

john mccormick understanding the european union

****John McCormick Understanding the European Union: A Deep Dive into Europe's Political Landscape****

john mccormick understanding the european union serves as a cornerstone for anyone eager to grasp the complexities of one of the world's most influential political and economic organizations. The European Union (EU) is often seen as a labyrinth of treaties, institutions, and policies, making it challenging for students, scholars, and enthusiasts to fully comprehend its inner workings. Fortunately, John McCormick's insightful work provides clarity, offering a comprehensive yet accessible approach to the EU's structure, history, and contemporary challenges.

Who is John McCormick and Why His Work Matters

John McCormick is a distinguished scholar in the field of European politics, widely recognized for his clear and analytical writing about the European Union. His books, particularly "Understanding the European Union," have become foundational texts in political science courses across the globe. McCormick's expertise lies in making complicated subjects approachable without sacrificing depth, which is why his work continues to be a go-to resource for understanding the EU's evolution and significance.

Unlike dry academic tomes, McCormick's approach combines historical context with an analysis of political institutions and current affairs. This makes his work not only informative but also engaging for readers who want to stay updated on European integration, governance, and policy-making.

Breaking Down the European Union: Insights from John McCormick

At its core, John McCormick's understanding of the European Union revolves around explaining how diverse nations collaborate to form a supranational entity with shared goals. The EU is unique: it is more than a traditional international organization but less than a federal state. This delicate balance between sovereignty and integration is a recurring theme in McCormick's analysis.

The Historical Evolution of the EU

To truly understand the European Union, McCormick emphasizes the importance of its

historical roots. From the aftermath of World War II, European leaders sought to create lasting peace through economic cooperation. The journey began with the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951, which eventually evolved through various treaties into the EU we know today.

McCormick details key milestones like the Treaty of Rome (1957), which established the European Economic Community, and subsequent treaties such as Maastricht (1992), Amsterdam (1997), and Lisbon (2009). Each treaty expanded the scope and depth of European integration, introducing new policies and institutions. Understanding these treaties is crucial because they shape the EU's legal framework and political dynamics.

The EU's Institutional Framework Explained

One of the challenges in grasping the EU is its complex institutional setup, which McCormick unpacks with clarity. The main EU institutions include:

- **The European Commission:** The executive body responsible for proposing legislation and ensuring EU laws are implemented.
- **The European Parliament:** The directly elected legislative body representing EU citizens.
- **The Council of the European Union:** Composed of national ministers, it adopts laws and coordinates policies.
- **The European Council:** Consisting of heads of state or government, it sets the overall political direction.
- **The Court of Justice of the European Union:** Ensures EU law is interpreted and applied uniformly.

McCormick's explanation helps readers appreciate how these institutions interact, balancing national interests and collective European goals. This interplay is vital for understanding how the EU formulates policies, from trade to environmental regulations.

Key Themes in John McCormick's Understanding of the EU

Beyond institutions and history, McCormick explores several critical themes that define the EU's character and ongoing development.

Supranationalism vs. Intergovernmentalism

A central tension in the EU is between supranationalism—the idea that certain decisions are made above the national level—and intergovernmentalism, where member states retain control. McCormick carefully examines this dynamic, showing how the EU has navigated shifts between deeper integration and respect for national sovereignty. This balance affects everything from policy-making to the EU's expansion.

Economic and Monetary Union

McCormick's work also delves into the economic dimension of the European Union. The creation of the euro and the establishment of the European Central Bank marked significant steps toward economic integration. Understanding the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) is critical to appreciating the EU's ambitions and challenges, particularly in light of economic crises and debates over fiscal policy.

The Role of the EU in Global Politics

Another perspective McCormick highlights is the EU's position on the world stage. Although it is not a traditional nation-state, the EU wields considerable influence in trade, diplomacy, and environmental policy. McCormick explores how the EU navigates relations with global powers like the United States, China, and Russia, emphasizing its role as a normative power promoting democracy, human rights, and economic cooperation.

Using John McCormick's Framework to Understand Contemporary EU Issues

John McCormick's understanding of the European Union is not just academic; it offers practical tools for making sense of current events, from Brexit to migration crises.

Brexit and the Future of European Integration

The United Kingdom's departure from the EU was a watershed moment, raising questions about the Union's cohesion and future trajectory. McCormick's insights into the balance between sovereignty and integration help explain why Brexit was both possible and complex. His framework assists readers in understanding the negotiations, political debates, and potential implications for the remaining member states.

