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Review of International Political Economy > Volume 13, 2006 - Issue 4

5,347 172

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The Political Economy of Economic (Mis)representation

The political economy of International **Accounting Standards**

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Pages 559-586 | Published online: 08 Dec 2006

66 Cite this article ▲ https://doi.org/10.1080/09692290600839790

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ABSTRACT

On 1 January 2005, all stock exchange listed companies in the European Union (EU) began using International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) written by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). This article argues that the IASB's introduction of fair value accounting reflects and reinforces changed relations of production in which the financial sector increasingly dominates the productive sector,

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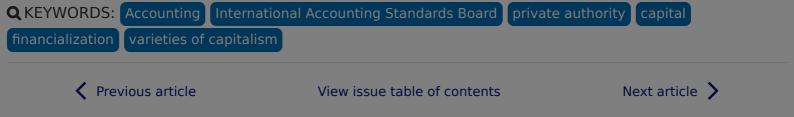
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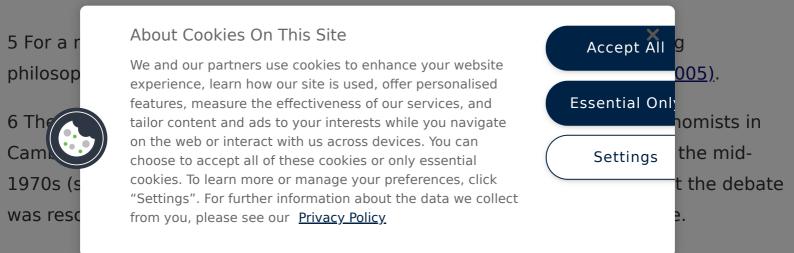


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Research leading to this article was funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) as part of their 'Shifts in Governance' programme. We would also like to thank three anonymous referees for their comments.

Notes

- 1 The IASB has recently started using the term International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) instead of International Accounting Standards (IAS). To avoid confusion, when referring collectively to all IASB standards currently in force, we use the single term IFRS in this paper. This includes previously issued IAS which are still in force.
- 2 We owe this point to one of three anonymous referees of an earlier version of this article.
- 3 Notwithstanding two temporary 'carve outs' (exemptions) from IAS 39 won by the European banking sector (<u>Grant, 2005</u>). Neither of these exemptions change the finance-productive sector relations with which this part of our analysis is concerned.
- 4 We owe this point to one of three anonymous referees of an earlier version of this article.



7 To maintain consistency between accounts it is also expected that equivalent accounting treatment will have to be applied to goodwill generated internally by a corporation (<u>Bromwich</u>, 2004; <u>FT</u>, 2006).

8 The Big Four global accountancy firms are PriceWaterHouseCoopers (PWC), Ernst & Young, Deloitte & Touche, and KPMG.

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