

The thesis argues that the reunification of Germany and the eastern enlargement of the European Union represent two types of democratization through political integration that occurred after the collapse of communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe. The German exemplar stands for an immediate integration with no preconditions and no foregoing reforms on either part but, instead, employing a simple transfer principle and economic backing of the 'accepting' entity. The Eastern enlargement is a model for the opposite process – a gradual, long-term integration through 'political conditionality' until candidate states reach a political and economic level comparable to the level of the accepting unit. Since both ways of integration are diverse, the final results differ as well. While the eastern enlargement was successful in terms of economics and political stabilization in the new EU member states that are, however, skeptical towards further deepening of the European integration, the unified Germany suffers from economic difficulties and, in the Eastern parts, from the rise of post-communist party and nostalgia.

After outlining a theory of two types of integration in the opening chapters, the third chapter proceeds to examining how both integrations came about and how they were legally carried out. The last part focuses on results and negative consequences of the German unification for the Eastern Länder, namely high rates of unemployment, large numbers of people resettling from the East to the West, and strikingly high voters' preferences for the post-communist Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS). The author elaborates on how such diverging outcomes came about and what the driving forces behind both processes were. For an easier comparison, the author has chosen the Czech Republic and its Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KŠČM) as a case study of the eastern enlargement.