Migration and Security Challenges

Migration has tested the EU's ability to formulate unified policies. McCormick's work sheds light on how institutional mechanisms and political compromises shape responses to humanitarian and security concerns. His analysis helps clarify why member states sometimes struggle to reach consensus despite shared values.

Climate Policy and the Green Deal

The EU's ambitious climate goals feature prominently in McCormick's contemporary analysis. By linking institutional powers with policy initiatives, he illustrates how the EU is positioning itself as a leader in combating climate change. Understanding the legislative process and the role of various EU bodies is key to appreciating the complexities behind initiatives like the European Green Deal.

Tips for Readers Engaging with John McCormick's Understanding of the European Union

If you're diving into John McCormick's work to better understand the EU, here are some helpful pointers:

- **Start with the basics:** Familiarize yourself with the EU's history and key treaties before tackling more complex institutional details.
- **Focus on institutions:** Knowing how the Commission, Parliament, and Council function will make current events more understandable.
- **Keep an eye on terminology:** Words like "supranationalism," "intergovernmentalism," and "subsidiarity" are central to McCormick's explanations.
- **Relate theory to practice:** Use McCormick's framework to analyze ongoing EU challenges such as Brexit, migration, and climate policy.
- **Stay updated:** The EU is constantly evolving, so supplement McCormick's foundational knowledge with current news and analyses.

By following these tips, readers can maximize their understanding and appreciate the EU's complexity and significance.

Why John McCormick's Perspective is Essential for EU Enthusiasts and Scholars

Understanding the European Union through John McCormick's lens equips readers with a nuanced view that goes beyond surface-level information. His balanced approach highlights both the achievements and limitations of European integration, encouraging critical thinking about how the EU operates and what it represents in a globalized world.

For students of political science, international relations, or European studies, McCormick's work offers a sturdy foundation to explore more specialized topics like EU law, foreign policy, or economic governance. For casual readers or professionals, it demystifies a complex institution that shapes much of Europe's political and economic landscape.

In essence, John McCormick's understanding of the European Union is a valuable guide that blends historical context, institutional knowledge, and thematic analysis into an accessible narrative. Whether you're new to the subject or looking to deepen your expertise, his insights illuminate the ongoing story of European unity and diversity.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is John McCormick in the context of European Union studies?

John McCormick is a political scientist and author known for his extensive work on the European Union, particularly in explaining its institutions, policies, and integration processes.

What is the main focus of John McCormick's book 'Understanding the European Union'?

The book primarily focuses on explaining the political, economic, and institutional structures of the European Union, aiming to provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of how the EU functions.

How does John McCormick explain the decision-making process within the European Union?

McCormick outlines the roles of key EU institutions such as the European Commission, European Parliament, and the Council of the European Union, illustrating how they interact and share power in the EU's complex decision-making process.

Why is John McCormick's 'Understanding the European

Union' considered relevant for students and scholars?

The book is widely regarded for its clear, accessible language and thorough coverage of EU topics, making it a valuable resource for both newcomers and experts seeking to understand the intricacies of the EU.

Does John McCormick address the challenges facing the European Union in his work?

Yes, McCormick discusses various challenges including economic disparities among member states, issues of sovereignty, Brexit, and the future of EU integration, providing a balanced view of the EU's strengths and weaknesses.

Additional Resources

****John McCormick Understanding the European Union: A Comprehensive Review****

john mccormick understanding the european union stands as a pivotal work in the field of European studies, offering readers an insightful and nuanced exploration of the complex political, economic, and social fabric that constitutes the European Union (EU). As Europe continues to face numerous challenges—from Brexit to migration and economic integration—McCormick's analysis becomes increasingly relevant for academics, policymakers, and anyone seeking a clear, authoritative guide to the EU's evolution and current dynamics.

Exploring the Core of John McCormick Understanding the European Union

John McCormick's book meticulously unpacks the European Union's institutional framework, policy areas, and the intricate balance between national sovereignty and supranational governance. His approach is both analytical and accessible, making complex EU mechanisms understandable without oversimplification. By focusing on the EU's foundational treaties, legislative processes, and the roles of key institutions such as the European Commission, European Parliament, and European Council, McCormick offers readers a detailed map of how decisions are made within the union.

