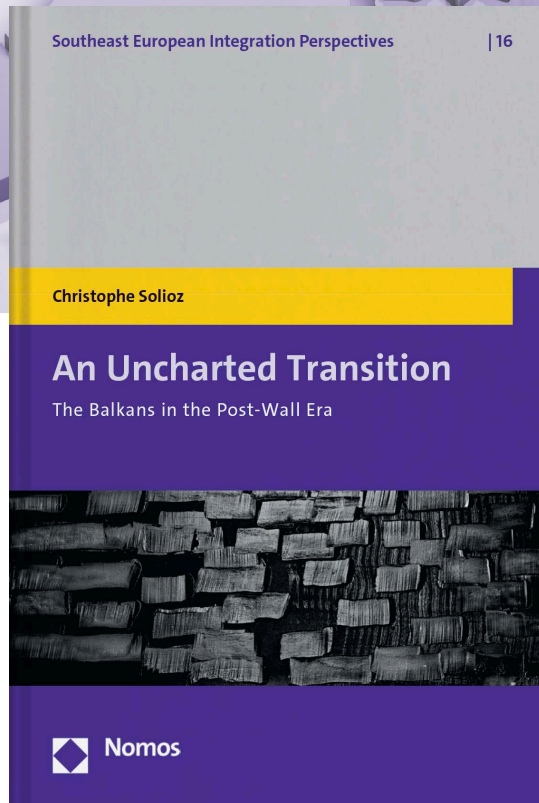


# Integration, Democratisation, and the East-West Divide



## An Uncharted Transition

The Balkans in the Post-Wall Era

Christophe Solioz

2024, 255 pp., hc., € 69.00

ISBN 978-3-7560-0644-1

(Southeast European Integration Perspectives, vol. 16)

[www.nomos-shop.de/isbn/978-3-7560-0644-1](http://www.nomos-shop.de/isbn/978-3-7560-0644-1)

*An Uncharted Transition* focuses on the western Balkans and east-central Europe in an integrated approach attempting to evidence the main trends in, review the variety of interacting trajectories of and offer new insights into these regions. This essay sheds new light on some key issues, such as transition, integration, democratisation, the east–west divide and the core–periphery gap. Its aim is to highlight systemic change, to acknowledge the hybridisation of structural factors and individual ones, and to identify the oscillation between formality and informality, consolidation and deconsolidation, and democratisation and de-democratisation.

The author argues, first, that transition—characterised by instability, movement, alterations and ruptures—becomes

the rule of any society, not exclusively that of ‘transitional societies’. And, secondly, away from the sequencing theorised on in democratisation studies, transition points tentatively—beyond the post-Wall period—to a new era: an age of transition characterised by uncertainty as well as by movement that creatively empowers a society to self-constitute. Accordingly, democracy is framed as an open-ended process, ‘under construction’, constantly interrogating itself.

*An Uncharted Transition* invites the reader to explore the new lands of democracy through forward-looking analyses based on a substantial number of sources in multiple languages. It presents if not a manifesto, then a wake-up call to those involved in shaping how Europe, central and eastern Europe specifically, could be in the future.

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