Introduction

Anthony Arnall

The Introduction outlines the questions that this VSI attempts to answer. Why does the EU arouse such strong passions? As an organization based on international treaties, why has it proved capable of having such far-reaching effects on its Member States and their citizens and on countries that lie beyond its borders? Part of the explanation lies in its law and legal system, which have proved remarkably effective in ensuring that Member States respect the commitments made when they signed those treaties. But what exactly is EU law about? And how has it become part of the legal DNA of its Member States so much more effectively than other treaty-based regimes?


Anthony Arnall

European Law: A Very Short Introduction considers the laws and legal system of the European Union and discusses the range of issues that the European Union has been given the power to regulate, including the free movement of goods and people. It considers why an organization based on international treaties has proved capable of having far-reaching effects on both its Member States and on countries that lie beyond its borders, and discusses the effectiveness of its law and legal system in ensuring that Member States respect the commitments they made when they signed the Treaties.

5. On the origin of treaties

Anthony Arnall

EU Treaties are international agreements signed and ratified by sovereign states. The EU is, therefore, a creation of international law. However, it is increasingly treated by scholars as
distinct from international law and is starting to resemble a national system in its scope and complexity. ‘On the origin of treaties’ explains how the EU treaties may be amended, which is more difficult than amending secondary EU law, and the processes of joining and leaving the EU. Finally, it considers the general principles of law and fundamental rights that bind the EU’s institutions and member states.

2. From Common Market to European Union

Anthony Arnull

The EEC Treaty said that the common market should be established gradually over a transitional period comprising three stages. When the transitional period expired in 1969, the common market was still far from complete. ‘From Common Market to European Union’ explains how in February 1986, the Member States signed a new treaty called the Single European Act committing them to establishing the internal market by the end of 1992. At the same time, the Member States began to explore widening the remit of the EEC to embrace additional policy areas. In 1992, the Maastricht Treaty on European Union was signed, giving birth to a new legal entity: the European Union.

8. Enforcing EU law

Anthony Arnull

What are the CJEU’s powers? ‘Enforcing EU law’ considers three of the most important. Infringement proceedings assess claims by the Commission that Member States have failed to do what the Treaties require of them. If such a claim is successful, financial sanctions may be imposed on the State concerned. The action for annulment allows the validity of EU acts to be challenged and enables the CJEU to ensure that the other institutions act within the limits of their powers. The preliminary rulings procedure is the ‘keystone’ of the judicial system established by the Treaties and involves helping national courts to apply EU law correctly.

1. What is EU law about?

Anthony Arnull

The range of issues that the EU has been given the power to regulate has grown significantly since it was founded by just six Member States in 1951. The aim of the
European Coal and Steel Community Treaty signed that year was to create a single market for those products. Its initial success prompted the Member States to embark on a much more ambitious venture: the European Economic Community (EEC), established by a treaty signed in Rome in 1957. At the heart of the EEC lay the free movement of goods, persons, services, and capital—the four freedoms that remain fundamental to the EU.

**Diplomacy: A Very Short Introduction**
Joseph M. Siracusa

Diplomacy: A Very Short Introduction introduces diplomacy from a historical perspective, providing examples from significant historical phases and episodes to illustrate the art of diplomacy in action. Like making war, diplomacy has been around a very long time, at least since the Bronze Age. It was primitive with few rules, but it was a recognizable form of diplomacy. Diplomacy has evolved greatly, coming to mean different things, to different persons, at different times, ranging from the elegant to the inelegant. Whatever one's definition, few could doubt that the course and consequences of the major events of modern international diplomacy have shaped and changed the global world in which we live.

**I. Clausewitz in his time**
Michael Howard

‘Clausewitz in his time’ reveals the influences on Clausewitz's thinking and puts the writing of On War in context. Clausewitz served in the Prussian army from age twelve under renowned generals such as Scharnhorst. He entered into the Enlightenment spirit of scientific enquiry, attempting to integrate campaign strategy and battlefield tactics in a unified theory. Experience of Prussia’s defeat by the French in the Napoleonic Wars convinced him of the need for political transformation in order to prevail in this new type of war, something he strove to reconcile with his loyalty to the monarchy. In his writings he wanted to systematize all elements of war.

Christopher S. Browning

---

Page 3 of 7
date: 18 September 2019
International Security: A Very Short Introduction shows that the subjects of war and peace, military strategy, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and revisionist states remain central to the subject of international security, but burgeoning concerns such as climate change, migration, poverty, health, and international terrorism have complicated the field. So what really matters? The traditional prioritization of state security or the security needs of individuals, humanity, and the biosphere? Are states themselves as much a part of the problem as the solution for people's security needs? It outlines the nature of the key debates about contemporary international security challenges, and discusses the inherent difficulties that exist in tackling them.