One of the standout features of *John McCormick Understanding the European Union* is its timely engagement with contemporary issues. The book does not shy away from analyzing contentious topics such as Euroscepticism, democratic deficits, and the challenges posed by enlargement. This comprehensive treatment allows readers to grasp not only how the EU functions but also the political and social tensions that influence its trajectory.

Institutional Dynamics and Governance

Institutional Framework and Decision-Making

At the heart of McCormick's work is a thorough examination of the EU's institutional architecture. The book delineates the distinct functions and powers of the European Commission, Parliament, and Council, clarifying the often-confused division between supranational and intergovernmental elements. This section is particularly valuable for understanding the legislative process, including the ordinary legislative procedure, which requires cooperation and compromise across institutions.

McCormick also highlights the significance of the European Court of Justice in shaping EU law, emphasizing its role in ensuring treaty compliance and the uniform interpretation of EU legislation. This legal dimension is crucial for appreciating the EU's authority over member states and its impact on national legal systems.

The Balance Between Sovereignty and Integration

A recurring theme in *John McCormick Understanding the European Union* is the tension between national sovereignty and the deepening of European integration. McCormick expertly charts the historical development of this relationship, tracing how member states have negotiated the transfer of competences to the EU level while striving to maintain their autonomy.

This discussion is particularly relevant in the context of recent political developments such as Brexit, where issues of sovereignty and identity have come to the forefront. McCormick's analysis helps readers understand why certain member states remain skeptical of further integration and how this skepticism influences EU policies and reforms.

Policy Areas and Challenges

Economic and Monetary Union

McCormick dedicates significant attention to the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), a cornerstone of European integration that ties member states through a shared currency—the euro. The book provides an in-depth look at the eurozone's structure, governance, and the challenges it faces, including fiscal coordination, economic disparities among member states, and the implications of monetary policy decisions by the European Central Bank.

The analysis also touches on the eurozone crisis and its aftermath, offering insights into the EU's crisis management mechanisms and the ongoing debates about fiscal integration. This discussion is critical for understanding both the strengths and vulnerabilities of the EU's economic framework.

Foreign Policy and Security

Beyond economic integration, *John McCormick Understanding the European Union* explores the EU's evolving role in foreign policy and security. McCormick examines the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), highlighting its successes and limitations. The book discusses the challenges of achieving a unified stance among diverse member states and the EU's efforts to position itself as a global actor in diplomacy, conflict resolution, and crisis management.

This section is especially insightful for readers interested in the EU's geopolitical ambitions and its interactions with major powers such as the United States, Russia, and China.

Strengths and Limitations of McCormick's Approach

John McCormick's work excels in providing a balanced overview that combines historical context with contemporary analysis. His methodical approach, supported by ample references to treaties, case law, and official EU documents, lends the book academic rigor without sacrificing readability. Furthermore, the inclusion of case studies and real-world examples enriches the reader's understanding of abstract concepts.

However, some critics note that the book occasionally prioritizes institutional analysis over the lived experiences and perspectives of EU citizens. While McCormick addresses democratic deficits, the exploration of public opinion and grassroots movements could be more pronounced to fully capture the EU's social dimensions.

Why John McCormick Understanding the European Union Matters Today

As the European Union navigates a period marked by uncertainty—from the aftermath of Brexit to debates over migration and climate policy—*John McCormick Understanding the European Union* remains a vital resource. Its comprehensive coverage helps demystify the EU's complex workings, making it indispensable for students, researchers, and professionals alike.

The book's detailed explanations of institutional roles, policy challenges, and integration theories provide a foundation for informed discussion and analysis. Moreover, McCormick's clear articulation of the EU's strengths and weaknesses encourages critical engagement with ongoing debates about Europe's future.

Key Features of the Book

- Comprehensive overview of EU institutions and decision-making processes

- Detailed analysis of major policy areas including the single market, EMU, and foreign policy
- Insightful exploration of sovereignty, integration, and democratic challenges
- Use of case studies and current events to illustrate theoretical points
- Balanced, accessible language suitable for both academic and general readers

Final Thoughts

In an era where the European Union is often at the center of global political and economic discussions, *John McCormick Understanding the European Union* offers clarity and depth. Its analytical yet accessible approach equips readers with the tools to understand the EU's institutional complexity and the multifaceted challenges it faces.

