts, policy makers and wider public will find this book a valuable source of information, fresh data, analyses, ideas and policy recommendations on postsocialist transformation, but also, that it demonstrates the value of intellectual and scientific exchanges among researchers and academics coming from different parts of our global world: the world which is caught between forces of integration and fragmentation, of differentiation and harmonization, of conflicts and reconciliation."