

In conclusion, as we launch our new EUSA interest section, we encourage researchers to explore these and other issues related to any conflict among the core components of the EU's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. Today, this policy domain entails border management, asylum and migration, the fight against cross-border crime and terrorism, the protection of fundamental rights, and cooperation on civil law. Over the past decade or so, developments in the AFSJ have been paralleled by increased scholarly activity on this wide-ranging policy area. The small group of researchers who have been following the AFSJ since the 1990s have now been joined a new generation of scholars who have published a many fine PhD theses, books, articles, and chapters – especially over the past five years. Nevertheless, projects on the AFSJ remain underrepresented at professional conferences and in EU studies in general, particularly in North America.

Scholars and professionals engaged in the following areas will be encouraged to participate in the new interest section:

- Asylum policy and refugees
- Migration policy in the EU
- Border management and the Schengen zone
- Agencies in the AFSJ
- Civil Law
- Criminal law
- EU institutions and the AFSJ
- External dimensions of internal security
- Fighting transnational organized crime and terrorism
- Protecting fundamental rights, EU founding values and EU citizenship-related rights
- Transatlantic relations and internal security

We now launch this interest section and plan to use the next EUSA conference in Baltimore to hold an organizational meeting. Although this session will be used for brainstorming, we already have it in mind to organize research workshops in Europe and North America, produce edited volumes or special editions of journals, and indeed a new journal, based on these, and support and encourage the work of graduate students in these initiatives. Please join us in these endeavors!

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Elizabeth Bomberg, John Peterson and Richard Corbett (eds.). *The European Union: How Does it Work? Third Edition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

One of the primary challenges of textbooks on the European Union is not only keeping pace with the constant evolution of its institutions and policies, but making this information accessible to novice scholars of Europe. The objective of this textbook is to provide a great deal of factual information in an easy to process format, making its key contribution its ability to serve as a useful reference guide for beginner students. The third edition features a number of updates -- it has been revised to include the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty and the effects of the Eurozone financial crisis, and its context has expanded to include new chapters on the EU's security role, a more in-depth look at policymaking, and the democratic credentials of the EU. Furthermore, the editorial team has changed to include Richard Corbett, a former MEP and current advisor to the President of the European Council, to continue the tradition of the previous volumes in offering a practitioner's perspective.

The volume's focus is broad, while its content is extremely concise. It is packed with factual information in order to untangle the many moving parts of the EU, and is organized in a way that lends itself to easy reference and quick review. Chapters are short, and begin with a summary that displays the upcoming themes to be discussed. Each chapter features frequent boxes that review key concepts or provide quantitative data via tables and charts, and concludes with a set of discussion questions, an admirably comprehensive list of citations for further reading, and a summary of useful websites to aid in research. The appendix features a chronology of important dates in European integration, and a useful glossary that covers relevant institutions and actors as well as EU jargon.

Substantively, the content is as expected. Parts I and II of the volume briefly cover various social scientific approaches to studying the EU, the history of its creation, and the roles and responsibilities of its major institutions. Part III focuses on the significant policies of the EU, their supranational characteristics, a detailed discussion of how policies are made, and the democratic elements of the institutions. Part IV covers European expansion, its role as a security actor, and the evolution of foreign policy. The final section turns back to how social science interprets the unique institution of the EU and discusses avenues for future research.



The volume is edited, and so chapters tend to vary on their clarity (especially in writing) and contribution. Notable chapters include a fairly in-depth coverage of the various steps required in developing EU policy, and an assertive defense of the democratic deficit that could provoke interesting discussion in a classroom setting.

This textbook is akin to a very detailed map, rather than a guidebook – its focus is not depth, but rather providing key information and inspiring potential routes to follow. Thus one of the volume's biggest strengths in synthesizing information can in turn be considered its greatest weakness. The information is compartmentalized into so many different pieces that in some chapters the presentation of the content is too divided between the supplementary boxes and the ambitious narrative presented in the main text. Furthermore, while the factual information is well presented, due to space constraints the volume lacks coverage of more theoretical concepts or political analysis.

Yet potentially to compensate, one unique aspect of the textbook is that it encourages outside research and investigation. At the end of each chapter there is an extensive list of references for further reading, and web links to sources mentioned in the text (for example, in the chapter on policymaking and organized interests, the websites of notable think tanks and other formal institutions that represent lobby groups are provided). In addition, for this textbook Oxford University Press has established an Online Resource Centre for that provides teaching and learning materials. While the online site is very simple, it provides a number of potentially useful resources, including an interactive map of Europe, an online flashcard application, lecture slides, and practice multiple-choice questions for each chapter. While these materials are primarily appropriate for the level of an introductory undergraduate or a novice instructor, the development of online resources is a promising addition.

Given its ability to condense key information about the EU in an easy to absorb format plus the detailed reading lists and references provided make this a “go to” book for the beginner or policy-oriented student (which is clearly stated as the volume's goal in the first place). Its role is best served when paired with more theoretical sources on the EU in a comprehensive course on European politics, or as an ideal quick reference guide in courses that only have time to address the EU briefly or in a comparative perspective.

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Harold James. *Making the European Monetary Union.* Cambridge: The Belknap Press, 2012.

This study was commissioned in 2008 by the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) to present an historical review of the institutional files covering the background work, over the period 1964 through 1993, in the institutional and operational framework for the establishment of a common currency regime. The main formal working group under examination was the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks of the Member States of the European Economic Community (CoG), the forerunner of the European Monetary Institute (EMI) established in Frankfurt in 1994.

Harold James, Kelly Professor in European Studies and Professor of History and International Affairs at Princeton University, was given privileged access, under a waiver of the usual 30-year restriction, to ECB and BIS archived materials and in particular the CoG records held at the ECB. In tandem, special access was also granted to a number of national central banks' files. Professor James is a very well-regarded Cambridge University educated historian specializing in financial history and the history of modern Germany.

The primary parts of the text are given over to lengthy but clear and coordinated expositions outlining the major issues and decisions taken by the CoG and other related working groups such as the Delors Committee. While nearly all of these details have been reported in a variety of media, the comprehensive nature of the analysis and the very long period of time covered bring a unity to the historical record focused on the constrained development and evolution of the single currency project. As historical documentation of the primary decision-making process, the presentation clearly offers a well-organized and successful rendition of the relevant facts.

Occasionally the author adds to the record by giving insights into the motivations and strategies undertaken by the primary actors. These highlighted revelations expose the behind the scenes nature of the political-economy environment at work in shaping the legitimate boundaries of the discussion of institutional structures and policy goals.

The central problems examined revolved around complications arising from the international financial power locus built with the U.S. dollar as the centerpiece. After the end of the Bretton Woods area it became increasingly challenging to maintain exchange rate stability vis-a-vis the dollar. Further complications were added by the nature of the centrality of the growing export-led German economy in a more openly integrated set of European product and capital markets.