For anyone seeking to comprehend the nuances of European integration, McCormick's book is more than a textbook—it is an essential guide to the evolving story of one of the world's most ambitious supranational projects.

[John McCormick Understanding The European Union](#)

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john mccormick understanding the european union: Understanding the European Union John McCormick, 2020-11-13 This is the must-have, leading introduction to the European Union. Offering an ideal primer on the EU's history, institutions, and politics, this concise textbook also covers the various challenges and opportunities faced by the EU, from the democratic deficit and the potential of future enlargement to the spread of nationalism and crises such as Brexit and the impact of the global pandemic. Understanding the European Union is now more crucial than ever, and this text provides a succinct but nuanced account of its development and how it works. This book will be the ideal guide for all undergraduate and postgraduate courses in political science, global affairs and European Studies. It is also a suitable starting point for anyone seeking to learn more about the EU. New to this Edition: - A number of key themes and issues run throughout the book, including past and ongoing crises facing the EU, the EU's place within the broader international system, a focus on the EU's comparative political, social, and economic context, the confederal qualities of the EU, and Brexit. - Addresses the early impact of the global pandemic on the EU. - Greater use of maps, figures, tables and boxes where useful to inform the analysis, accompanied by up-to-date further reading. - Informed throughout by sophisticated yet accessible treatment of theory, including post-functionalism and critical perspectives. - Cutting-edge coverage

of Brexit and negotiations around withdrawal.

john mccormick understanding the european union: Understanding the European Union John McCormick, 2008-05-15 An immediate success on first publication, *Understanding the European Union* provides a broad-ranging but concise introduction to the EU, covering all major aspects of European integration. This revised and updated new edition includes fuller coverage of policy and policy making and of theoretical approaches to the study of the EU.

john mccormick understanding the european union: Why Europe Matters John McCormick, 2013-06-24 Critics like to depict the European Union as undemocratic and unpopular, but their arguments are too often based on myths and misunderstandings. This does us all a disservice, and in this period of uncertainty about the future of Europe it is more important than ever that we have a firm grasp of the issues at stake. This powerful new book debunks the misconceptions surrounding the EU and makes a compelling and comprehensive case for the benefits of European integration. It shows how the EU has improved the lives of Europeans in countless ways, and how it has given Europe a powerful presence on the international stage. Guaranteed to illuminate as well as spark debate, this book will appeal to anyone who seeks to better understand what Europe means and why it matters.

john mccormick understanding the european union: Understanding the European Union John McCormick, 2025-10-16 This is the must-have introduction to the European Union. A primer on the EU's history, institutions, and politics, this concise textbook also covers the various challenges and opportunities faced by the EU, from the democratic deficit and the potential of future enlargement to the spread of nationalism, growing trends of Protectionism and diplomatic isolation, and the new reality of a Europe at war. *Understanding the European Union* is now more crucial than ever, and this text provides a succinct but nuanced account of its development and how it works. The ideal guide for all undergraduate and postgraduate courses in political science, global affairs and European studies, it is also a suitable starting point for anyone seeking to learn more about the EU. New to this Edition: - New opening chapter summaries to make content clearer and easier to approach - New discussion questions at the end of each chapter to aid with learning and revision - Coverage of the 2024 European Parliament elections and an updated summary of the leadership of the European Commission and the European Council - Discussion of recent developments in Ukraine and the Middle East, the EU's role within these conflicts, and their impact on the institution - Includes the 2024 US presidential election and United Kingdom general election, and what they mean for the EU

john mccormick understanding the european union: European Union Politics John McCormick, 2020-05-10 Cutting through the jargon of EU politics, the third edition of this engaging and informative textbook examines the history, institutions, processes and politics of the European Union with unprecedented clarity. The EU is a fascinating political experiment in regional integration and it has changed our understanding of Europe, how Europeans relate to one another, the role Europe plays in global politics and has even shifted our understanding of politics itself. Helping to make sense of it all in the author's accessible style, this book is underpinned by theory and the latest research throughout. Organised in three main parts, the text covers everything from the history of the EU and its treaties to the institutions that make up the EU and its policies in areas such as the economy, the environment and the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. This is the go-to text for all students taking courses or modules on the EU, as well as functioning as an accessible introduction for anyone who wants to find out more about how the EU works and what difference it makes. New to this Edition: - Fully updated to take account of the latest developments, including the ongoing Brexit negotiations, the 2019 European Parliament elections and more on the fallout from the euro zone and migration crises - Two new separate chapters to cover the European Council and the Council of Ministers respectively - More emphasis on comparative politics throughout to compare institutions and policies - Expanded debates on key issues of contention in the European project - Expanded coverage of the most recent research into public opinion in the EU - New Snapshot features in each chapter focusing on a particular EU country Accompanying online

resources for this title can be found at [bloomsburyonlineresources.com/european-union-politics-3e](https://www.bloomsburyonlineresources.com/european-union-politics-3e). These resources are designed to support teaching and learning when using this textbook and are available at no extra cost.

