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argues convincingly for the relevance of politics together with poor capacities to account for absorption problems.” Petra Stykow, Chair of Comparative Political Systems, LMU Munich, Germany “The book constitutes an admirable display of methodological rigor and empirical richness. Employing a mixed methods design, the book uncovers both general patterns and traces the causal mechanisms underpinning them. A must read for every scholar interested in EU studies more generally and the post accession politics more specifically.” Berthold Rittberger, Chair of Political Science and International Relations, LMU Munich, Germany “Hagemann has written a book of great interest to students of comparative politics, as it engages with debates about Europeanisation, implementation and compliance, and the development of post-Communist political systems. His empirically rich and analytically rigorous study of the absorption of EU funds draws attention to the importance of politicisation as a decisive explanatory variable.” Klaus H. Goetz, Chair of Political Systems and European Integration, LMU Munich, Germany This book examines new member states’ problems with the absorption of EU funds. Since accession, many new member states from Central and Eastern Europe struggle to access their billions of development funds from Brussels. While existing research mostly emphasizes the role of states’ administrative capacities to account for absorption problems, this study adds the so far neglected role of politics as party politicization to the equation. The argument is tested using a combination of fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA) with two detailed process tracing case studies. This book will appeal to scholars interested in EU cohesion policy, post-accession compliance, and post-communist politics. Christian Hagemann is Research Fellow in Policy Analysis at the Bavarian School of Public Policy at the Technical University of Munich (TUM), Germany. Dr Hagemann’s research in the field of EU studies particularly focuses on the EU’s transformative power in the post-communist space.
