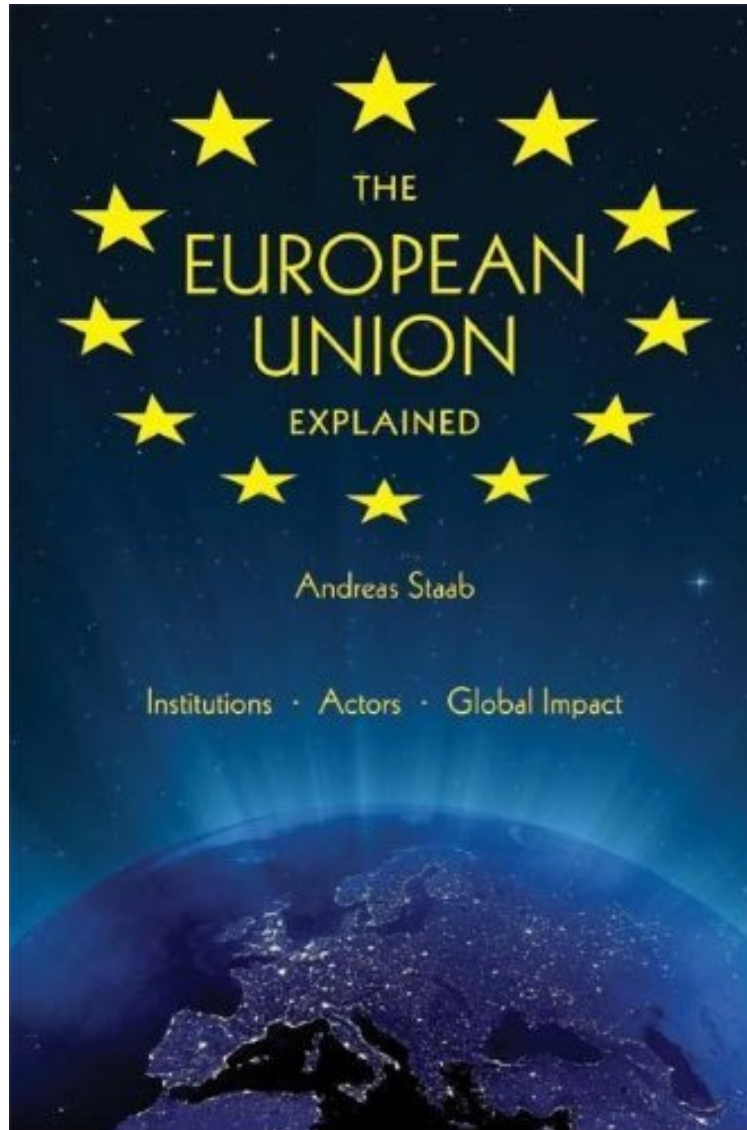


# The European Union Explained: Institutions, Actors, Global Impact

*Andreas Staab*

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looking to study the European Union. "The European Union Explained" introduces the fundamental concepts, actors and institutions of the EU in a manageable and interesting way. The European Union will continue to play a key role throughout the 21st century... I encourage everyone to read this excellent book. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. EU Explained By John R. Odell Like many Americans, I had little knowledge of the interworkings and make up of the European Union. The European Union Explained by Staab gives a great introduction into the EU: the history, the functions, the policies, and the future. The topics vary from the common agricultural policy to EU enlargement. The chapters are organized and the writing is clear. I now feel I have a grasp on the European Union, so much so I have discussed the French Presidency of EU with the French Consulate General. Understanding the European Union is essential to understanding global politics. The European Union Explained by Staab is essential for an understanding of the EU.

The European Union Explained provides a concise overview of the structure, history, and policies of the European Union. Anyone who needs a quick and accessible introduction to the EU -- including scholars and professionals in government, business, media, or the nonprofit sector -- will find this volume a valuable tool. Ideal for advanced high school and college text use, it is also useful background reading for those planning overseas study, work, or research. Drawing on many years of teaching and consulting, Andreas Staab offers basic terms and interpretive frameworks for understanding the evolution of the EU; the overall structure, purpose, and mandate of its main constituent divisions; and key policy areas, such as market unification.

"An informative, well-paced, and clearly articulated narrative of the European Union's development." -- Jennifer Yoder, Colby College "A wonderful exposition of the European Union." -- Ambassador Donato Chiarini, European Commission "Very informative, comprehensive and well constructed." -- Ljerka Mintas Hodak, former Minister of Education, Government of the Republic of Croatia This book covers all the essential topics related to the EU and is best suited as a supplement to other texts. Part one is about the evolution of the EU and includes a historical overview, the key treaties, and enlargement. Part two covers the institutions and the checks and balances in EU governance. Staab (European Policy Information Centre) provides a good discussion of the democratic deficit in the EU, but does not address the differences in ordinary and extraordinary agenda setting. Part three is devoted to the internal and external policies of the EU and covers the single market, regional policy and cohesion, the Common Agricultural Policy, the economic and monetary union, justice and home affairs, common foreign and security policy, and trade and the common commercial policy. In each chapter, the discussion is quite brief.... Summing Up: Recommended. General readers, all undergraduate students. --CHOICE B. A. Yesilada, Portland State University, July 2009 From the Publisher "An informative, well-paced, and clearly articulated narrative of the European Union's development." -- Jennifer Yoder, Colby College "A wonderful exposition of the European Union." -- Ambassador Donato Chiarini, European Commission "Very informative, comprehensive and well constructed." -- Ljerka Mintas Hodak, former Minister of Education, Government of the Republic of Croatia About the Author Andreas Staab is founder and director of the European Policy Information Centre (EPIC), a London-based training agency on the European Union. He is author of National Identity in Eastern Germany as well as articles on citizenship, democracy, and European politics. He lives in London, England.