john mccormick understanding the european union: Understanding the European Union John McCormick, 2020-11-13 This is the must-have introduction to the European Union. Offering a primer on the EU's history, institutions, and politics, this concise textbook also covers the various challenges and opportunities faced by the EU, from the democratic deficit and the potential of future enlargement to the spread of nationalism and crises such as Brexit and the impact of the global pandemic. Understanding the European Union is now more crucial than ever, and this text provides a succinct but nuanced account of its development and how it works. This book will be the ideal guide for all undergraduate and postgraduate courses in political science, global affairs and European studies. It is also a suitable starting point for anyone seeking to learn more about the EU. New to this Edition: - A number of key themes and issues run throughout the book, including past and ongoing crises facing the EU, the EU's place within the broader international system, a focus on the EU's comparative political, social, and economic context, the confederal qualities of the EU, and Brexit. - Addresses the early impact of the global pandemic on the EU. - Greater use of maps, figures, tables and boxes where useful to inform the analysis, accompanied by up-to-date further reading. - Informed throughout by sophisticated yet accessible treatment of theory, including post-functionalism and critical perspectives. - Cutting-edge coverage of Brexit and negotiations around withdrawal.

john mccormick understanding the european union: The European Superpower John McCormick, 2006-11-14 In this important new book, John McCormick argues that the EU has become an economic and political superpower, whose new global role calls into doubt most of the recent assessments of unipolarity in world politics and American empire. In his inimitably clear and accessible style, McCormick shows how the rise of Europe has been underplayed because of traditional notions of power politics based on military might which, he argues, are much less relevant than in the past.

john mccormick understanding the european union: The European Union John S McCormick, 2004-09-02 Already one of the best and most widely used introductions to the politics and policies of the European Union, this new edition of John McCormick's book brings the remarkable story of European integration up to date. Retaining the familiar three-part structure - covering the history, governing institutions and policies of the EU - it shows its readers how the EU has become one of the world's economic and political superpowers. It explains how the efforts to build a single market have had far-reaching effects that have changed the lives of Europeans in many different and often unexpected ways, and have helped the 15 individual member states to take a newly-assertive role on the global stage. Thoroughly revised and updated, with many new tables, figures and boxes, the third edition takes into account the following important changes: the effects of the treaties of Amsterdam and Nice the conversion to the euro in early 2002 the conclusions of the EU's constitutional convention the implications of eastern enlargement developments on the common foreign and security policy Characterized by McCormick's clear and engaging style of writing, *The European Union: Politics and Policies* avoids the bureaucratic and legal jargon that colors so many other studies of this important political and economic actor. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand how the EU works, and how it has impacted the lives of 380 million Europeans.

john mccormick understanding the european union: Demystifying the European Union Roy H. Ginsberg, 2010-04-15 Annotation Written by one of the premier scholars on the European Union and hailed as the best undergraduate text on the subject, this book has been thoroughly updated, revised, and streamlined. Clear and comprehensive, it is dedicated to demystifying one of the world's most important and least-understood institutions. Ginsberg begins with the foundation blocks of history, law, economics, and politics to provide the context for understanding integration. He then breaks the EU down into its individual elements so that they easily can be understood on their own,

as well as in relation to one another and to the whole. Ensuring that students' knowledge of the EU rests on a solid foundation, the author challenges them to see it as a remarkable experiment in regional cooperation with profound implications for the peaceful resolution of conflict in many of the world's troubled regions.

john mccormick understanding the european union: What is the European Union Paul Magnette, 2017-09-16 This distinctive new text provides an overview and assessment of key debates about the political character of the EU. Arguing that it is best seen as an international organization - albeit of a particularly integrated kind - Paul Magnette shows how the need to accommodate a range of state interests shapes the EU political system and assesses the implications for its democratic functioning; for institutions and policy; and for Europeanization and integration.

