

BOOK REVIEWS/COMPTES RENDUS/RESEÑAS

Ruano, L. (Ed.). (2013). *The Europeanization of National Foreign Policies towards Latin America*. New York: Routledge. 264 pp.

The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing.

Albert Einstein

For years we have encountered books that deal with the relations between the European Union and Latin America in light of the policy that exists at the European level toward Latin America or, maybe, in light of the foreign policy of one member state. Instead of utilizing these usual approaches, Lorena Ruano (Ed.) and seven other experts (Sanahuja, Trueb, Couffignal, Whitehead, Villanueva Ulfsgard, Kaczyński, and Ó Broin) provide an innovative study that focuses on the foreign policies of a group of member states toward Latin America within the framework of their Europeanization in the book *The Europeanization of National Foreign Policies towards Latin America*.

In order to be as representative as possible of at the time twenty-seven (at present twenty-eight) member states' distinct national realities, as well as introduce in the study a wide range of policy features, Ruano chose, as case studies, seven member states. As Ruano explains, the member states were chosen either because of their key participation in and strong interests in the EU's policy toward Latin America (Spain), because they are the biggest and most influential in the EU's external relations (Germany, France, and the UK), or because they belong to a group of member states that share common characteristics (Scandinavia: Sweden; Central Europe: Poland; and "small member states": Ireland). Each case study must answer the following research questions: What has been the dynamic that characterizes each member state's policy toward Latin America in relation to the EU's policy (upload, download, or sideways)? How has this occurred and varied over time and issue areas? The diversified election of member states, in addition to the use of English as the book's language, has an added value per se. It includes countries, like the last three listed, that are usually left out of the literature on Euro-Latin America relations altogether. This literature is normally written in Spanish and focused, when applicable, on the foreign policy of member states such as Spain.

The case studies answer the two above-mentioned research questions following a conceptual framework established by Ruano in the first chapter of the book. This chapter also includes some methodological consid-



erations. Hence, the analysis of the Europeanization of the seven national foreign policies toward Latin America is standardized. As Ruano states, "the aim of the book is to present the reader with a highly integrated comparative text" (3). The book does this. Moreover, the standardized analysis allows Ruano to draw general conclusions from the seven case studies, which also reveal interesting information to the reader. And this standardized analysis is reinforced given that the case studies are also organized in a common structure provided by Ruano as part of the book's methodology.

More specifically, within the conceptual framework, three types of Europeanization are defined: upload, download, and sideways. This is in contrast to the "top-down" approach, which is, as highlighted by Sana-huja in the book, the most common in the literature on this topic. The multidirectional approach makes it easier to perceive the complexity of Europeanization within each member state, among them, and in relation to the European Union. Moreover, within the conceptual framework, ten hypotheses are drawn up by Ruano in order to be tested against the information gained in each case study. Readers may find the results of the test of these ten hypotheses at the end of the book, in the conclusion. Furthermore, as Ruano's objective is to make the book's conceptual framework applicable to other studies on the Europeanization of member states' national foreign policies toward another third region, she also criticizes her conceptual framework in a constructive way in this part of the book.

Among the methodological considerations, the monograph and historical analysis approaches (although succinct, e.g., the Germany case study starts at the end of the 19th century) to the Europeanization of the seven national foreign policies is appreciated. In particular, because the analysis is carried out in the context of the appraisal that each member state makes about its own EU membership and the process of Europeanization. As Ruano explains, a more positive or negative appraisal may have an impact on the type of Europeanization of different national foreign policies. Therefore, the book spends one chapter on each national foreign policy. The result of this methodology is that readers can gain in-depth knowledge of each of these national policies toward Latin America, as well as the how, when, and why of the influence (or not) of these policies in the construction of a European policy toward the region over time, and vice versa. Time that, as the case studies point out, has been marked not only by a series of European events, but also by national, international, and other events related to third regions and countries (such as the case of the Central America conflict in the 1980s and the current case of Cuban domestic policies). All these events have consequences on the Europeani-

zation of national foreign policies of target member states toward Latin America particularly or even collectively.

In addition to the specific knowledge gained on the seven national foreign policies toward Latin America, the book offers readers general conclusions from the case studies, as mentioned above. In the final part of the book, readers can expect to find the indicated conclusions regarding the conceptual framework, as well as the answers to the two research questions. Thus, the conclusion specifies the type of Europeanization that has prevailed in each national foreign policy toward Latin America, depending on the time period and on the different issue areas (economic relations, political relations, and development and cooperation). Here, Ruano also highlights the convergence and divergence of these policies, both among the member states and in relation to the European Union. Furthermore, in the conclusion, Ruano clarifies the kind of foreign policy instrument (the European Union or “other types of interaction”: bilateral, multilateral, and “outsourcing”) that has been the most used by the different target member states within the framework of their foreign policies toward Latin America. Moreover, the conclusion’s content is illustrated with specific examples of Europeanization provided by the case studies.

Therefore, the book is highly recommended, not only for readers interested in relations between the European Union and Latin America, but also for those interested in European integration.

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