

Theoretical Approaches to the Institutions of the Integrative Structures

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Abstract: The article contains the presentation of some theoretical approaches regarding the institutions. At the basis of the organization, coordination and consolidation of a society rests the "institutions". They are the ones that establish institutional rules which facilitate the relations between the citizens and which allow the efficient and correct functioning of a society. The institutions modify over time as a consequence of the dynamic of the external environment, national and/or international. The article concentrates on the analysis of the theoretical aspects of the political institutions in general and of European Union's institutions in particular. Throughout the text, the institutional theories of "old" and "new" institutionalism are presented. Belonging to the "new" institutionalism theoretical approach, three big schools of thought are analyzed: rational choice, historical institutionalism and sociological institutionalism. Although each of these approached has its own characteristics and explanations regarding the role, the functioning and effects of the institutions, they share a common element, namely that "the institutions matter".

Key words: Institution, institutionalism, "old" institutionalism, "new" institutionalism, rational choice, historical institutionalism, sociological institutionalism