

Abstracts

Georg Sørensen

International Political Economy

The relationship between politics and economics in international relations (IR) has been approached from a number of different angles. For a long time, economics and politics in IR were seen as almost totally isolated from each other; today, the mainstream approaches see a close inter-relationship between politics and economics. There is no single plan for combining economics and politics which is immediately superior to other plans. Two basic strategies involved in present attempts to cope with the relationship appears. One is »Stay with your old recipe and add some flavour«; the other is »choose any recipe from the politico-economic cookbook«.

Morten Ougaard

American Hegemony and the New World Order

The optimal strategy for a weakened hegemon in a period of global change includes: a more ambitious redefinition of the underlying common interests; attempts to develop and change the pattern of cooperation between allies, especially by co-opting them rather than delegating authority; and initiatives specifically directed towards the consolidation of the leadership role. American foreign policy in recent years conforms to this pattern. The promotion of »A New World Order« represents an ambitious restatement of common goals; co-optation is evident in several new agreements with allies concerning the form and content of future cooperation; and these and other initiatives are evidence of the effort to secure the leadership role by developing it.

Mette Skak

Reintegrating Eastern Europe into the International Political Economy

Bringing the former centrally planned economies of Eastern Europe back into the world economy has proven a far more complex process than most people would have imagined. Reintegration touches upon the entire interest structure of the IPE and the »big« institutional issues. An empirical analysis of the many different interrelationships is offered taking the new relationship between the EC and Eastern Europe as the point of departure. The reform process of the Visegrad triangle is addressed as well as internal EC dimensions of the new challenge of Ostpolitik.

Jens Henrik Haahr

Politics as usual? EC in the International Political Economy 1985-1991

The article examines the European Community's role in three international negotiating processes aiming at improved free trade: The Uruguay-round of the GATT-negotiations, the negotiations with the EFTA, and the EC's negotiations on association agreements with three Central European states. The liberal-institutionalist perspective on international cooperation is contrasted with the realist perspective, and it is concluded that relative gains in accordance with the realist expectations have played a decisive role. However, the distribution of gains within the participating states has been of greater importance than the distribution between states, pointing to the significance of domestic determinants for international cooperation.

Henrik Plaschke

Beyond the State and the Market in the International Political Economy.

Starting from Karl Polanyi's thesis of the self-destructive character of the market and the development of society's measures to protect itself, an institutionalist approach to the study of international political economy is developed. Post-war developments in the international political economy are presented in terms of labour discipline, effective demand, financial stability, profit margins and the political insertion of a macroeconomic model of development. Special emphasis is given to the unstable state of the international economy since the early 1980s, oscillating between financial instability and recessive tendencies. This instability is associated with the deregulation and transnationalization of financial systems which have led to a dissociation of financial systems from national mechanisms of regulation and social protective measures. This raises the question of the need for institutional reforms and a re-regulation of international competition and the establishment of a new international order.

Kim Viborg Andersen

Planning, Economic Models and Politics

This paper analyses the interplay between economic modeling and politics in Denmark. Cases are regional modeling in the Danish countries and labor market authorities and macro-economic modeling at the national level. The empirical foundation is a nation-wide study including questionnaires and interviews. The development of models has been driven mostly by technocratic interests. However, explaining the life-cycle of the models (development, implementation, and use) four perspectives are found useful: technocratic, rational, consensus, and partisan. On one hand the belief in models as able to solve problems has gone. On the other hand the development of economic models continues despite the changed attitude and experienced problems in using the models.