

## Convergence And Divergence Developing A Semiglobal

There are many different types of convergence within economics, as well as several methods to analyse each of them. This book addresses the concept of real economic convergence or the gradual levelling-off of GDP (gross domestic product) per capita rates across economies. In addition to a detailed, holistic overview of the history and theory, the authors include a description of two modern methods of assessing the occurrence and rate of convergence, BMA-based and HMM-based, as well as the results of the empirical analysis. Readers will have access not only to the conventional econometric approach of  $\beta$  convergence but also to an alternative one, allowing for the convergence issue to be expressed in the context of automatic pattern recognition. This approach is universal as it can be adapted to a variety of input data. The lowest aggregation level study investigates regional convergence through the case of Polish voivodships, where convergence towards the leader is tested. On a higher level of aggregation, the authors examine the existence of GDP convergence in such groups as the EU28, North Africa and the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, South America, Caribbean, South-East Asia, Australia and Oceania, or post-socialist countries. For each group, the real  $\beta$  convergence is tested using the two above-mentioned approaches. The results are widely discussed, broadly illustrated, interpreted, and compared. The analysis allows readers to draw interesting conclusions about the causes of

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convergence or the drivers behind divergence. The book will stimulate further research in the field, but the research was conducted from the point of view of individual countries.

This is an open access title available under the terms of a CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 International licence. It is free to read at Oxford Scholarship Online and offered as a free PDF download from OUP and selected open access locations. International banking standards are intended for the regulation of large, complex, risk-taking international banks with trillions of dollars in assets and operations across the globe. Yet they are being implemented in countries with nascent financial markets and small banks that have yet to venture into international markets. Why is this? *The Political Economy of Bank Regulation in Developing Countries: Risk and Reputation* explores the politics of banking regulation in eleven countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It shows how financial globalization generates strong reputational and competitive incentives for developing countries to converge on international standards. Politicians, regulators, and large banks in developing countries implement international standards to attract international investment, bolster their professional standing, and further integrate their countries into global finance. Convergence is not inevitable or uniform: implementation is often contested and regulators adapt international standards to the local context. This book contributes to our understanding of the ways in which governments and firms in the core of global finance powerfully shape regulatory decisions in

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the periphery, and the ways that governments and firms from peripheral developing countries manoeuvre within the constraints and opportunities created by financial globalization.

"Developing countries may be better served by "north-south" than by "south-south" free trade agreements.

Free trade agreements between low-income countries tend to lead to divergence in member country incomes, while agreements between high-income countries tend to lead to convergence"--Cover.

This book compares and contrasts publicly espoused security concepts in the Nordic region, and explores the notion of societal security. Outside observers often assume that Nordic countries take similar approaches to the security and safety of their citizens. This book challenges that assumption and traces the evolution of 'societal security', and its broadly equivalent concepts, in Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland. The notion of societal security is deconstructed and analysed in terms of its different meanings and implications for each country, through both country- and issue-focused studies. Each chapter traces the evolution of key security concepts and related practices, allowing for a comparison of similarities and differences between these four countries. Using discourses and practices as evidence, this is the first book to explore how different Nordic nations have conceptualised domestic security over time. The findings will be valuable to scholars from across the geographical and theoretical spectrum, while highlighting how Nordic security discourses and practices may deviate from traditional assumptions about

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Nordic values. This book will be of much interest to students of security studies, Nordic politics and International Relations.

Essay from the year 2008 in the subject Communications - Multimedia, Internet, New Technologies, grade: 3 (vgl. Anm.), University of Helsinki (Communications), course: Media Convergence, language: English, comment: Das Finnische Notensystem geht von 5-1, wobei 5 die beste Note ist und 1 noch genügend ist dh eine 5 entspricht einer Schweizerischen 6 bzw. einer Deutschen 1., abstract: It is not possible to avoid the two words convergence divergence in literature, discussions and theories about new media, new services, what the audience wants and the future of media nowadays as convergence rapidly became one of the key concepts in new media discourse."(Storsul/Stuedahl:2007:9) So it was mentioned in articles, academic texts, policy documents and industrial papers and was introduced as the new order. (Fagerjord/Storsul:2007:19) And in becoming a key concept convergence also became an important rhetorical tool that encouraged change in several fields e.g. grassroot journalism sites or media companies presenting new (future) plans for online platforms and mobile services. (Storsul/Stuedahl:2007:9) But even if the two words are omnipresent it seems as if not everybody is writing, meaning and talking about the same. Actually sometime when reading different articles and books it seems as the authors were writing and discussing totally different topics. Like Storsul and Stuedal describe it, convergence really is a buzzword.(Storsul/Stuedahl:2007:9) And it is not only a

