

THE EUROPEAN UNION SERIES | TEXTS

EIGHTH EDITION

**UNDERSTANDING
THE EUROPEAN
UNION** A CONCISE
INTRODUCTION

JOHN McCORMICK

Contents

<i>List of Features</i>	x
<i>List of Abbreviations and Acronyms</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xv
Introduction	xvi
1 What is the European Union?	1
The EU in context	2
The dynamics of regional integration	6
Explaining the EU today	13
The EU as a federal system	16
The EU as a confederal system	19
Conclusions	21
Further reading	22
2 The Idea of Europe	23
The origins of Europe	24
Early thoughts on European unity	26
Where is Europe?	29
Who are the Europeans?	36
Conclusions	43
Further reading	44
3 The Evolution of the EU	45
Post-war Europe	46
First steps towards integration (1948–55)	47
The European Economic Community (1955–86)	50
Focus on the single market (1986–92)	53
From Community to Union (1992–2003)	55
The EU looks east (2003–13)	58
The era of crisis	61
Conclusions	65
Further reading	66
4 The European Institutions	67
A constitution for Europe	68
The European Council	71
The European Commission	73
The Council of the European Union	78
The European Parliament	80

The European Court of Justice	83
Conclusions	86
Further reading	87
5 The EU and its Citizens	88
The democratic deficit	89
Public opinion and the EU	92
Euroscepticism	95
European citizenship	97
Participation and representation	99
European elections	99
Referendums	102
Interest groups	104
Other channels	107
Conclusions	108
Further reading	109
6 The EU Policy Process	110
The changing balance of authority	111
The EU policy environment	113
The policy cycle	117
Agenda-setting	119
Formulation	121
Adoption	121
Legitimation	121
Implementation	122
Evaluation	123
Features of EU policy	123
Compromise and bargaining	125
Political games	125
Incrementalism	126
Differentiated integration	126
Spillover	127
The EU budget	128
Conclusions	131
Further reading	132
7 Economic Policy	133
The EU economy in its global context	134
Foundations of the single market	135
Effects of the single market	138
European business and the single market	142
Competition policy	145
Inside the euro zone	147
Crisis in the euro zone	152

Conclusions	154
Further reading	155
8 Internal Policies	156
Cohesion policy	157
Employment and social policy	160
Agriculture and fisheries	165
Area of Freedom, Security and Justice	168
Environmental policy and climate change	171
Conclusions	176
Further reading	177
9 The EU in the World	178
The changing global system	179
Foreign policy	180
Security and defence policy	183
Trade policy	188
Relations with the United States	190
Relations with the neighbourhood	191
Relations with China	194
Development cooperation	196
Conclusions	197
Further reading	198
Conclusions	199
<i>Appendix 1: Europe in Numbers</i>	204
<i>Appendix 2: A Chronology of European Integration</i>	206
<i>Appendix 3: Specialized Institutions of the European Union</i>	210
<i>Appendix 4: Sources of Further Information</i>	212
<i>Bibliography</i>	214
<i>Index</i>	223