7. The Court of Justice of the European Union
Anthony Arnell

‘The Court of Justice of the European Union’ explains that the basic duty of the CJEU is to ensure that ‘the law is observed’ in the interpretation and application of the EU Treaties. Most cases brought before the CJEU are either direct actions that start and finish in Luxembourg, or references for preliminary rulings which originate in a national court that needs guidance on the effect of EU law before giving judgment. The most important parts of the CJEU are the Court of Justice and the General Court. These are described, along with the judicial approach of the CJEU.

6. Communism's International Allegiances
Leslie Holmes

‘Communism's international allegiances’ examines the tendency of Communist states to seek closer ties with each other and the problems encountered in doing so. The origins and purpose of Comintern, and the reasons why it folded, are explained. Comintern had been intended as an umbrella organization that would unite like-minded parties, and after its demise, Cominform was established by Moscow in Poland. Cooperation could have economic and security-related advantages, however the fact that Communist states sometimes had fundamentally different interpretations of the basic principles of communism is borne out by the deterioration of relations between China and the USSR in the 1960s.

4. The expansion and contraction of the English state
Martin Loughlin
‘The expansion and contraction of the English state’ examines how changes in the scope of British authority have affected constitutional principle. Nominally, all components of the empire were subordinate to illimitable parliamentary sovereignty, but in reality many informal relations and constraints existed. The EU posed another challenge to parliamentary sovereignty, as EU law supersedes British law, and the hyper-rationalism of the EU constitution runs contrary to British constitutional practice. Devolution is an attempt to bolster constitutional arrangements in the other components of the UK, but does not formally affect parliamentary sovereignty. Modern concepts like state, citizen and nation clash with the monopolistic conception of authority in the constitution.

Borders: A Very Short Introduction
Alexander C. Diener and Joshua Hagen
Print Publication Year: 2012 Published Online: Sep 2013
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/actrade/9780199731503.001.0001
Item type: book

Borders: A Very Short Introduction challenges the perception of borders as passive lines on a map, revealing them instead to be integral forces in the economic, social, political, and environmental processes that shape our lives. The issue of borders includes considerations such as transnational communities, security threats from terrorist groups, migration regulation, rights of indigenous peoples, the legal status of the sea and outer space, environmental sustainability, and the emergence of neo-liberal economics. How have borders developed over time? What is their relevance today? Will we ever have a borderless world? Borders are likely to remain a hot topic across the social sciences and global headlines for years to come.

3. The modern state system
Alexander C. Diener and Joshua Hagen
Print Publication Year: 2012 Published Online: Sep 2013
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/actrade/9780199731503.003.0003
Item type: chapter

In the ancient world, borders were not clearly defined. However, the variable and flexible approaches to borders gradually gave way to a more standardized and rigid notion of territory and sovereignty. ‘The modern state system’ provides a history of the division of global space into independent states, something which is largely taken for granted now. This system began in Europe and spread elsewhere with colonialism. In addition to their external borders, states often contain many boundaries that divide domestic spaces. Some of these are official, others mark informal social groupings. What effect does globalization have on state boundaries and within-state regional borders?
3. The problem of war
Christopher S. Browning

‘The problem of war’ explains the idea of the security dilemma, which is characterized by a situation whereby a state, fearful for its security, begins arming itself. Other states may respond in kind, in turn legitimizing the first state’s concerns and causing a spiral of insecurity, with war an ever present possibility. One way of mitigating the effects of the security dilemma is by creating ‘security regimes’, which establish standards and rules of behaviour against which different states can be judged and even punished. Some suggest in this way it might even be possible to exclude the security dilemma, and therefore the likelihood of war, from international politics altogether.

3. Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)
Paul Wilkinson

‘Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)’ deals with the supranational organizations through which nations cooperate. IGOs can be specialized, like Interpol, regional, like the EU, or security-based, like NATO. The United Nations attempts to be a neutral organization and is most effective through its specialized agencies. Its record on conflict prevention is less good, but any attempt to increase its powers threatens its wide membership. Regional organizations such as the EU have been set up for the purposes of economic development through integration. Any further remit is harder to come by, as supranationalism is unpopular. IGOs, although not truly autonomous actors, can exert influence when their members are in agreement.

International Law: A Very Short Introduction
Vaughan Lowe

Recently, interest in international law has increased greatly, largely because of its central place in discussions such as the Iraq War, the World Trade Organization, the Kyoto Convention, the situations in Palestine and Darfur, and the plights of refugees and illegal immigrants around the world. International Law: A Very Short Introduction explains what international law is, its role in international society, and how it operates. It examines what international law can and cannot do and what it is and isn’t doing to make the world a better place. It uses terrorism, environmental change, poverty, and international violence to
demonstrate international law theories and practice, and how the principles can be used for international cooperation.