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*Globalization, Regionalization and Cross-Border Regions*,

Markus Perkmann and Ngai-ling Sum(eds)

Palgrave Macmillan, Hampshire, 2002. 266pp. index. £50 (hbk)

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The globalisation tendency has resulted the worldwide rescaling of the state. With the proliferation of supranational and sub-national organizations, many cross-border regions (CBRs) have emerged. CBRs are at the juncture of global, national and local scales and have become an important issue in the age of globalisation and regionalization. They are interest subjects for the study of many important issues: rescaling of scalar relations, politics of scale, territorialisation and de-territorialisation. This book is a volume in *the International Political Economy Series*. In this collective volume, various authors contribute to a comprehensive up-to-dated study of the CBRs. The editors do an excellent job in the selection of chapters. Unlike some loosely bounded books, the chapters in the book focus on theoretical and empirical analyses of CBRs and each fits neatly in the volume. Most authors recognize the multiplicity of scales on which social interaction takes place and the complexity of interrelations among various scales.

The book has eleven chapters that are grouped into six parts. Part I introduces the theme of the book and the approaches to the study of CBRs. Part II has three chapters focusing on theoretical approaches to CBRs. Part III-VI presents empirical studies on cross-border cooperation in major regions in the world including Europe, East Asia, North America and Africa respectively.

The editors emphasize a post-disciplinary approach to the study of CBRs focusing on the dynamics of “rescaling”, the politics of scale and the building of cross-border governance in part I. This is successful as all subsequent chapters investigate the

processes of institution-building across borders. The editors identify three main dimensions to be scrutinized in the book: rescaling and scalar articulation; mobilizing discourses and identities; building governance institutions.

In part II, Jessop discusses the proliferation of scales and many rescaling strategies in the world. He distinguishes nine processes/strategies in the formation of CBRs. He argues that CBRs lack solid boundaries and many macro-economic conditions. Thus interpersonal networking and interorganizational negotiation become crucial in securing cooperation. Sum suggests a concept of “time-space governance” to capture the complex coordinating aspects of the growth mode of CBRs. She indicates the risk of missing the interscalar and temporal complexities by focusing on one scale. Leresche and Saez argue that cross-border actions contribute to the production of new local public space. Under the new territorial paradigm, cross-border cooperation is a kind of coordination between different actors and scales to overcome fragmentation and differentiations of territories.

In part III, Perkmann considers the development of Euro-regions from the perspective of institutional entrepreneurship and institution-building. He argues that European cross-border cooperation is tightly linked to the supranational cohesion policy of EU. The case of Euro-regions does not support the argument that globalisation has opened up space for scales to become direct objects of sociopolitical struggle. Krätke argues that the constitution of Euro-regions has not lead to much progress and the existing projects may not establish integrated CBR in the German-Polish border due to competition of other geographical scales.

In part IV, Sum analyses the case of great China that is different from the European case. The cultural traits and decentralization strategies are considered the key in the formation of meta-network cross-cutting public-private, central-local and global-regional domains. The region is also subjected to crisis tendencies of capitalism. According to Arase, Japan sea regionalism shows the important role of sub-national authorities.

In part V, Scott presents the interesting case of US-Mexican border where subnational paradiplomacy is challenging the nation-state’s diplomacy. Unlike EU, NAFTA adheres to logic of limited integration for economic concerns rather than a

common “North American destiny”. Thus there are many contradictory and conflicting elements in the region including resistance from the national governments. Scott argues that the strategy-building process is a regional exercise. Sparke discusses the case of Cascadia as a concept CBR on the Pacific coast of North America. There is no significant cross-border interdependence and institution-building in the region. But there are several streams of Cascadian discourse ranging from the ecologies of bioregionalism to the economics of strategic regionalism characterized by neoliberal entrepreneurial governance. It is interesting to note that there has been little cross-border cooperation due to the similarity of economic sectors across the border. A negative “border effect” on cross-border trade linkages still exists. But Cascadian discourses will continue to provide a set of initiatives and ideas for the future.

Part VI only has one chapter. Lundin and Söderbaum present the case of the Maputo development corridor (MDC) in southern Africa using a combined approach of international political economy and development theory. They consider that it is important to account for both the top-down and bottom-up processes in the CBR. Migration is a critical component in this region. On the other hand, MDC is a project initiated by the national governments of South Africa and Mozambique involving a model of “jobless growth”. National and local actors have different understandings of the content of the MDC. Institutional problems arise due to premature retreat of central government. The low capacities at local level prevent implementation and institution-building. The future of this CBR is not certain.

CBRs and cross-border cooperation involve comprehensive spatial processes. Their development and success depend on a number of factors and actors. Institution-building and actor network are important. But as shown by various cases in this book, geographical conditions and economic complimentary also play an important role. Thus the “border area studies” in political geography and border economics can still make important contribution to the study of CBRs. Furthermore, different scales play different roles in various cases indicating diversity of scaling processes. Comprehensive and detailed empirical studies are essential to reveal the actual transformations in various CBRs. Overall, this is an interesting and highly informative book for readers who are

interested in globalisation, international political economy, cross-border cooperation and governance.