

# Understanding the European Union

A Concise introduction

Fourth Edition

John McCormick

palgrave  
macmillan

<i>List of Boxes, Tables, Figures and Maps</i>	viii
<i>List of Abbreviations and Acronyms</i>	x
<i>Introduction</i>	xii
<b>1 What is the European Union?</b>	<b>1</b>
The EU in the international system      *	2
Understanding the process of integration	5
Explaining the EU today	13
<i>Federalism</i>	1 5
<i>Confederalism</i> '	<b>18</b>
Conclusions                                  „	<b>21</b>
<b>2 The Idea of Europe</b>	23
The changing identity of Europe	24-
Where is Europe?	32
The meaning of Europe                      ,	37
Conclusions	43
<b>3 The Evolution of the EU</b>	45
Postwar Europe	46
First steps towards integration (1945-58)	50
The European Economic Community (1958-86)	53
Economic and social integration (1979-92)	57
From Community to Union (1992- )	60
Conclusions	67
<b>4 The European Institutions</b>	69
A constitution for Europe	70
The European Commission	72
The Council of Ministers	79
The European Parliament                  •	82
The European Court of Justice	85
The European Council	89
Conclusions	92

5	The EU Policy Process	94
	The changing balance of power	95
	The policy environment	101
	The policy cycle	104
	<i>Problem identification and agenda-setting</i>	104
	<i>Formulation and adoption</i>	106
	<i>Implementation</i>	108
	<i>Evaluation</i>	109
	Features of the policy process	109
	<i>Compromise and bargaining</i>	109
	<i>Political games</i>	110
	<i>Multi-speed integration</i>	111
	<i>Formal versus informal</i>	111
	<i>Incrementalism</i>	112
	<i>Spillover</i>	113
	The politics of the budget	114
	Conclusions	117
6	The EU and its Citizens	119
	Public opinion and Europe	120
	The people's Europe	126
	Participation and representation	132
	<i>European elections</i>	132
	<i>Referendums</i>	136
	<i>Interest groups</i>	138
	Conclusions	140
7	Economic Policy	142
	The single market	143
	Effects of the single market	147
	<i>Freedom of movement</i>	147
	<i>Trans-European networks</i>	148
	<i>Liberalization of air travel</i>	149
	<i>Mergers and acquisitions</i>	150
	<i>Competition policy</i>	153
	Inside, the euro zone	157
	Conclusions	163
8	<b>Improving the Quality of Life</b>	165
	Levelling the playing field	166
	Agricultural policy	169
	Cohesion policy	174
	Environmental policy	183
	Conclusions	187

9 The EU and the World	189.
Building a European foreign policy	190
Towards a European defence policy	194
The European economic superpower	199
Relations with the United States	202
Relations with Eastern Europe	205
Development cooperation	207
Conclusions	210
Conclusions	212
<i>Appendix: A Chronology of European Integration, 1944-2008</i>	216
<i>Sources of Further Information</i>	220
<i>Books</i>	220
<i>Periodicals and EU publications</i>	221
<i>Websites</i>	222
<i>Bibliography</i>	223
<i>Index</i>	234