john mccormick understanding the european union: Understanding Euroscepticism Cécile Leconte, 2010-08-31 This timely text provides a concise and readable assessment of the dynamics, character and consequences of opposition to European integration at all levels from elites and governments through parties and the media to voters and grass roots organizations.

john mccormick understanding the european union: Analyzing the European Union Policy Process Esther Versluis, Mendeltje van Keulen, Paul Stephenson, 2010-10-15 Readers are provided with a practical insight into how to analyze policies and policy-making in the EU. Using case studies to deepen readers' understanding, this book examines the various stages of the policy process - from the moment the issue reaches the agenda through to drafting, implementation and evaluation.

john mccormick understanding the european union: The European Union Simon Usherwood, John Pinder, 2018-01-12 The European Union (EU) stands out as a fascinatingly unique political organisation. On the one hand, it has shown the potential for developing deep and wide-ranging cooperation between member states, going far beyond that found anywhere else in the world. On the other, it is currently in the throes of a phase of profound uncertainty about its viability and future. Showing how and why the EU has developed from 1950 to the present day, this Very Short Introduction covers a range of topics, including the Union's early history, the workings of its institutions and what they do, the interplay between 'eurosceptics' and federalists, and the role of the Union beyond Europe in international affairs and as a peace-keeper. In this fully updated fourth edition, Pinder and Usherwood cover the migrant crisis and the UK's decision to leave the Union, set in the context of a body that is now involved in most areas of public policy. Discussing how the EU continues to draw in new members, they conclude by considering the future of the Union and the choices and challenges that may lie ahead. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

john mccormick understanding the european union: European Disintegration? Douglas Webber, 2018-11-20 This new book provides a comprehensive analysis of Europe on the brink of political disintegration. Observers of the European Union (EU) could be forgiven for thinking that it is in a state of permanent crisis. The Union has been beset with high levels of Eurozone debt, Russian intervention and armed conflict in Ukraine, refugees fleeing conflict zones in North Africa and the Middle East, and the decision of Britain to leave the European Union. This text offers a concise and readable assessment of the dynamics, character and consequences of these four crises and the increasingly real possibility of European disintegration. High levels of socio-economic interdependence and institutionalization have failed to result in an ever closer union, and yet the proposed theories of disintegration also fall short. Webber instead shows that it is only by looking at the role of the EU's dominant member, Germany, in each crisis that the potential for an increasingly fragmented Europe becomes clear. Until now, Germany has been the EU's stabilizing force but this is no longer guaranteed. The fate of the integration process will depend on whether other, more inclusive forms of stabilizing leadership may emerge to fill the vacuum created by Berlin's

incapacity. This text is the ideal companion for upper undergraduate and postgraduate students of the European Union, as part of degrees in politics, international relations or European studies, or for anyone interested in the crises of the European Union.

john mccormick understanding the european union: Economic and Monetary Union

Michele Chang, 2016-07-29 This accessible introductory text provides a comprehensive and accessible account of the evolution of the Eurozone, from its beginnings in fixed exchange rate systems through to the aftermath of the sovereign debt crisis. It examines why the EMU was created, what went wrong to bring about the global financial crisis, and why countries were affected so differently. It assesses the impact of monetary union both in Europe and beyond and evaluates the prospects for the Euro as an international currency. Recognising that political union has long been seen as part of monetary integration, and that Eurozone membership often impacts domestic policy, Chang widens the scope of her evaluation to include consider effects and developments that are not purely economic in scope. Using theories drawn from economics and political science, this book provides students with an up-to-date analysis of the recent reforms undertaken, grounded in a long-term perspective of the trajectory of European integration. As well as suiting upper-level undergraduate and Master's courses on European Monetary Union, this text is beneficial for students of Politics, International Relations and European Studies on more general courses to foster an understanding of the impact of the EMU on the wider functioning of the EU. The text is filled with figures, maps, timelines and other pedagogical features to ensure this topic accessible to students of all levels.

john mccormick understanding the european union: The European Council Wolfgang

Wessels, 2015-09-29 This systematic assessment of the -often opaque- European Council looks at its characteristics, leaders and output as well as its impact on EU supranational and intergovernmental dynamics. Taking account of historical and contemporary developments up to and beyond the Lisbon Treaty, it encourages in-depth understanding of this key institution.

