



Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction (European Union)

John McCormick

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An immediate best-seller on first publication, John McCormick's *Understanding the European Union* provides a uniquely broadranging but concise introduction to the EU covering in one volume all major aspects of European integration. The third edition is systematically revised and updated throughout reflecting the major changes brought about by the 2004 enlargement round. It also includes a full assessment of the EU constitution, the impact of the Euro and much expanded coverage of EU policies and policy making.

Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction (European Union) Details

Date : Published July 22nd 2005 by Palgrave MacMillan (first published May 1st 1999)

ISBN : 9781403944511

Author : John McCormick

Format : Paperback 260 pages

Genre : Politics, Nonfiction, History, Academic, Political Science



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Vicky P says

It was suggested I read this as background reading for a class I am taking this semester. I think that overall it was a well-organized introductory text. I particularly appreciated the chapters in the latter half of the book that were organized according to how the EU affected different groups/people. The world, its member states, individual Europeans, and so forth. I think that at times it was a bit dry, but on the whole it was fairly engaging, and it tried to mostly stay clear of unexplained jargon, which was another point in its favor.

Arlind Komoni says

The book achieves its promise: giving a concise introduction to the EU. I liked the explanations of the policy-making process, the economic integration, and the brief but effective historical background. The 7th edition also includes a discussion of Brexit as well as the refugee crisis. However, the author paints the EU in an almost exclusively positive light and dismisses - or does not deal at lengths with - objections raised by critics of the EU. I would also appreciate a discussion of the Western Balkan 6 (WB6) vis-à-vis the EU in their path to accession to the EU.

Christopher says

Useful for giving a background into the history and development of the EU as well as what its strengths and limitations are. Unfortunately, the book is outdated at this point being published in 2005. I don't think I have to tell anybody that a lot has happened in the world since then, and people reading this in 2013 under the continuing saga of the global economic crisis will have trouble justifying the author's enthusiasm for the EU. His assertion that Greece, Spain and Portugal have been successfully integrated with the economies of Britain, Germany and France now give the hind-sighted reader an opportunity to chuckle, and his brief mention of the "democratic deficit" within the EU would seem an understatement considering the EU's recent seizure of bank assets from Cyprus.

Diane says

Concise review of the evolution of the EU. Must read for anybody who wants to or has to know about this organization...

Jill says

Some parts were a bit confusing simply because there were so many details and I was starting to mix them up, but quite a good compilation of information that really brings in the history/background of the EU.

Kyo says

To me it seemed like a clear, well-written book about the different aspects of the EU. Possibly a bit biased about the US, but it's hard to judge because I haven't read any other works that go into this level of detail about the EU.

If you want to know or read more about the EU (or just understand the basic things from its structure, to its history, to its decision making, to its policies and so on), this is a great book to pick up.

Happy reading!

Roxy Moran says

It did what it said it did. 3.5 stars

Arya Nasoetion says

It gives you a practical understanding about the EU. Less theory, if I remember correctly.

Jasmine says

I expected to be bored out of my mind, but it was actually pretty good! Political theory, and interesting history.

Now to write a report on it. (Uuuuuugh.)

Robert P. Hoffman says

It is difficult in a short book to cover such a broad topic. But even with that qualification the book is too filled with details that get in the way of a good narrative, statistics that are not commented upon, and discussions of issues that are superficial.

A major omission is the author's failure to discuss economics in any clear way. He states that the topic of the euro and the central bank is so complicated. But he could have done a better job in discussing this. Overall not worth reading.

Matteo says

i understood little of how the EU worked before - and this interesting book gave me a better sense of who the power players are and how decisions are made. a valuable starting point.

Amy says

Had to read this for school. Interesting read on the history of the EU.
