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The political globalisation trilemma revisited: An empirical assessment across countries and over time

Abstract

The political hyperglobalisation trilemma asserts that a government cannot simultaneously opt for deep international integration, national sovereignty and democratic politics, but rather is constrained to choosing two of the three at most. This paper presents a new and comprehensive cross-country panel dataset operationalising the multifaceted three vertices of the trilemma. After an explorative data analysis, we employ panel error-correction techniques to uncover the mutual interdependencies among the variables in the system. The econometric evidence supports the existence of a long-run relationship between economic integration, national sovereignty and democratic politics as postulated in the political globalisation trilemma.

Keywords: political trilemma, globalisation, democratic politics, national sovereignty

JEL codes: F60, F62, F15, F68

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