john mccormick understanding the european union: The European Commission Neill

Nugent, Mark Rhinard, 2015-10-26 The European Commission is at the very heart of the European integration process and, with the Council, is one of the two central institutions of the European Union. Its activist role under Jacques Delors led to a dramatic increase in its activity and influence and contributed to a crisis of confidence in its effectiveness and its lack of adequate financial controls which culminated in the resignation of the entire Commission under Jacques Santer in 1999. What progress has the Commission made in addressing these issues under Romano Prodi? What are its prospects in face of the new challenges of Eastward enlargement? How great is its influence and how does this vary according to issues and circumstances? What are the implications of its hybrid character as a political and administrative body? How much has the Commission changed over time and how much - and how - does it need to change now? Written by a leading authority and author of the best-selling introductory text on the EU, this major new text provides the definitive introduction to, and assessment of the Commission, its evolution, composition, organisation, character, functioning and role. Comprehensive, up to date and based on extensive original research it will be essential reading for students of European integration; politicians, policy makers and functionaries; and anyone with a serious interest in the European Union, its current character and future prospects.

john mccormick understanding the european union: The Political System of the European Union Simon Hix, Bjørn Høyland, 2011-03-01 The 3rd edition of this bestselling core textbook continues to give an innovative approach to analyzing, researching and teaching the European Union. Starting from the observation that the EU now possesses many of the attributes of modern political systems, Hix and Høyland argue that we should use the general theories of political science to help understand how the EU works. For each of the main processes in the EU political system - executive, legislative and judicial politics, public opinion, interest groups and democracy, and regulatory, monetary and foreign policies - the book introduces the key political science tools, reviews the relevant theories, and applies the knowledge in detailed descriptive analysis. The third

edition of this highly acclaimed and groundbreaking text has been fully revised and rewritten throughout. As well as incorporating new data and the latest research, it examines the consequences of key developments in the EU, from enlargement to the Lisbon treaty and the 2009 European Parliament election. To enhance teaching and learning, our companion website is packed with resources for both teachers and lecturers. Used together, this creates an indispensable and accessible companion to all upper-level undergraduate and Master's courses with a focus on EU Politics. The methodology used in this book seeks to make the political system of the EU accessible to political science students as a whole, as well as those specifically studying the EU. New to this Edition: - Fully updated to cover impact of the Lisbon Treaty and latest European Parliament elections - More emphasis on explanation and debates in presentation of empirical information - More concise and accessible presentation of the latest research and data

john mccormick understanding the european union: Neighborhood Challenge Birgül Demirtas-Coskun, 2009 One of the intriguing questions of the post-Cold War era has been whether the EU will play a major global role in world politics as non-traditional threats and challenges came to the forefront. Launching new policies such as the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the European Security and Defence Policy and the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) have been considered important steps in the EU's evolution as a regional and possibly global actor. Neighborhood Challenge analyzes critical aspects of the European Union's relations with its neighbours, by extending its analysis beyond the ENP. Unlike existing books on the subject, the volume covers the entire neighborhood from Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus to North Africa; from the Western Balkans to the South Caucasus and Central Asia. Such an extensive overview of EU policies toward its neighbors is a timely and valuable contribution to European Studies literature. This book can be used as a tool for both academicians and practitioners who specialize in European foreign and security policy; as a textbook in European Union foreign policy courses both at the undergraduate and graduate level; and as a comprehensive reference book for postgraduate students writing dissertations on European foreign and security policy in general and European Neighborhood Policy in particular. The contributions analyze challenges and prospects posed by countries neighboring the EU and the effectiveness of EU policy in dealing with these agendas. Region-focused chapters examine the EU's politics toward the Western Balkans, Middle East, CIS, and the Black Sea; country-focused chapters explore aspects of Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Iran, Bosnia, Kosovo; and thematically-focused chapters deal with energy security, organized crime, and other issues. Neighborhood Challenge is intended to contribute to the existing literature on EU foreign and security policy in two ways: First, its material is not restricted to the ENP. Instead, it addresses all EU neighbors in a large region and their position in European security. The authors argue that not only the countries in the immediate neighborhood of the EU but also those located in relatively far away regions have a role to play in European Union foreign affairs. Secondly, many of the contributions were written by experts living in countries which neighbor the EU. Their contributions lend new ideas and insight to the relevant literature on EU security and foreign policy.

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