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buzzword, but it bears the old human (science-fiction) visions and hopes of media enabling things being managed by one central system and/or device that organizes our whole life and we now can't even think of. (Storsul/Stuedahl:2007:10)One very common though simple example of such futuristic thinking and visions might be the refrigerator that automatically and independently orders the needed food and drinks from the shop and they are also delivered automatically, maybe even beamed into the refrigerator."

From 1820 to 1990 the share of world income going to today's wealthy nations soared from 20% to 70%. That share has recently plummeted. Richard Baldwin shows how the combination of high tech with low wages propelled industrialization in developing nations, deindustrialization in developed nations, and a commodity supercycle that is petering out.

Discussing how and why institutions influence growth, this volume provides an overview of the literature on the impact of institutions on growth. It considers theoretical and empirical relationships between institutions and growth.

This new monograph provides a stimulating new take on hotly contested topics in world modernization and the globalizing economy. It begins by situating what is called the Great Divergence--the social/technological revolution that led European nations to outpace the early dominance of Asia--in historical context over centuries. This is contrasted with an equally powerful Great Convergence, the recent economic and technological expansion taking place in Third World nations and

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characterized by narrowing inequity among nations. They are seen here as two phases of an inevitable global process, centuries in the making, with the potential for both positive and negative results. This sophisticated presentation examines: Why the developing world is growing more rapidly than the developed world. How this development began occurring under the Western world's radar. How former colonies of major powers grew to drive the world's economy. Why so many Western economists have been slow to recognize the Great Convergence. The increasing risk of geopolitical instability. Why the world is likely to find itself without an absolute leader after the end of the American hegemony. A work of rare scope, *Great Divergence and Great Convergence* gives sociologists, global economists, demographers, and global historians a deeper understanding of the broader movement of social and economic history, combined with a long view of history as it is currently being made; it also offers some thrilling forecasts for global development in the forthcoming decades.

Actors and institutions in localities and regions across the world are seeking prosperity and well-being amidst tumultuous and disruptive shifts and transitions generated by: an increasingly globalised, knowledge-intensive capitalism; global financial instability, volatility and crisis; concerns about economic, social and ecological sustainability, climate change and resource shortages; new multi-actor and multi-level systems of government and governance and a re-ordering of the international political economy; state austerity and

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retrenchment; and, new and reformed approaches to intervention, policy and institutions for local and regional development. Local and Regional Development provides an accessible, critical and integrated examination of local and regional development theory, institutions and policy in this changing context. Amidst its rising importance, the book addresses the fundamental issues of ‘what kind of local and regional development and for whom?’, its purposes, principles and values, frameworks of understanding, approaches and interventions, and integrated approaches to local and regional development throughout the world. The approach provides a theoretically informed, critical analysis of contemporary local and regional development in an international and multi-disciplinary context, grounded in concrete empirical analysis from experiences in the global North and South. It concludes by identifying what might constitute holistic, inclusive, progressive and sustainable local and regional development, and reflecting upon its limits and political renewal.

The development of a nation can be influenced by a wide range of factors. In the modern era of globalization, under-developed countries must strive to catch up to developed nations and establish themselves in the global market. The Handbook of Research on Global Indicators of Economic and Political Convergence is a pivotal reference source for the latest scholarly research on social, political, and environmental variables that affect the ability of developing countries to reach an equal standing in the global economy. Highlighting theoretical foundations, critical analyses, and real-world

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perspectives, this book is ideally designed for researchers, analysts, professionals, and upper-level students interested in emerging convergence and divergence trends in modern countries.

This book is concerned with the question of inequality - which points to a major structural problem in intra-national and inter-national respect. It covers the tension between the rich and poor in less developed countries as well as within richer countries in the process of globalisation. The main topics are the scope of disparities between the rich and poor, people's perception of wealth and poverty, and the concomitants of inequality which shape this relationship and influence its socio-economic consequences. In the tradition of social reporting, the book brings together authors from 15 countries, documenting a broad range of the international inequality debate. The results are related to the trends of socio-economic development, to statistical problems of measuring inequality, and to socio-political problems of integrating society in the facing the challenge of dividing forces. The book is of interest for everybody who wants to understand the tensions of modern world.

