

Abstract

The diploma thesis “New Regionalism and Sub-Saharan Africa” deals with the question of economic integration in Africa and its theoretical reflexion. First chapter deals with the question whether different integration theories are applicable to African reality or not. Author subsequently analyzes Pan-Africanism as a specifically African ideology, classical economic integration theories, classical theories of political science on integration and modern theories of political science, with the conclusion that neither of these theories provides explanation of speeding up African integration in recent years.

Chapter two deals with the phenomenon of so-called “new regionalism” as a process in world economy, second part deals with different theoretical conceptions and theories trying to describe and theorize about this process. Chapter three briefly describes evolution of African integration from its colonial starts to the newest initiatives connected with the transformation of Organization of African Unity into African Union. Chapter four offers five case studies of integration in different regional organizations. Each case study outlines starting position in 1991 in the sense of creation of organization, its aims and evolution of integration up to signing of the Abuja Treaty creating African Economic Community, second part of case studies deals with evolution of integration from 1991 up to 2009. Chapter five is a comparative analysis of case studies with aim to identify and generalize factors which influence the scope, depth and pace of African integration, whether positively, or negatively. Chapter six tries to answer two crucial questions: first, whether African integration process is in accordance with new regionalism as a process, which would mean that this process is really a universal phenomenon. Second, whether theories of new regionalism can be satisfactorily used when explaining African integration.