

Review of: "The EU's Capacity for Enlargement: Does It Matter?"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article provides intriguing insights into the European Union's economic readiness for enlargement, offering a commendable diachronic analysis. However, while it delves into past academic discussions, it tends to dwell excessively on historical debates, neglecting newer and potentially more relevant discussions in the field. A more balanced approach, incorporating both historical perspectives and contemporary debates, would enrich the analysis and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the EU's economic capacity for future enlargement.

More specifically:

- Please add some keywords.
- Please reformulate the research question.
- The author is advised to highlight the current academic debates on European integration. While shortly emphasizing previous debates (e.g., spill-over effects) is important, these debates have been largely overtaken by more current research. There is a need to update this theoretical part.
- Regarding Kennedy's book: The author should keep in mind that one common criticism is that Kennedy's focus on economic factors as the primary driver of power dynamics overlooks the importance of other elements such as culture, ideology, and leadership. Some argue that his approach is overly deterministic and fails to account for the complexities of international relations.
- While the author is right in talking about a 'confederation of states' for the EU, the author is invited to question this concept, however. Indeed, according to some scholars, the EU should better be described as a supranational organization with elements of both confederalism and federalism.
- The author wrote "The length of the EU's external borders will increase from 14,000 km to 17,000 km following the accession of Ukraine, which is engaged in a defensive war against Russia". Conditional 'would' should be preferred. Lots of articles already highlighted that the notion of a candidate country is very unclear and does not mean that accession will occur soon.
- Council conclusions of December 2023 also opened up perspectives of accession to Georgia. However, the Georgian perspective is completely lacking in this article.
- The conclusion should be more developed (if the number of words allows the author to do so). English needs to be improved as well.

