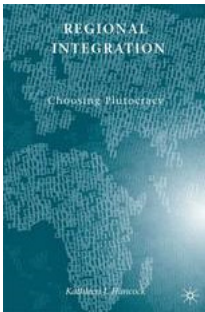


# BOOK REVIEW

## Regional Integration, Choosing Plutocracy

Reviewer : Alif Nurfakhri Muhammad  
Number of Page : 264 pages  
Author : Kathleen J. Hancock  
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In recent development of regional integration, some expert tried to investigate on important driving factor to regional integration. Such expert is Kathleen J. Hancock, who tried to explain the phenomenon of regional integration with economy as the driving factor and as stimulant for states in reaching regional integration. In this book, Hancock explained it with theoretical background, historical background, and recent development of regional integration in economy.

The first chapter of this book is the introduction, in which Hancock started with explaining some form of regional integration in economy by looking at the 1828 Treaty of Customs Union between German State of Hesse-Darmstadt with Prussia, in which she implied that this may be the earliest form of regional integration of economy. Also, she explained here that, a customs union is a deeper part of economic-regional integration. This bilateral treaty would later lay the foundation of one major state only in setting the tariff levels and every smaller state have equal vote in policy making to the 1834 Zollverein Treaty (or Toll Union Treaty) which under the German Empire in 1871, almost all German States became member of the treaty.

In the second chapter, Hancock continued by explaining on how and why States economically integrate. Ever since the Cold War ended, more and more States integrate economically through various form of integration, most which with a regional background, regardless of economic development, government type, or culture. These forms of economic-regional integrations include a global economic integration, the World Trade Organization (WTO) to smaller, bilateral economic-regional integration in various region in the world. Hancock would later give examples of these integration in the following chapter.

The third chapter of this book talks about the “Theory of Plutocratic Delegation”, in which Hancock described it as a type of governance structure that States sometimes use for economic integration. Plutocracy, Hancock described, is a type of structure that got overlooked by scholars who mostly looked on two other structure type, intergovernmental and supranational. In this part, Hancock tried to explain how to identify a plutocracy using her theory of plutocratic delegation.

Through the fourth to sixth chapter, Hancock gave example of plutocracy and plutocratic delegation through three examples of economic-regional integration, the Zollverein (as mentioned before), the southern African Customs Union, and the Eurasian Customs Union. Hancock then conclude her analysis in the last chapter, the conclusion.

This book is a comprehensive explanation of plutocracy and the theory of plutocratic delegation in economic-regional integration. Hancock gave in this book, an uncommon theory of plutocratic delegation in economic-regional integration, but executed and elaborated it in an easy-to-understand manner. This book gave us a new perspective in seeing a regional integration using not only commonly-used theory, but also other applicable theory.