

# **The European Union in the Twenty-First Century**

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# **The European Union in the Twenty-First Century: Major Political, Economic and Security Policy Trends**

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## Preface

The European Union today faces the greatest threat since World War II. During the writing process of this book, Putin's Russia has attacked Ukraine and undermined European peace. In the wake of events that unfolded following the discussions over Ukraine's membership in the North Atlantic Alliance, Putin immediately declared war on Ukraine in a revisionist foreign policy move. At this point, the European Union has never been more in need of being a union than it was after World War II and at the end of the Cold War.

The European Union faces crises from time to time. Crises or administrative problems confronting the Union are transformed into legislation through consensual solutions that strengthen the Union and deepen integration. The presence and characteristics of these crises have differentiated in the 2000s, and the crises/challenges have begun to confront the European Union as an existential threat to integration.

The existential debate that arose after France and the Netherlands rejected the Constitutional Treaty in 2005 has put the future of the European Union up for discussion. The founding nations have done significant damage to the integration process, and the notion of political union, which has been dormant for ages, has disappointed continental Europe once more.

The main difficulties and challenges that the European Union has recently experienced are discussed in this book, to which academics working on the European Union in Turkey have contributed. Following the passage of the Constitutional Treaty, the debates about the future of Europe have become more heated. In the context of the recently conducted Conference on the Future of Europe, İrfan Kaya Ülger examines and assesses the discussions on the future of Europe. The entire globe paid great attention to David Cameron's address on June 24, 2016. The speech was given following the resignation of Cameron, who had called for a referendum on whether the United Kingdom should stay in the European Union. The debates on Brexit, i.e., the United Kingdom's referendum on leaving the European Union, and the future direction of the European Union were covered by Hakan Samur. In 2019, a disease that started in China quickly spread over the world and turned into a struggle for survival for all people. The COVID-19 pandemic fundamentally altered the way we see the world, the natural world, and ourselves. The states and other entities at the heart of the international system have been severely impacted by this transformation, both politically and economically. The European Union struggled for its existence during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the images that emerged in the member states were

expressed as the despair of the European Union. In the framework of the European Union, the analyses of the political and economic effects of COVID-19 and the fight for the survival of the European Union in the face of the crisis were analyzed by Didem Saygın.

Digitalization is another factor that has made the pandemic a part of our life. Digital systems and capabilities have redefined our perception of time and space in pandemic conditions. New employment options have been made available to people, such as working from home, and a new phase of digital change has started. Mesut Savrul examines how the European Union's single market is becoming more digital and evaluates the Digital Single Market Rules and Digital Single Market Strategy. Manufacturing is regarded as the catalyst for economic growth, development, and prosperity in the European Union, which is regarded as an economic giant but whose economic integration is up for dispute in the wake of the financial crisis and COVID-19. In their research in the EU member states, Yasemin Özerkek and Fatma Didin have examined this topic. The study finds that there is a trend toward technology-intensive manufacturing with medium and high skill levels among the member countries of the European Union, pointing to a change in the manufacturing sector in the European Union. Regarding the notable social and political effects of the past 10 years, migration is one of the concerns that stand out the most. This is true within the European Union. In terms of results, Europe has struggled mightily with managing migration over the past 10 years. Mehlika Özlem Ultan examines the EU's mechanism for handling both domestic and external migration in her study on migration in the EU. Another significant issue facing the European Union is antiimmigration, which is connected to the migration issue. Immigration and related issues were one of the key points of contention for Brexit supporters. Kamber Güler investigates how antiimmigration political parties portray immigration as a threat in the European Union through a critical discourse analysis. He comes to the conclusion in his analysis that political parties utilize anti-immigration as a cultural, economic, and security threat. Ayşe Gülce Uygun discusses the relationships, cooperation, and externalization of these relationships with Frontex, the European Union's migration control system, and non-EU nations. In managing immigration, the European Union also follows democratic ideals and guidelines. The risks and criticisms of externalizing Frontex are evaluated in the study. After Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy in 2008, other connected financial systems also collapsed as a result. Rüya Ataklı Yavuz analyzes the European Union debt crisis and discusses financial developments and recent actions in the European Union economy. Altuğ Günar outlines how the European Union's economy will be sustainable and energy-efficient in his work on the green transformation in the EU, as well as how the EU will transition to a carbon-neutral economy by 2050. Yasemin and Cagatay Cagrir discuss developments in green fiscal policy and the issue of green financing in the European Union.

The final section of the study discusses the European Union's external relations. Samet Zenginoğlu discusses security ties in transatlantic cooperation with a focus on the historical security aspect of United States–European Union relations.

Özgür Öztürk undertakes a highly analytical analysis when he discusses how US security has been reshaped by the European security policy. Tuğçe Yıldız discusses the ties between the European Union and Russia and examines the events that led to the Ukrainian War. While Omca Altın discusses Ukraine–European Union relations in the context of the EU Neighborhood Policy, İlhan Aras evaluates China’s stance in the European Union crises. Alper Yurttaş addresses the relationship between the European Union and Turkey after 2005; İnci Aksu Kargın, on the other hand, provides an in-depth analysis of the motivations behind the refugee deal between Turkey and the European Union. Finally, Didem Öztürk Günar assesses the post-Brexit relationship between the United Kingdom, the European Union, and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific States, and discusses the current situation from the perspective of the parties.

It’s also critical to remember that this book’s chapters went through a rigorous internal and external double-blind review procedure. To assist our readers, we would like to thank all the authors and researchers who are authorities in their fields for their dedication and perseverance. We also like to express our gratitude to our book’s external reviewers for their insight and assistance. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to those individuals who have been an inspiration and support for our authors throughout the creation of this work. Additionally, we appreciate Emerald Publishing. Without their support throughout the challenging pandemic, we would not have been able to conduct this study.

Yours Respectfully

Altuğ Günar  
Didem Saygın