The book discusses corporate integration, which is quite a new phenomenon in the post-Soviet space.

Corporate integration in CIS countries is boosted by the expansion of economic activities by enterprises beyond certain CIS countries. Many firms from CIS countries export their products to other countries and import resources from their, and in order to improve the efficiency of their activities they build business chains by buying enterprises in other CIS countries or using a system of trade loans. The acquisition of stakes by enterprises and the use of the system of trade loans are perfect examples of corporate integration of CIS countries. As a result, the need has emerged to analyse various approaches to bringing about integration and study foreign experience and, based on it, draft the most efficient means of corporate integration in the post-Soviet space.

The authors of the monograph, Boris Heyfets and Alexandr Libman, have been working on this topic for many years. In 2006, they published a monograph entitled “Expansion of Russian Capital to CIS Countries” (Moscow: Ekonomika). In this book, based on revised and updated information, the authors compare the advantages of corporate integration with the strengths of so-called formal integration and analyse their mutual relations. In other words, they compare bottom-up integration with top-down integration. On the basis of this analysis, they conclude that corporate integration and formal integration are not adversaries. On the contrary, thanks to its greater efficiency corporate integration supplements and creates conditions for developing formal integration.

The book also provides a historical and regional review of different approaches to corporate integration taking place in the world and analyses the advantages and shortcomings of different types of corporate integration and their applicability in the post-Soviet space.
Among types of integration, particular attention is paid to investment expansion, because this is the most widespread type of integration in the post-Soviet space. Based on statistical data, the authors analyse the flows of different types of investment between CIS countries, and study examples of the acquisition of stakes by companies in the post-Soviet space. In addition, the authors describe the main investment strategies adopted by enterprises in the post-Soviet space and specify their positive and negative aspects.

The monograph also discusses other types of corporate integration such as production and scientific cooperation, international strategic alliances, labour migration and mutual economic relations between regions. The authors show that production and scientific cooperation in the CIS has a significant foundation thanks to a common production and technical infrastructure inherited after the break-up of the USSR. It also scrutinises the reasons for labour migration and its importance in the context of corporate integration in the post-Soviet space.

The book also analyses the competitive environment in the CIS (competition between companies from CIS countries and other countries) and its influence on corporate integration in the CIS.

Compelling qualities of this book include the clarity and consistence of presentation as well as the application of a large amount of illustrative data on the flows of investment between CIS countries and the acquisition of stakes by various enterprises in companies from other CIS countries.