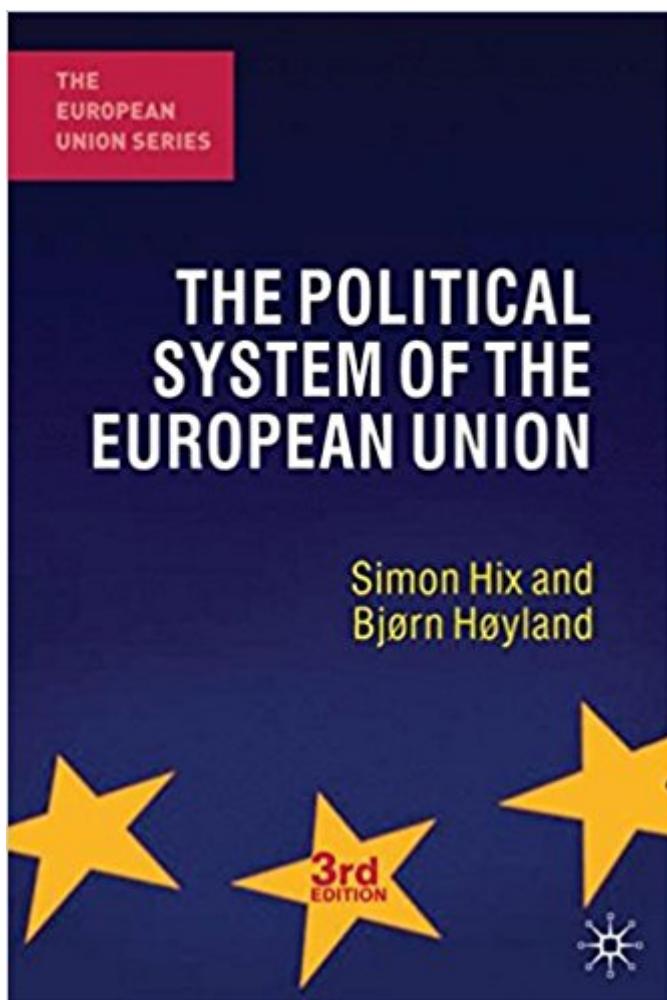


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The Political System Of The European Union (The European Union Series)



Synopsis

Systematically revised and rewritten throughout, and updated to cover the impact of the Lisbon Treaty, this highly-successful and ground-breaking text remains unique in analyzing the EU as a political system using the methods of comparative political science.

Book Information

Series: The European Union Series

Hardcover: 448 pages

Publisher: Palgrave; 3rd ed. 2011 edition (March 15, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0230249817

ISBN-13: 978-0230249813

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,157,233 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #139 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Treaties #150 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Intergovernmental Organizations #1161 in Books > Law > Legal Theory & Systems > Non-US Legal Systems

Customer Reviews

Endorsements of previous edition: "The best textbook on the European Union to date. Period." -- George Tsebelis, UCLA "Hix's admirably lucid exposition melds state-of-the-art theory and rich empirical detail into what is likely to become the leading text on how the European Union's everyday political process actually works." -- Andrew Moravcsik, Princeton University "This volume has a rare combination of virtues: accessible for students and required reading for EU scholars." -- Gary Marks, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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product was as described.

In the preface to 'The Political System of the European Union' the author articulates that the central aim of the book is to provide an extensive review of the recent 'explosion' of empirical and theoretical literature, concentrating on the European Union's (EU) decision making and policy process. This aim is fulfilled admirably, in a comprehensive and accessible manner. The book begins by examining the EU system of Government. However, the conventional approach of examining separately each of the governing institutions is rejected in favour of examining in turn, the Executive (Council of Ministers and Commission), Legislature (European Parliament) and Judiciary (European Court of Justice). This classification not only increases parsimony, but also allows for the 'importation' of a wider body of political science literature in which the theories of governance have been developed to an extent far beyond those seen in the sub-field of European Studies. The book subsequently turns its attention to the politics of the EU, concentrating on public opinion, parties and interest representation. Drawing extensively on recent work by Mathew Gabel, and through original analysis of Eurobarometer data, a detailed picture is provided of the stratification of support for EU integration throughout European society. One major conclusion is made - the European issue cuts across the traditional left-right dimension - encouraging Europe's main political parties to play down the European issue in domestic competition. The consequences of this conclusion are analysed in the context of the EU's 'nascent political parties' and the prospects for majoritarian democracy - prospects which Hix concludes are extremely limited. In many respects this last point captures the essence of what Hix is attempting to convey in conceptualising the EU as a political system. For despite the author's initial claims, this book represents far more than a literature review. It represents an attempt to transfer the study of the EU from the paradigm of International Relations to the mainstream of Political Science. This has lead to the misperception that 'The political system of the EU' down plays the 'rogue' nature of the EU in comparison to other political systems. It does not. And the point is made clearly that the European Union is a political system but not a state. Amongst its many strengths, one weakness reoccurs. The book investigates and explains the EU using predominantly North American political science literature. In certain respects this is its strength: as in the transposition of US Congress literature onto the European Parliament. However, in other respects, where European literature would provide a valuable comparative framework, such literature is absent. Such a focus can be excused perhaps as a necessary counterbalance to the

many 'Eurocentric' volumes on the EU. In 'The Political System of the European Union', Hix has produced an accessible and much needed literature review, whilst making a persuasive case for a change in the paradigm and methods of EU studies. It is for this latter reason that the book will become a seminal text.

Love them and get compliments all the time. You can't expect anything more from this product. Everyone who walked into my home instantly loved them! Works well enough. Great product. It's everything I wanted. A gift for my Daughter attending college and she loves them.

This book is for someone who has a pretty decent knowledge of the EU and of the governmental process. The book is crammed with information but is WORDY and Hix is a bit long winded at times. He provides a lot of references to other political theorists with whom the reader should be familiar with before he or she tries to dive into this text. I found it to be nice to read as a follow up text on the EU rather than reading it on its own.

Switching from Cini's textbook to Hix's, the former being too fragmented an account, the latter rich with theoretical background. But, for pedagogic purposes, it needs being flanked by some introductory material.

This would make a great text for an upper division class on the EU or on comparative legislative politics. I am very impressed with its theoretical sophistication with the inclusion of simple spatial models that make its content comparable with a book such as Krehbiel's *Pivotal Politics*.

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