

question about the effects of enlargement on the Union (although sometimes the analysis of the former is required to explain the latter). Nevertheless, this volume provides a very good (broad and up-to-date) picture of EU enlargement, its effects and implications for the Union. It should be a useful addition to any course on enlargement and the future functioning of the European Union.

RAMUNAS VILPISAUSKAS
Vilnius University

Technology, Television and Competition: The Politics of Digital TV, by J.A. Hart (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, ISBN 0 521 82624 1); xiv+248pp., £40 hb.

When I was approached to write a review of this book, I wondered whether I was competent to do this, not having a technology background. Reading it, I realized that this work has a contribution to make to the understanding of my field, the political economy. The contents examine the interplay between technology, competition and business strategy.

The book aims to provide an insight into digitalization issues. It focuses on HDTV and DTV, as a valid case of the broader transition in the field, and analyses the standards war on an international scale. It is therefore organized into chapters that present the institutional setting and discuss the more technological issues of digital convergence. Three case studies subsequently research HDTV in Japan, the United States and Europe. These regional studies explain the diverse evolution and challenges of digitalization in these three leading economies. This part is followed by an analysis of digital television in the United States and Europe, based on documentary sources as well as field research and interviews. The whole is illustrated by examples of global standards in a chapter that precedes the conclusions. The author uses very pertinent examples and a style that is easily readable and comprehensible for the layman.

What comes to mind when starting the book is a serious question about the relevant time. Is a book that deals with digitalization in the 1980s and 1990s not outdated? The author has taken the risk of publishing material which could be considered obsolete. However this worry is eliminated by his clear demonstration of the particular interest of a time period that is essential for the study of the triad, of the US's lead in global competitiveness, and of standards wars. This teaches us much about the way corporations win markets, and how this is linked to the impact of institutions, interests, ideas and nationalism. These relationships are crucial to global competitiveness. Jeffrey Hart's main argument is that domestic decision processes and international negotiations have a critical influence on the way business players seek advantages.

Altogether, while the theoretical output could have been enhanced, the discussion of the broader meaning of the case of digitalization for the present and future of the political economy is well developed and contributes to our understanding.

GABRIELE SUDER
CERAM Sophia-Antipolis