

Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

Europe-Asia Studies

ISSN: 0966-8136 (Print) 1465-3427 (Online) Journal homepage: http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ceas20

EU Leadership in Energy and Environmental Governance. Global and Local Challenges and Responses

Ramazan Erdağ

To cite this article: Ramazan Erdağ (2016) EU Leadership in Energy and Environmental Governance. Global and Local Challenges and Responses, Europe-Asia Studies, 68:8, 1458-1459, DOI: 10.1080/09668136.2016.1230402

To link to this article: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2016.1230402

Published online: 28 Oct 2016.

Submit your article to this journal

View related articles

View Crossmark data

Full Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at
http://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?journalCode=ceas20

Download by: [Eskisehir Osmangazi Universitesi] **Date:** 28 October 2016, At: 07:18

news media (dailies and weeklies) are strangely called in to represent 'popular perceptions'. Just how respectable broadsheets with circulations in tens of thousands can be seen as specifically tied to popular opinions remains an unanswered question.

That said, the volume is a timely and useful addition to the growing field of the discursive construction of Europe and the EU. The scope of new material it introduces to the field, thorough reviews of past studies, clear structure and language, invest this book with a fundamental aspect that makes overlooking it in further research on representations of Europe in the two regions an unforgivable omission. The opening chapter by Ole Elgström and Natalia Chaban, apart from laying out the conceptual scheme of the project, interestingly problematises the normative role of the EU as connected to membership aspirations. Merje Kuus' chapter provides an insight into how EU officials regard Europe. The historical analysis of Patrick Holden and Thomas Warren is a useful summary of the increasingly challenged role of the EU in postcolonial Africa. Christian Tristl and Veit Bachmann show how the EU pragmatically alters its priorities in its official discourses on different countries. Ketevan Bolkvadze and Rachel Naylor, as well as Diana Zubko and Ievgenii Rovnyi in their respective chapters find, counter-intuitively, that Georgian and Ukrainian discourses on Europe are not always unanimously positive. Anita Kiamba and Veit Bachmann emphasise pragmatism and increasing subjectivity in the Kenyan discussions on Europe. Lastly, Nannette Abrahams and Aly Tandian expose a dynamic towards a more critical view of Europe in Senegal, a central country in the network of Africa–Europe migration flows.

Even though in many respects the book falls short of its own ambition, it should be required reading for those working in European Studies, experts in the areas of Eastern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa, certainly interesting to geographers, political scientists, media and cultural studies scholars, researchers in international relations, politicians and practitioners, and anyone with a specific interest in Ukraine, Georgia, Kenya, Senegal and their places in the current European crises.

ROMAN HORBYK, Doctoral Student, Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden. *Email*: roman.horbyk@sh.se.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2016.1230406 ROMAN HORBYK © 2016

Jakub M. Godzimirski (ed.), *EU Leadership in Energy and Environmental Governance. Global and Local Challenges and Responses*. Basingstoke & New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, xvi + 229pp., £68.00 h/b.

ENERGY HAS BECOME ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL politics, resulting in an increase in interdependence. In this sense, energy security, both physical security of energy pipelines and sustainable energy supply, is a priority on the political agenda of states. Godzimirski's edited volume provides an effective examination of the role, relationships and sensitivities of the European Union (EU) in international energy policy. The book is a collective publication of the project entitled Global Re-ordering: Evolution through European Networks (GR:EEN) and brings together several experts in global energy politics. The book mainly focuses on EU approaches towards changing the nature of global power and the energy environment. It also highlights the interaction of energy relationships among states and energy governance by testing whether EU values and norms shape global energy politics.

The edited collection includes three main parts comprising experts' and scholars' articles addressing different perspectives of EU energy policy as well as an introduction and a conclusion. Part I surveys the EU energy policy outline in terms of political, structural and external factors. This part of the book analyses the EU's role as energy player and explores the formation and implementation of EU energy policy. In this section, the book examines the role of EU institutions, in particular the European

Commission (EC), by developing a new concept: regulatory power. In this sense, the book explores the regulatory power of the EC in forming the EU's energy strategy, which aims to diversify EU energy resources and reduce emissions with the possibility of constituting a European Energy Union. Part I also focuses on EU responses to global energy crises in the wake of the Russia–Ukraine crisis.

Part II deals with the traditional energy relationship between Russia and the EU and the effect of China, as an emerging global power and as one of the most important energy consumers, on EU energy policy. The second part discusses two different dimensions of EU energy relationships: Russia and China. This part pays special attention to EU–Russia energy relations because the rate of energy interdependence is quite high between the two. The energy dependence of EU members on Russia varies from one state to another. The volume emphasises the impact of new EU members in increasing energy dependency on Russia. Part II provides a useful understanding of EU–China energy relations, arguing that the lack of energy dependence between two actors prevents the improvement of their relations. Part II also searches for new regional energy cooperation opportunities between the EU and China in Africa. In addition this part pays special attention to the issue of global energy governance, in particular the process of 'glocalisation' (the practice of conducting business according to both local and global considerations).

Traditional EU energy policy focuses on energy supply security, constituting integrated internal energy regulations that aim at reducing energy dependency, in particular on Russia, and enhancing environmental protection measures. Godzimirski's collection goes beyond this traditional approach of EU energy policy based on security, affordability and sustainability in the context of an external gas and oil supplier. Part III explores new directions for the EU in terms of diversifying energy sources and establishing and enhancing an energy relationship with the USA and Brazil. The book discusses new energy cooperation, alternative models and routes between Russia and the USA, in particular shale gas and oil resources and Brazil oil imports. Brazil is an emerging global energy player with substantial oil reserves. In this regard, the authors of this part explore future energy cooperation opportunities between Brazil and the EU and they address the need for establishing renewable energy sources.

The book maps the EU energy situation on global energy policies by testing the responses of the EU and its institutional structure. It argues that the EU is not as strong as other important actors, such as the USA, Russia or China, in the international energy market. The authors claim that each EU member has a different energy agenda and sensitivities; hence it is not easy to establish and implement a common energy policy within the EU. This means that EU members perceive energy issues as existential politics, such as security, and consider foreign policy as high politics, so they are unwilling to transfer their independent decision-making powers in determining their energy policies to EU institutions, in particular to the EC. Furthermore the book highlights the importance of the EU values of human rights, democracy and transparency in administration as a soft power in the formation of energy relations. Besides, it alleges that there is a lack of hard power, the most influential factor in determining the international energy market, which other important global energy players such as the USA, Russia and China possess.

The book provides a well structured analysis of EU energy policy capacity by testing its responses to international challenges in terms of the energy union aspect and institutional (EC) capacity. Although it does not cover all answers to the EU's energy questions, it provides useful analytic research in understanding global energy policy, international challenges and actors' responses to those.

RAMAZAN ERDAĞ, Associate Professor of International Relations, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Eskişehir, Turkey. *Email*: ramazanerdag@yahoo.com.

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2016.1230402 RAMAZAN ERDAĞ © 2016