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these key questions and move at a time when understanding what the EU is and what it does is more important than ever before.

Understanding the European Union - John McCormick - 1999-04-07


fully updated to include the Lisbon treaty, the EU fiscal crisis, and the state of the Euro currency. This accessible Very Short Introduction shows how and why the EU has developed, its institutions and works, and what it does - from the single market to the Euro, and from agriculture to peace-keeping and the environment.


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Understanding Brexit - Graham Taylor - 2017-11-29

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Understanding the European Union's External Relations - Michèle Knodt - 2003-09-02

The European Union is one of the world’s biggest economies. However, its role as an international actor is ambiguous and it’s not always able to transform its political power into effective external policies. The development of an ‘assertive’ EU challenges the image of an internal project aimed at economic integration and international relations theories based on unitary state actors. This book systematically links the EU’s external relations to existing political theories, showing how existing theories need to be modified in order to clarify the EU’s role as an international actor.

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Understanding the European Union Institutions - Alexis Wegerl - 2002-09-09
Understanding the institutions of the European Union is vital to understanding how it functions. This book provides students with a user-friendly introduction to the main institutions of the European Union, explaining why they were created, their development, and their role in making decisions. It also explains the relationship between the institutions that make European Union policy and the political parties that form the majority of governments of the member states. Throughout the book, the authors provide a comprehensive and up-to-date guide to the workings of the European Union. The book is divided into five parts, each covering a different aspect of the institutions of the European Union. Part One introduces the concept of European integration and its main institutions. Part Two provides an overview of the political context of European Union institutions. Part Three examines the main institutions of the European Union, including the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Central Bank, and the European Court of Justice. Part Four considers the role of the European Union in the world, and Part Five concludes with a discussion of the future of the European Union and its institutions. The book is written in a clear and concise style, with clear explanations of complex concepts and ideas. It is supported by numerous examples and case studies, and is ideal for undergraduate and graduate students of European studies and political science. It is also a valuable resource for policymakers, journalists, and the general public who want to understand how the European Union works.

Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction - The European Union Series - 2017-01-03
"Central Europe" is a vague and ambiguous term, more to do with outlook and a state of mind than with a firmly defined geographical region. In the immediate culture, art and history. Overall, the book casts a great deal of light on the complex nature of "Central Europe". In this concise introduction to the main institutions of the European Union, the authors explain why they were created, their development, and their role in making decisions. Throughout the book, the authors provide a comprehensive and up-to-date guide to the workings of the European Union. The book is divided into five parts, each covering a different aspect of the institutions of the European Union. Part One introduces the concept of European integration and its main institutions. Part Two provides an overview of the political context of European Union institutions. Part Three examines the main institutions of the European Union, including the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Central Bank, and the European Court of Justice. Part Four considers the role of the European Union in the world, and Part Five concludes with a discussion of the future of the European Union and its institutions. The book is written in a clear and concise style, with clear explanations of complex concepts and ideas. It is supported by numerous examples and case studies, and is ideal for undergraduate and graduate students of European studies and political science. It is also a valuable resource for policymakers, journalists, and the general public who want to understand how the European Union works.

Europe's Last Chance - Guy Verhofstadt - 2017-09-09
"Europe's Last Chance" is a clarion call to save the European Union, one of the world's greatest chances for peace and prosperity. The book argues that the European Union is facing its greatest crisis since the Second World War, with the possibility of a "clash of civilisations" between the old continent and the new. The book offers a powerful vision for how the continent can be saved, with a focus on the need for a "European federalism" to ensure that the Union remains strong enough to stand with the United States of America in making a better, safer world. A visionary book from one of today's luminaries of European leadership, Europe's Last Chance is a clarion call to save the European Union, one of the world's greatest chances for peace and prosperity.

The Politics of the European Union - Herman Leefsewiet - 2015-07-09
Introduces the European Union through the lens of comparative politics. Exercises, case studies and real-world examples facilitate student learning.

The European Union of today cannot be understood without a deep understanding of how the Union operates, and has a review of the nature and operations of the major policies. This is an up-to-date account of how the European Union works, including developments since the introduction of the Treaty on European Union, the modifications introduced since the Treaty of Amsterdam and the preparations for economic and monetary union and enlargement. It focuses on how the EU is structured, operated, and has a review of the nature and operations of the major policies.
This book explores how the European Union has been responding to the challenge of diversity. In doing so, it considers the EU as a complex polity that has found novel ways for accommodating diversity. Much of the literature on the EU seeks to identify it as a unique case of cooperation between states that moves past classic international cooperation. This volume argues that in order to understand the EU's effort in managing the diversity among its members and citizens it is more effective understanding of how states and other polities can respond to challenges of diversity, including both the diversity of constituent units of or sub-national groups and identities.

Negotiating Unity and Diversity in the European Union - Floriana Bieblo - 2010-05-12

This book explores how the European Union has moved from a policy of convergence to one of accommodating diversity. It shows how the EU has developed a set of techniques for managing diversity, which it has applied to a wide range of policy areas. It argues that this approach to diversity has been successful because it allows the EU to maintain its core principles of democracy and justice, while also respecting the diversity of its member states.