Sharing the essentials of sales, marketing, negotiation, strategy, and much more, the creator of PersonalMBA.com shows readers how to master the fundamentals, hone their business instincts, and save a fortune in tuition.

This book grew out of a symposium held in the University of Aberdeen in May 2000. It examines the extent to which the European Union has brought about and should

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bring about convergence of law in Europe. Rather than focusing narrowly on the Intergovernmental Conference process, the book engages those who wish a detached and, at times, theoretical examination of the politics of institutional reform in the EU; of the legal techniques for accommodating diversity within the Union and the process of treaty making or constitution building in the EU; the cross-fertilization of administrative law concepts between the EU level and the national level; the need for and legitimacy of a European Union competence on human rights; and whether private law and public law differ in the extent to which they reflect national culture and therefore in the extent to which they are amenable to convergence.

The fundamental contrast between convergent and divergent tendencies in the development of Balkan cultural identity can be seen as an important determinative both in the contradictory self-images of people in the Balkans and in the often biased perceptions of Balkan societies held by external observers, past and present. In bringing together case studies from such heterogeneous lines of research as linguistics, anthropology, political, literary and cultural history, each presenting insightful analyses of micro- as well as macro-level aspects of identity construction in the Balkans, this collection of essays provides a forum for the elucidation and critical evaluation of an intriguing paradox which continues to characterize the cultural situation in the Balkans and which, moreover, is of undeniable relevance for our understanding of recent political developments. As such, it also provides a

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window into the actual state of scholarly interest in the rich interdisciplinary field of Balkan studies. This book contains a selection of papers presented at the international conference «Developing Cultural Identity in the Balkans: Convergence vs. Divergence», organized by the Center for Southeast European Studies at Ghent University on 12 and 13 December 2003 in Ghent.

This book deals with the consequences of converging and diverging processes and their development in language contact situations. It provides insights into the various forms of language contact and the conditions under which bilingual speakers master their every-day life in bilingual communities. Its nine contributions cover both theoretical and typological aspects, such as the classification of languages, the role of language contact, linguistic complexity and spontaneous speech innovations, and convergence and divergence processes in translation, (morpho)syntax and phonology/phonetics. Taken together, these studies provide challenges for linguistic theories that generalize from situations of monolingualism suggesting instead that a sound linguistic theory cannot be a theory for just one single, isolated language but must be a theory for at least two languages. It must also account for the fact that some structures involved in contact situations are not kept apart but develop in such a way that the distance decreases between the languages involved.

Recent upheaval in the global energy system – dramatic increases in demand led largely by developing countries, significant decreases in supply as a result of local or regional conflicts, and the growing nexus between the

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burning of hydrocarbons and climate change – has unsettled long-held notions of energy security. For many years, transatlantic cooperation helped undergird the system's stability, but Europe and North America have drifted apart in several key ways, potentially undermining the search for energy sufficiency, surety, and sustainability. Will the transatlantic partners continue on separate paths in the face of dramatic change in the global energy system, or does the breadth and depth of the challenges they confront compel them to work more closely together? In this edited volume, experts from across Europe and North America – including advisors to the executive and legislative branches of both the EU and the United States, to senior military commanders, and to major international organizations and companies – examine the most salient facets of the transatlantic energy relationship and discern whether that relationship is characterized by growing convergence or divergence. This book was based on a special issue of the *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*.

Increasing concerns regarding the world's natural resources and sustainability continue to be a major issue for global development. As a result several political initiatives and strategies for green or resource-efficient growth both on national and international levels have been proposed. A core element of these initiatives is the promotion of an increase of resource or material productivity. This dissertation examines material productivity developments in the OECD and BRICS countries between 1980 and 2008. By applying the concept of convergence stemming from economic

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growth theory to material productivity the analysis provides insights into both aspects: material productivity developments in general as well potentials for accelerated improvements in material productivity which consequently may allow a reduction of material use globally. The results of the convergence analysis underline the importance of policy-making with regard to technology and innovation policy enabling the production of resource-efficient products and services as well as technology transfer and diffusion.

