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Simon Hix

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To Beth

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Preface

The idea for this book first came to me in 1991, while I was studying for an MSc in West European Politics in the Government Department at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). The LSE is a rare institution in that it has separate departments of International Relations (IR) and Government. At the LSE, research and teaching on European Integration and the European Community (EC) institutions was traditionally the preserve of the IR department. But, in the early 1990s, with the single market and the new EC policy competences in the Single European Act and the Maastricht Treaty, the Government Department started to become interested in teaching and researching EC politics and government. At that time, however, there was not much theoretical literature from this perspective. 'Neo-functionalism' and 'intergovernmentalism' are theories of European integration, and are hence limited when applied to government and politics. Those interested in the day-to-day workings of the EC had to be content with mainly empirical and inductive literature, under the umbrella of 'EC studies'. As students of government, we desperately sought a theoretical text on the government, politics and policy-making of the emerging European-level political system.

Then, in 1994 I found myself in Washington, D.C., working as a freelance consultant on European Union (EU) affairs while trying to finish my doctoral thesis for the European University Institute, in Florence. One of my most enjoyable assignments while in Washington was running a series of sessions on 'How the European Union Works' for some officials in the US State Department. I needed a book about the EU that could speak to people who were primarily interested in the policy-process of the EU, and were eager to compare it to the American system of government. Alberta Sbragia's edited book, from a project for the Brookings Institution, came the closest (Sbragia, 1992). However, I still felt that a monograph would be the best vehicle for achieving a coherent and comprehensive text.

I subsequently set about planning and writing the book when I returned to academia in 1996, first at Brunel University in West London, and then 'back home' in the Government Department at the LSE. This process turned out to be easier than I had feared. Since the early 1990s there had been a huge increase in the number of political scientists trying to approach the EU as an emerging 'political system'. The result was an

explosion of theoretical and analytical literature on EU government, politics and policy-making. This new research appeared for the first time in comparative politics journals (such as *Comparative Political Studies* and *West European Politics*) and general political science journals (such as the *European Journal of Political Research* and the *American Political Science Review*), as well as in the specialist EU studies publications (such as the *Journal of Common Market Studies* and the *Journal of European Public Policy*). I consequently decided that the task should be to provide an extensive review of this new research, while highlighting how these approaches are connected to general issues in political science.

The result, I hope, is that this book will satisfy several interests. First, it can be used as a teaching tool on EU government, politics and policy courses, particularly for advanced undergraduates or graduates. For introductory courses, the book may be used as a companion volume to an introductory text on the EU, such as Dinan (1994). Second, the book should be a guide for those involved in political science research on the EU, particularly within the fields of comparative politics and comparative public policy/public administration.

This book would not have been possible without the encouragement and support of friends, family and colleagues. I wish to thank my publisher, Steven Kennedy, and Vincent Wright, of Nuffield College, Oxford, who provided invaluable encouragement throughout the writing of this book. I would also like to thank my colleagues at the LSE who read and commented on various draft chapters: Damian Chalmers, Keith Dowding, Patrick Dunleavy and Christopher Hood. A special note of gratitude goes to Matt Gabel, who read almost the entire book and provided numerous suggestions for improving the text and ironing-out inconsistencies. I am thankful to my students at Brunel and the LSE, who have had to suffer my often strange and incomprehensible thoughts about the EU, and have given me invaluable feedback on my ideas for the book, particularly Jan Meyer-Sahling. Also, my ideas in this book have been shaped profoundly by my friends and 'fellow travellers' in the international political science community, particularly Karen Alter, Cees van der Eijk, Mark Franklin, Maria Green Cowles, Kris Deschouwer, David Farrell, Liesbet Hooghe, Hussein Kassim, Amie Kreppel, Chris Lord, Howard Machin, Giandomenico Majone, Peter Mair, Gary Marks, Anand Menon, Andrew Moravcsik, Mark Pollack, Herman Schmitt, Tapio Raunio, Alberta Sbragia, Roger Scully, Paul Taggart, George Tsebelis, Helen Wallace, William Wallace, Paul Webb, Antje Weiner and Steve Wolinetz. And, I would really like to thank the people in the EU institutions who have taught me so much about the EU, especially Pete Brown-Pappamikail, Richard Corbett, Francis Jacobs, Mike Shackleton and Martin Westlake.

Finally, I am deeply indebted to my parents, Godfrey and Maureen Hix, without whose emotional and financial support over the years I could never have been able to do the job of my dreams. However, the person who deserves the greatest thanks is my wife and best friend, Beth Ginsburg. She has been by my side since the beginning, enduring my single-mindedness and my self-doubts, and offering support and counsel at every stage. Beth, I dedicate this book to you.

SIMON HIX

Abbreviations

ACP	Africa, Caribbean, Pacific Group	EPP	European People's Party
AER	Assembly of European Regions	ERA	European Radical Alliance
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
AWGI	<i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on Immigration	ERM	Exchange Rate Mechanism
BEUC	European Office of Consumer Unions	ERT	European Round Table of Industrialists
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy	ESCB	European System of Central Banks
CC	Consumers' Committee	ESF	European Social Fund
CCC	Consumers Contact Committee	ESPRIT	European Strategic Programme for Research and Development in Information Technologies
CCP	Common Commercial Policy	ETUC	European Trade Union Federation
CEEP	European Centre of Public Enterprise	EU	European Union
CEMR	Council for European Municipalities and Regions	EUL	European United Left/Nordic Green Left
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy	EUROCHAMBRES	Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Association of
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	EUROPOL	European Police Office
COPA	Confederation of Professional Agricultural Organizations	FIFG	Financial Instrument for Fisheries
CoR	Committee of the Regions	GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
COREPER	Committee of Permanent Representatives	IEN	Independents for a Europe of Nations
CRE	Commission for Racial Equality	IGCs	intergovernmental conferences
DG	directorates-general	ILO	International Labour Organization
EC	European Community	JHA	justice and home affairs
ECB	European Central Bank	NAFTA	North American Free Trade Area
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights	NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
ECJ	European Court of Justice	OCA	optimal currency area
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community	OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
EDC	European Defence Community	ONP	open network provision
EEC	European Economic Community	OSCE	Organization for Economic Cooperation in Europe
EFTA	European Free Trade Area	PES	Party of European Socialists
ELDR	European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party	QMV	qualified-majority voting
EMS	Economic and Monetary System	TABD	Transatlantic Business Dialogue
EMU	Economic and Monetary Union	UN	United Nations
EP	European Parliament	UNICE	Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations
EPC	European Political Cooperation	UPE	Union for Europe
		VERs	Voluntary Export Restraints
		WTO	World Trade Organization