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Summary

The Progress of European Integration : A History of Responding to Crises and Deepening Integrartion

European integration evolved through a process of responding to the crises faced by the member states. In this process, integration deepened as some of the member states' sovereignty was transferred to the union. This feature will reexamine this history in three policy domains.

At first, the EEC sought to protect agriculture by introducing the common agricultural policy (CAP). The bulk of the community's budget was allocated to the operation of the CAP, and independent revenue sources collected based on community rules were adopted for that purpose. In this way, the CAP served as the core of deepening integration until the 1970s.

However, as the EC began moving to establish a single market and adopt a single currency against a backdrop of the economic crises of the 1980s, control of agricultural prices was eased and the CAP contracted. Energy policy among the member states basically advanced no further than the level of intergovernmental cooperation, despite the experience of a severe oil crisis.

From the above considerations, it is clear that after the mid-1980s the CAP contracted and ceased to play the main role in deepening integration in the EC/EU. Instead, the center of gravity shifted toward the development of a single market based on free competition. At that time, the deepening of integration accelerated under neoliberal policies.