In *One World Emerging?* Alex Inkeles clarifies the meaning of convergence in the social organization of modern societies, shows how it can be measured, and illustrates in detail the manner and degree of convergence across national boundaries. Inkeles assesses the extent to which convergence in institutional patterns is reflected in the emergence of more common attitudes, values, and daily behaviors in different national populations as individuals and communities engage with and respond to the standardizing pressures of national development and global modernization. One popular image of the probable condition of humanity in the twenty-first century anticipates a new Armageddon with all the great civilizations at war with each other. This model neglects a less dramatic but deeper-seated process of worldwide change in which national economic and political systems become more alike and populations worldwide come to adopt similar lifestyles and develop similar attitudes and values for daily living. Alex Inkeles penetrating analysis focuses on this process of convergence. In *One World Emerging?* Inkeles clarifies

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the meaning of convergence in the social organization of modern societies, shows how it can be measured, and illustrates in detail the manner and degree of convergence across national boundaries. Sensitive to evidence counter to the main trend, he gives close attention to the many instances in which national differences persist and nations and their populations diverge from a common path. At the national level, he compares and contrasts the modernization of the United States, Russia, China, and India. Focusing on particularly important institutions, he reviews the process of convergence in prestige hierarchies, the family, education, and communications. Capping the enterprise, Inkeles assesses the extent to which convergence in institutional patterns is reflected in the emergence of more common attitudes, values, and daily behaviors in different national populations as individuals and communities in North America, Europe, and increasingly in Asia engage with and respond to the standardizing pressures of national development and global modernization.

Strategic Human Resource Management has been a topic familiar to many. But this book approaches the same topic in a current global economy with so many Indian business houses venturing into acquiring global giants and establishing themselves atop of the world of business in our growing economy. This means that with electronic communication making the world into a global village and virtual organizations and learning having made the distinction between 'place' and 'space' not a matter of importance, strategies to be adapted by the HR

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professionals should be totally new. That is where this book is having a new approach to SHRM. It is interspersed with contemporary Indian cases and experience to fall back on to illustrate the different strategies HR has to play as a business partner. Issues in employee privacy in case of virtual organizations have been vividly dealt with. Gone are the days of the fire-fighting role of HR professionals. They are required to play a vital role being part of the business strategy not only at the domestic arena but also in the global business. Challenges involved in building multicultural organizations, cross border merger and acquisition and repatriation and outsourcing are topics that are significant in the local as well as the global human resource management which are discussed extensively. The book explains career planning and development and compensation packages in the context of competencies and balanced scorecard. When speed and alacrity are demanded of all the employees to stay ahead of competition, the employees are required to put in extended hours and work in a stressful environment. Hence, the new-era HR professional has to resort to developmental activities through mentoring, coaching, counseling, stress management and emotional balance. The book is divided into five parts. Apart from the stories narrated within the text of the book, and some exercises, there is a separate section of cases at the end of the book to augment the concepts narrated in each part. It would not only fully meet the requirements of MBA students but would also give new direction to the practicing HR professionals.

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The Handbook brings together an assembly of comprehensive and high quality chapters to enable understanding of changes in employment relations since the early 1970s. Theoretically-based chapters attempt to link varieties of capitalism, business systems, and different modes of regulation to the specific practice of employment relations, and offer a truly comparative treatment of the subject, providing frameworks and empirical evidence for understanding trends in employment relations in different parts of the world.

Corporate Governance In A Globalising World: Convergence Or Divergence? presents a broad and multi-disciplinary debate on corporate governance systems by integrating academic viewpoints, statistical evidence, as well as field surveys. Based on a large number of publications and studies, the opinions of researchers are grouped into three categories: those that believe in a convergence into the direction of the market-oriented model (with the Anglo-American model as the reference base), those that opt for another type of convergence, namely in the direction of a hybrid corporate governance model (based on cross-reference between different leading governance models), and those that do not believe in global convergence but adhere to diversity of governance models.