Transforming Europe - Maria Green Cowles - 2018-08-06

Does the European Union change the domestic politics and institutions of its member states? Many studies of EU decision-making in Brussels pay little attention to the politics of adaptation at home. This book comprehensively examines how and why the EU has been able to adapt to domestic conditions and thus transform the domestic political and institutional landscapes of its member states. It presents a broad range of cases and provides cutting-edge research on European integration, which demonstrates that the EU has substantial power to alter the preferences and policies of its member states.

The External Action of the European Union - Sieglinde Gstöhl - 2021-03-26

This book offers an in-depth and comprehensive analysis of the external (or foreign) policies of the European Union (EU). It examines the history, development, and impact of EU external relations, and provides an up-to-date overview of the key issues and challenges facing the EU in its role as a global actor.

Core-periphery relations in the European Union - Jose M. Magone - 2016-02-26

Successive enlargements to the European Union have transformed it into an economically, politically and culturally heterogeneous body with distinct vulnerabilities in its multilevel governance. This book analyses core-periphery relations to highlight the growing cleavage, and potential conflict, between the core and periphery members of the EU. It considers how the EU has managed to accommodate diversity through various policy mechanisms, including the European Economic and Social Committee, and examines the implications of these developments for the future of the Union.

Understanding European Movements - Cristina Flesker Forniaga - 2013-07-18

European social movements have been central to European history, politics, society and culture, and have had a global reach and impact. Yet they have rarely been explored in the context of international politics and brought together in a single volume. This book offers an in-depth and comprehensive analysis of the role of European social movements in shaping the political landscape of the European Union (EU). It examines the history, development, and impact of EU external relations, and provides an up-to-date overview of the key issues and challenges facing the EU in its role as a global actor.
Anglophone social movement theorists to pay attention to the substantial literatures in languages such as French, German or Italian - and by the increasing dominance of English in the production of news and other forms of media. This book sets out to take the European social movement experience seriously on its own terms, in order to develop an analytical framework to understand EU mediation effectiveness that is then applied to the three cases. The main finding of the book is that EU mediation has a stabilising effect on conflict dynamics, making renewed escalation less likely and contributing to the settlement of conflict issues. At the same time, the EU’s effectiveness depends primarily on its ability to influence the conflict parties’ willingness to compromise through conditionality and diplomatic pressure.

The European Union as Guardian of Internet Privacy - Heike Hijmans - 2016-09-06
This book explores the complex role of the EU in ensuring privacy and data protection on the internet. It describes and demonstrates the importance of privacy and data protection for our democracies and how the enjoyment of these rights is challenged, particularly, big data and mass surveillance. The book takes the perspective of independent supervisory authorities, the cooperation mechanisms of these authorities, as well as the EU as actor in the external domain. Article 16 TFEU enables the Court of the Justice of the EU to play its role as constitutional court and to set high standards for fundamental rights protection. It obliges the European Parliament and the Council to adopt an EU data protection regulation that would provide a legal framework that is essential to ensure the protection of personal data. It confirms control by independent supervisory authorities as an essential element of data protection and it gives the EU a strong mandate to act in the global arena. The analysis shows that EU powers can be successfully used in a legitimate and effective manner and that this subject could be a success story for the EU, in times of widespread euroskepsis. It demonstrates that the Member States remain integrally involved in EU data protection, even when the Member States refuse to act in a cooperative manner. In order to be a success story, the key stakeholders should be prepared to go the extra mile, as is argued in the book.

Looking to the EU in the Future - Heide Könzer - 2013-02-28
This book explores the EU's effectiveness as an international mediator and provides a comparative analysis of EU mediation through three case studies: the conflict over Montenegro’s independence, the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia, and the Geneva International Discussions on South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The book starts from the observation that the EU has emerged as an important international provider of mediation in various conflicts around the world. Against this background, the author develops an analytical framework to investigate EU mediation effectiveness that is then applied to the three cases. The main finding of the book is that EU mediation has a stabilising effect on conflict dynamics, making renewed escalation less likely and contributing to the settlement of conflict issues. At the same time, the EU’s effectiveness depends primarily on its ability to influence the conflict parties’ willingness to compromise through conditionality and diplomatic pressure.

The European Union as Guardian of Internet Privacy - Heike Hijmans - 2013-06-24
This book explores the complex role of the EU in ensuring privacy and data protection on the internet. It describes and demonstrates the importance of privacy and data protection for our democracies and how the enjoyment of these rights is challenged, particularly, big data and mass surveillance. The book takes the perspective of independent supervisory authorities, the cooperation mechanisms of these authorities, as well as the EU as actor in the external domain. Article 16 TFEU enables the Court of the Justice of the EU to play its role as constitutional court and to set high standards for fundamental rights protection. It obliges the European Parliament and the Council to adopt an EU data protection regulation that would provide a legal framework that is essential to ensure the protection of personal data. It confirms control by independent supervisory authorities as an essential element of data protection and it gives the EU a strong mandate to act in the global arena. The analysis shows that EU powers can be successfully used in a legitimate and effective manner and that this subject could be a success story for the EU, in times of widespread euroskepsis. It demonstrates that the Member States remain integrally involved in EU data protection, even when the Member States refuse to act in a cooperative manner. In order to be a success story, the key stakeholders should be prepared to go the extra mile, as is argued in the book.

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