

IEUSS REVIEW OF BOOKS

Brunet-Jailly, E., Hurrelmann, H. and Verdun, A. (Eds.) 2018. [European Union Governance and Policy Making: A Canadian Perspective](#). University of Toronto Press, 2018

Twenty-five years ago, there were just a few English-language textbooks focusing on European Union (EU) politics and governance. Each year new texts emerge, many necessarily covering the same subjects. *European Union Governance and Policy Making* edited by Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly, Achim Hurrelmann, and Amy Verdun – EU scholars on faculty at Canadian universities – offers an innovative approach by comparing the EU and Canada in each of the topics covered throughout the text. In so doing, the authors place the study of the EU firmly in the comparativist camp, a point of view famously advanced by Simon Hix in his [landmark paper](#) published in *West European Politics* (1994, 17:1).

The editors, as they explain in the introductory chapter, designed the book around three themes: peace-building through economic cooperation in a mixed economy; “more than an international organization, less than a state”; and “from economic to democratic legitimation”? The book itself is divided into three parts – integration and governance; policies; and challenges – followed by a concluding chapter, glossary, appendix (with research resources), and an index. Lecture slides are available from the publisher.

For this reviewer, the most formidable obstacle to an edited textbook is maintaining cohesiveness. The editors and their contributors accomplish this task admirably with a strict chapter formula consisting of: a brief summary, short introduction, the main body providing a general overview, followed by “matters subject to current debate,” and a conclusion. Each chapter also include references and further reading, review questions, and exercises.

The following examples are now offered to provide readers of this review a better sense of the way in which this textbook supports comparison:

- Box 3.2 – compares the EU and Canada in terms of executive leadership and legislative bodies
- Box 4.6 - compares the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) with Canada’s Supreme Court
- Table 5.4 – compares the institutional structure of governance in Canada and the EU
- Box 6.1 – compares federalism in Canada and the EU
- Box 7.2 – compares the Canadian and EU single market
- Box 8.6 – compares border control and migration policy in Canada and the EU
- Box 15.6 – compares how Canada and the EU have widened (enlargement)
- Box 17.1 – compares Canada, the EU, and the US with respect to parliamentarism

The 100 boxes, figures, and tables included in this text are not limited to comparisons between the Canadian and EU systems. Indeed, chapter contributors offer a variety of heuristic material from which faculty can augment their lectures, regardless of the country in which their university is located. To take one example, Table 6.1 offers a schematic taxonomy of European integration theories.

By and large, the exercises are excellent and instructors of the EU should find many of them useful in promoting student participation. For example, in Chapter 5, students are asked to “Consider the role of direct taxation in governance. What does the absence of tax collection at the EU level tell us about the EU’s multilevel system of governance? How does tax collection compare to the Canadian federal system?” And in Chapter 6, students are asked “When studying the EU comparatively, when is it appropriate to compare the EU to other federal countries, and when is it appropriate to other international organizations? What theoretical approaches are used in each

tactic?” Many of the exercises are general in nature and, therefore, can be used profitably by teachers of the EU in any setting – for example one exercise suggested in Chapter 7 (the single market and economic and monetary integration) – students are divided into two groups. One group argues the position that the EU’s single market is a form of globalization and the other that its principal objective is protectionism.

While the book is written for undergraduate students studying at Canadian universities who have not previously studied the EU, this carefully edited, well-written, and engaging textbook should be of interest to faculty teaching at universities located outside of Canada, and particularly so for professors teaching at universities in federal systems.

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