Issues in Sociology and Social Work—Aging, Medical, and Missionary Research and Application: 2012 Edition is a ScholarlyEditions™ eBook that delivers timely, authoritative, and comprehensive information about Social Science. The editors have built Issues in Sociology and Social Work—Aging, Medical, and

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Missionary Research and Application: 2012 Edition on the vast information databases of ScholarlyNews.™ You can expect the information about Social Science in this eBook to be deeper than what you can access anywhere else, as well as consistently reliable, authoritative, informed, and relevant. The content of Issues in Sociology and Social Work—Aging, Medical, and Missionary Research and Application: 2012 Edition has been produced by the world's leading scientists, engineers, analysts, research institutions, and companies. All of the content is from peer-reviewed sources, and all of it is written, assembled, and edited by the editors at ScholarlyEditions™ and available exclusively from us. You now have a source you can cite with authority, confidence, and credibility. More information is available at <http://www.ScholarlyEditions.com/>.

'OENB [Oesterreichische Nationalbank] is to be congratulated on organizing the conference and the resulting volume. the editors have produced a readable, informative, and interesting book, which should promote a better understanding of convergence in an enlarged EU and closer cooperation between regional and monetary policymakers and researchers.' - John Bachtler, Journal of Regional Science This highly topical book addresses the challenge of economic convergence within Europe, beginning with a thorough review of the theory of growth and related empirical research. Historical and more recent economic developments within the present EU and current accession countries are discussed, along with the design for the process of

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further integration of accession countries into the EU and the Euro area. Moreover, the potential to achieve a sustainable catch-up process in Western Balkan countries, the Ukraine and Russia is explored, focusing on the task facing the EU in designing proper policies vis-à-vis these countries. The contributors' varied perspectives ensure that the theories and policies postulated are linked closely with the actual situation in accession countries and offer up-to-date insights.

The increasing globalization of business activities forces companies to recruit highly skilled employees all over the world. In order to attract these talents, employers have to differentiate themselves through a unique employer brand, appealing to diverse target audiences. However, in the absence of research on international students' preferences for employer characteristics, it is difficult for multinational companies to decide on a feasible degree of employer brand standardization. Lena Christians investigates the impact of between-country differences, such as in national culture or economic wealth, on students' preferences in relation to individual differences of students within the same country. In combination with a segmentation of the European graduate market, the results provide readers with inside on which elements of the employer value proposition are suitable for standardization in which target groups.

The Oxford Handbook of Contextual Approaches to Human Resource Management provides both conceptual and empirical analyses using a range of different lenses in order to provide a detailed examination of how context affects the design and implementation of HRM activities.

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The study of globalization has captured the attention of scholars from nearly every field. The potential impact on the social system and cultural values of a more interdependent world is an important aspect of this attention. This thesis considers the possible effects of globalization in encouraging the development of a system of similar values and beliefs. Specifically, the evidence of convergence and divergence in values relating to economics family, politics and morality is explored using the 1981 and 1990 World Values Surveys and include an analysis of data from twenty different nations exhibiting varying degrees of economic and political development. The author finds that many values did not change significantly from 1981 to 1990. This illustrates the stability of values. However, there is some evidence of convergence in marriage and family values, but of divergence in political and moral-based beliefs. Additionally the results suggest some economic values may be becoming more similar, while others remain quite distinct. Further, important differences exist in the results of the individual and aggregate-level analyzes, suggesting that national identities may have an impact on global value change. Finally, the implications for future international relationships, public policy, and future research questions are discussed.

The Oxford Handbook of Social Influence restores this important field to its once preeminent position within social psychology. Editors Harkins, Williams, and Burger lead a team of leading scholars as they explore a variety of topics within social influence, seamlessly incorporating a range of analyses (including intrapersonal,

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interpersonal, and intragroup), and examine critical theories and the role of social influence in applied settings today.

Developing Cultural Identity in the Balkans  
Convergence Vs. Divergence  
Peter Lang

This Handbook is essential reading for anyone with an interest in the explanation of economic growth in the space economy. . . The editors and the individual contributors are to be congratulated on producing such an important collection of review essays which is destined to become one of the definitive reference books on the subject. John McCombie, *Scienze Regionali* . . . offers a valuable up-to-date overview of many aspects of these important theoretical developments. Peter Wood, *Environment & Planning B*

The book contains a wealth of leading-edge material on regional growth and development issues and provides a good historical review of the dominant mainstream theories. This Handbook will be a valuable asset to any graduate student, researcher, regional planner, or policymaker interested in regional economic issues. Laura Lamb, *Review of Regional Studies*

