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# The European Union Illuminated: Its Nature, Importance and Future

*A. El-Agraa*

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**A. El-Agraa : The European Union Illuminated: Its Nature, Importance and Future** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The European Union Illuminated: Its Nature, Importance and Future:

The European Union Illuminated: Its Nature, Importance and Future is addressed to the average educated person. This is because the EU is under great stress due to misconceptions held by the general public, propagated by certain EU political parties, especially by the UK's Conservative Party and UKIP.

'Dr El-Agraa's book represents a gold old-fashioned piece of applied economics that combines elements of economic theory, political economy, statistical analysis, and institutional economics. There is a particular theme running throughout the narrative, often more implicit than overt, involving the economic pros and cons of the various political compromises that have inevitably been made in the creation of the Union, and in particular in the roles to be played by the individual members. It also takes this further by considering the possible paths forward within an ever-changing internal and external environment. Over the years the former European Coal and Steel Community has transmogrified into the world's largest economic unit involving over 500 million people and the author provides explanations for this, and why it has largely been encouraged by outsiders. But it also sets this creation within larger economic changes that have seen the end of the Soviet Union and the rise of new mega-economic superpowers such as China, and more general trends in globalization. Thus he places the appropriate joint emphasis on internal economic integration within the EU, and the broader, global economic integration process that have been taking place. The book is an important addition to the study of the political economy of market structures and institutional challenges that underlie the ultimate outcomes. Europe is the central theme, but the analysis offered here has much broader connotations.'

Professor Kenneth Button, School of Policy, Government and International Affairs George Mason University 'There is no shortage of books on the EU but Ali El-Agraa's new text offers an up to date assessment from an economic perspective of the contribution and progress of the EU and where it is going. With a comprehensive coverage of the wide ranges of EU policies, it offers an excellent starting point for those who want to get their mind round the problems.' Professor David Geoffrey Mayes, The University of Auckland 'This book provides a good and comprehensive overview for the general reader interested to learn more about the EU and how it works. It effectively debunks some of the common misunderstandings and downright misinformation about what the EU is and does.'

Professor Iain Begg, European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science 'El-Agraa offers a lucid insight into the past, present and future of the European Union (EU). He discusses many of the difficulties that the EU is faced with today. A veteran textbook writer, he has once again produced an outstanding book, fully up-to-date, written in a clear and accessible style a must-read for anyone who wishes to understand the ins and out of European integration.' Professor Amy Verdun, University of Victoria, Canada  
About the Author Ali M. El-Agraa is Emeritus Professor of International Economic Integration at Fukuoka University, Japan. During his career Ali has acted as General Consultant for the Anglo-Japanese Economic Institute, Senior International Consultant for the United Nations and Member of the Committee of the International Economics Study Group, sponsored by the UK Economic and Social Research Council. He has held visiting professorships across the world, in the UK, China, US, Japan and Thailand. Ali was with the University of Leeds during 1971-92 where he was a senior lecturer and a member of both its Senate and Council, as well as the University Advisor to Overseas Students.