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Altri autori (Persone)	GoraMagdalena ZielinskaKatarzyna
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The shrinking influence of a growing EU The limits to populism; Part two: IDENTITY TRANSFORMATIONS; THE IDENTITY OF EUROPEANS AFTER THE EU ENLARGEMENT; PERIPHERIES AND BORDERS IN A POST-WESTERN EUROPE; Introduction; A post-Western Europe?; The periphery considered; Different kinds of diversities; Re-interpreting the border: cosmopolitan orientations; Conclusion; BETWEEN RECONCILIATION AND THE REACTIVATION OF PAST CONFLICTS IN EUROPE: RETHINKING SOCIAL MEMORY PARADIGMS; The recurrence and diversity of social memory phenomena in Europe
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THE EUROPEAN UNION AS POLITICAL RESOURCE: NGOS AS CHANGE AGENTS?

Sommario/riassunto

In the years after the breakthrough events of 1989, the concept of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) came to be widely used as a synonym for the group of ten countries from the former Eastern Bloc aspiring to EU membership. This book is an attempt to demonstrate and assess the changes resulting from the EU enlargements of 2004 and 2007 and European integration processes, identifying both the similarities and the differences in the countries of the region. This volume is addressed to those interested in Central and Eastern Europe. It has two main aims: first, to present the recent alterations in the region resulting from the processes of European integration; second, to offer an account of the process of Europeanisation in the countries occurring after accession to the EU that goes beyond just conditionality mechanisms. The collection also attempts to reflect on and contribute to the discussion on how the changes taking place in CEE influence theorisation on Europeanisation - a concept initially constructed in order to tackle the changes taking place in response to the processes of European integration in the old member states. The book is divided into four parts, each concentrating on an area where the changes seem to be most profound and most interesting from the point of view of theorising on the impact of the European integration processes: democratic consolidation in the region, collective identity construction, functioning of civil society and studies on foreign policy and international relations.