Regional economics an established discipline for several decades has gone through a rapid pace of change in the past decade and several new perspectives have emerged. At the same time the methodology has shown surprising development. This volume brings together contributions looking at new pathways in regional

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economics, written by many well-known international scholars. The most advanced theories, measurement methods and policy issues in regional growth are given in-depth treatment. The focus here is to collect cutting-edge theories explaining regional growth and local development. The authors highlight the recent advances in theories, the normative potentialities of these theories and the cross-fertilization of ideas among regional economists and mainstream economists. Theories of regional growth and development need to be able to interpret, more than ever, the way in which regions achieve a role in the international division of labour and, more importantly, the way in which regions can maintain this role over time. Topics covered include: regional growth and development policies and measurement methods; development theories of innovation, knowledge and space, and regional production factors; and growth theories and space. This book will be a source of reference and information for both scholars and students in the area of regional economics.

Recoge : 1. Introductory session. - 2. Past convergence within the European Union. - 3. Accession countries : achievements in real convergence. - 4. Accession countries : how to balance real and nominal convergence challenges for monetary and exchange rate policy. - 5. Does the financial sector contribute to real growth? - 6. Is

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there somebody left out in the cold? prospects of CEE countries other than current accession countries.

- 7. Policy challenges within the (enlarged) EU : how to foster economic convergence?

Bachelor Thesis from the year 2017 in the subject Business economics - Business Management, Corporate Governance, grade: 1,3, University of Mannheim, language: English, abstract: Although cultural and contextual settings vary across the world, there is of course one level at which HRM is clearly universal: all companies have to manage and hence to utilize Human Resources. A few questions might arise when exploring the convergence-divergence issue in HRM. How to define HRM and which particular HRM areas and practices should be analyzed for making hypotheses about the absence or presence of convergence? Which time horizon should one apply and how HRM convergence-divergence to be conceptualized? Can we find sufficient evidence for determining whether there are common trends of HRM becoming more similar or contrary more dissimilar over time and across nations? Are US derived HRM practices universally applicable to, for example, the European context? What are the specific HRM areas where researchers can identify developments towards convergence or divergence? This bachelor thesis addresses the above mentioned questions in order to provide an overview about the most important issues in the

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convergence-divergence debate. The focus of this study is not to identify a winning side but instead to present some of the main concepts and best-available evidence for each perspective. Thus, this study aims at enhancing the readers understanding about relevant controversial subjects in the convergence-divergence discussion.

This edited book focuses on the dynamic balance between global cultural diversity and multilateral convergence in relevant policy areas that involve actual and potential policy convergences (and divergences): the environment, trade, peace and security, and human rights. It offers theoretical reflections about the impact of the concept of multiple modernities on new ideas, cultural backgrounds, and/or national or regional particularities. An interdisciplinary team of authors combines comparative policy analysis with theoretical dialogue about the conceptual, institutional, normative, and political dimensions of a new kind of multilateral cooperation. Finally, the book concludes that by stimulating an intercultural dialogue which goes beyond a mere "rational choice" approach, we can foster progress through a better understanding of the opportunities and limitations offered by a pluralist, varied, post-hegemonic, and multilayered form of multilateral cooperation. This book will be of key interest to scholars and students of European/EU studies, economics, human rights,

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climate change, history, cultural studies, international relations, international political economy, security studies, and international law.

"A joint publication of the Social Science Research Council and New York University Press."

Price divergence is readily apparent to anyone who shops. Travelers from Manchester to London, or from Chicago to Paris, are hit by sticker shock. Products ranging from London Fog raincoats to Viagra are available over the Internet at half their retail store prices. Common experience tells us that prices for identical products differ between countries, between cities, even between neighboring shops. On the other hand, common experience also tells us that open markets and greater competition will force a degree of price convergence, if not identical prices. This monograph presents speculative calculations that illustrate potential benefits from price convergence between countries. The authors take a fresh look at global economic integration by examining existing price divergence, and possible price convergence, across a range of consumer goods and then calculate the potential benefits of price convergence on a country-by-country basis and for the world as a whole. This study examines the potential benefits from price convergence resulting from more competition and market integration, not perfect competition and market integration. The authors calculate these benefits

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assuming that the world economy can attain the same degree of competition and market integration--and hence price convergence--as exists within the United States.

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