What Is the European Union and Why Is It Important?

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Four Perspectives

1. Peace
2. Democracy
3. Protest
4. Survival
PERSPECTIVE ONE

Peace

- World War I: 16 million dead
- World War II: 60 million dead

Nationalism: the most deadly force in human history

Port city of Rotterdam, 14 May 1940
A “United States of Europe”

“I WISH TO SPEAK TO YOU TODAY about the tragedy of Europe. . . The first step in the re-creation of the European Family must be a partnership between France and Germany . . . We must build a kind of United States of Europe. Therefore I say to you:

“Let Europe Arise!”

Zurich, 19 Sept 1946
How can war be averted?

“... only one solution: we must bind ourselves inextricably to Germany. . .” Jean Monnet

The Schuman Declaration

“The French government proposes that Franco-German production of coal and steel as a whole be placed under a common High Authority. . .as a first step in the federation of Europe. Any war between France and Germany becomes not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible.”

Robert Schuman, 9 May 1950
Three Landmarks

- The European Coal and Steel Community (1951): Succeeded.
- The European Economic Community (1957): Succeeded.
It’s no secret . . .

We actually know how to consolidate democracy
Copenhagen criteria

“Membership requires that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing . . .”

1) the rule of law, human rights and respect for, and protection of minorities

2) democratic institutions, including freedom of association, freedom of the press, and independent courts

3) a functioning market economy
PERSPECTIVE THREE

Protest

no! No! NO!
MINDER IMMIGRATIE
MEER VLAANDEREN

Danmarks fremtid
dit land - dit valg...
stem vóór

join the empire
Nederland uitschakelen

Stand-by
Uitschakelen
Opnieuw opstarten

Annuleren

Nederland is géén Windows!

Klik op Start om af te sluiten...

NEE!
Another Europe is possible!

Rassemblement la gauche populaire et antilibérale

3 moyens clés pour réussir:

3. Construire une autre Europe, agir pour un autre monde
Elites and public on Europe

Sources:

a) elites, Intune (Fall 2007)
b) public opinion: Eurobarometer 68 (Fall 2007)
REFERENDA ON EUROPE

- EU Referenda
- "NO" votes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>EU Referenda</th>
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<td>1991-00</td>
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<td>2001-10</td>
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Source: Public Opinion (Eurobarometer June 2010)
1 = exclusive national identity
2 = national and European identity

Eurobarometer 1992-1998
PERSPECTIVE FOUR
Survival

Why the EU is the world’s most important experiment
A growing number of public bads are transnational
• climate change
• nuclear proliferation
• financial regulation
• failing states
• biodiversity loss
• ocean exhaustion
• deforestation
• overfishing
• nuclear waste disposal
• refugees
• acid rain

These are TRANSNATIONAL problems with uneven costs
national sovereignty is seriously suboptimal
The European Union is the world’s most important experiment in creating supranational government.
It is only through failure and through experiment that we learn and grow.

Isaac Stern
It is only through failure and through experiment that we learn and grow.

Isaac Stern
Germans’ trust in Europe is fading quickly

Source: Institut für Demoskopie Allensbach

“Europe is our future” – I agree (in %)
PERSPECTIVE FOUR
Efficiency

“Multilevel governance must be a priority.”
José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, 2009.

“Develop as quickly as possible practical measures . . . with a view to strengthening multilevel governance.”
October 2008 resolution of the European Parliament
The world . . .

Europe

Länder in Germany
Regierungsbezirke in Bayern
Kreise in Oberbayern
MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE
Bezirke in München
Principles of Multilevel Governance

Centralize where necessary

Decentralize where possible
Match the scale of government to the scale of problem:

- **Local**: garbage pickup
- **Regional**: urban sprawl
- **National**: land usage; transport network
- **Continental**: Rhine pollution
- **Global**: climate change
1950: sovereign national states

**National** legal systems, armies, taxation, parliaments, welfare, health, education

**Inside countries:** legitimate authority, the rule of law, democracy, liberty, equality

**Outside countries:** no legitimate authority, no effective legal or normative order, anarchy, power politics, war
EU vs. National Power—1950-2010*

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<td>Diplomacy</td>
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<td>Defense &amp; war</td>
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*2010 are own estimates

Legend:
- Exclusive national
- Mostly national
- National & EU
- Mostly EU
- EU only
Regionalization in Europe

BRITAIN  ▲ Scottish, Welsh parliaments, 1997

FRANCE  ▲ Elected regional governments, 1982

GERMANY  ▶ Federal constitution, 1949
