

Small States

in Years of depression

The Oslo Alliance
1930 -1940

Ger van Roon

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This book is the first monography about the economic and political cooperation of the Oslo states - Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Finland - between 1930 and 1940. First and foremost it is however a study of the consequences of increasing disintegration at the international level during a period of economic decline. Besides it links up with important themes of the 1930s - League of Nations, Depression, Protectionism, Ethiopia, Third Reich, Appeasement, Spanish Civil War and US policy.

Sometimes smaller states are able to pursue a more flexible foreign policy than their larger neighbours and adjust more quickly to new situations.

Despite some weakness the cooperation of the Oslo states was a forerunner of post-war regional cooperation - Benelux, Nordic Council - and post-war integration. Therefore this book is also a plea for more international cooperation.

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