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<p>Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract</p> <p>The aim of the present research is to analyse one of the main integration processes going on in the world today, namely the Common Market of the Southern Cone (Mercosur). On March 1991, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay signed the Treaty of Asuncion in which they agreed to establish a common market by December 1994. Today, ten years later, Mercosur can be defined as a customs union.</p> <p>The main characteristic of Mercosur integration has been its state-centric nature and its intergovernmental structure. Negotiations and decision-making in Mercosur have taken place mainly among the national executive powers. Within the intergovernmental structure the presidents of the member-states have been the main actors. Decision-making organs are composed of members and representatives of the governments. Other institutions such as the national parliaments, the judiciaries and other organised economic and social sectors are represented in the Mercosur advisory organs, which have played an almost insignificant role in the process.</p> <p>The research deals with two main questions. Why did Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay decided to create Mercosur? And secondly, why have they adopted a strongly intergovernmental structure?</p> <p>The analysis of Mercosur, and the mentioned questions, happen in this research within the theoretical framework of new regionalism. The new regionalist multi-dimensional and state-centric view of integration is of essential importance to understand the target. Mercosur integration is explained as the result of the convergence of the restored democratic regimes and the development of the countries' international relations. The executive-centred decision-making structure is explained as a reflection of the executive-centred domestic political systems and culture, common to the whole region.</p> <p>The current Mercosur structure may not be responding to the demands of the integration. Legal and economic controversies have derived from certain deficit of integration. This situation may call for a reconsideration of the process within the present circumstances. This is the aim of the research, to rethink Mercosur.</p>			
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