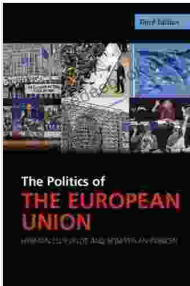


The Politics of the European Union: Cambridge Textbooks in Comparative Politics



The Politics of the European Union (Cambridge Textbooks in Comparative Politics) by Herman Lelieveldt

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4581 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 153 pages



The European Union (EU) is a unique political entity that has no real parallel in the world. It is a supranational organization that has its own institutions, laws, and policies, but it is also composed of 27 member states that have their own national governments and policies. This complex and multi-layered system of governance has led to a rich and varied body of scholarship on the politics of the EU.

This textbook provides a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the political system of the EU. It is written by a team of leading experts in the field and provides a balanced and objective analysis of the EU's institutions, decision-making processes, and policies.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part provides a general overview of the EU's history, institutions, and decision-making processes.

The second part examines the EU's major policy areas, including economic policy, social policy, and foreign policy. The third part considers the challenges facing the EU, including the rise of populism, the euro crisis, and Brexit.

The EU's Institutions

The EU's institutions are complex and multi-layered, reflecting the EU's unique character as a supranational organization. The main institutions of the EU are the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, and the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The European Parliament is the only directly elected body of the EU. It is composed of 751 members who are elected by citizens of the EU's member states. The European Parliament has the power to approve or reject the EU's budget and to pass legislation on a wide range of issues.

The European Council is the highest political body of the EU. It is composed of the heads of state or government of the EU's member states. The European Council sets the EU's overall political direction and priorities.

The Council of the European Union is the main decision-making body of the EU. It is composed of ministers from the EU's member states. The Council of the European Union adopts legislation on a wide range of issues, including economic policy, social policy, and foreign policy.

The European Commission is the executive body of the EU. It is composed of 28 commissioners who are appointed by the European Council. The

European Commission proposes legislation to the Council of the European Union and implements the EU's budget.

The Court of Justice of the European Union is the highest court of the EU. It is responsible for interpreting and enforcing EU law.

The EU's Decision-Making Processes

The EU's decision-making processes are complex and multi-layered, reflecting the EU's unique character as a supranational organization. The main decision-making procedures of the EU are the ordinary legislative procedure, the special legislative procedure, and the consultation procedure.

The ordinary legislative procedure is the most common decision-making procedure in the EU. It involves the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union co-deciding on legislation. The special legislative procedure is used for certain sensitive issues, such as taxation and social security. The consultation procedure is used for issues that are not within the EU's exclusive competence, such as foreign policy and defense.

The EU's Major Policy Areas

The EU has a wide range of policy responsibilities, including economic policy, social policy, and foreign policy.

The EU's economic policy is aimed at promoting economic growth and stability within the EU. The EU's economic policy includes the eurozone, the single market, and the common agricultural policy.

The EU's social policy is aimed at promoting social justice and equality within the EU. The EU's social policy includes the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, and the European Investment Bank.

The EU's foreign policy is aimed at promoting peace, security, and cooperation within the EU and beyond. The EU's foreign policy includes the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Neighbourhood Policy.

The Challenges Facing the EU

The EU faces a number of challenges, including the rise of populism, the euro crisis, and Brexit.

The rise of populism is a major challenge to the EU. Populist parties are often critical of the EU and its policies. They argue that the EU is too bureaucratic and undemocratic. The rise of populism has led to a number of challenges to the EU's legitimacy and authority.

The euro crisis is another major challenge to the EU. The euro crisis began in 2010 and has led to a number of economic problems in the eurozone. The euro crisis has tested the limits of the EU's economic and political integration.

Brexit is a major challenge to the EU. Brexit is the process of the United Kingdom withdrawing from the EU. Brexit has caused a great deal of uncertainty and instability in the EU. It is unclear what the long-term consequences of Brexit will be for the EU.

The EU is a complex and multi-layered political entity that is facing a number of challenges. The EU's institutions, decision-making processes, and policies are constantly evolving in response to these challenges. The future of the EU is uncertain, but it is clear that the EU will continue to play a major role in European politics for many years to come.



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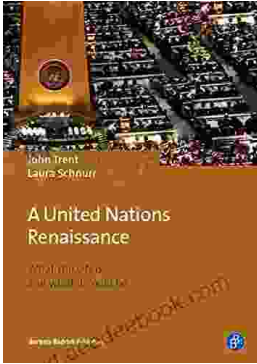
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