



Preface

What's up?

When the first edition of this book was published in 2004, European integration was a process under way. During that year, ten countries joined the existing fifteen members of the European Union. Since then three more countries have gained membership. At that time, twelve countries had adopted the euro and seven have done so since then. As we close this edition, integration may sound like a misnomer as negotiations on the withdrawal of the UK are under way. In the mean time, the sovereign debt crisis has come close to triggering a disintegration of the Eurozone. In addition, in many countries, newly influential political parties present themselves as Eurosceptics, and some of them are in power. European integration currently seems more like a description of the existing situation than a continuing process, although seven countries have applied to become members of the European Union.

Still, excluding the UK, currently 447 million people live in the European Union, far more than in the USA. Everyday, they produce and consume goods and services that move freely within the continent and 340 million of them use the euro as their own currency. Furthermore, some 400 million people can travel seamlessly within the Schengen Area without having to show passports or identity cards. Thus Europe exists. It constitutes a unique historical achievement. After centuries of bitter wars, the continent is peaceful and deeply integrated, in spite of squabbles here and there. It is often said that Rome, its distant and very different predecessor, was not built in one day. Likewise, Europe is still being built.

This book describes and explains European integration, and its contents mirror the ever-changing situation. In the first three editions, we noted the many flaws in the integration process, especially those concerning the Eurozone. In the fourth edition, we were lamenting the policy responses to the crisis, pointing out what had to be done. At the time of the fifth edition, the crisis was coming to its end. Since then, much has been done, often along the lines that we mentioned. The European Union has been transformed, and so has this book.

As always with previous editions, most of the tables, figures and boxes have been updated with the most recent data and events. The most drastic changes of this sixth edition concern both the pedagogy and the content. In terms of pedagogy, we have retained the five-part structure – see below – but:

- Chapter 1 discusses Brexit but since the manuscript had to be closed before the final 'divorce' deal was settled, the treatment was necessarily somewhat speculative.
- Chapter 8 offers an expanded treatment of migration, which has emerged as a major concern.
- Presentation of the macroeconomic theory in Chapter 13 has been streamlined, better motivated and extended. It now includes a new section that brings the main results together and presents the theory of exchange rate determination. The section on monetary neutrality has been moved in a succinct form to Chapter 15 where it is used to explain different views of monetary policy.
- Chapter 14 is now presented as a history of monetary integration in Europe, which makes full use of the principles developed in Chapter 13. It is designed as a transition between theory and applications developed in subsequent chapters.
- Chapter 15, which presents the optimum currency area (OCA), has been redesigned. It includes the aggregate demand and supply framework that has been requested by many instructors, while making more use of the theory presented in Chapter 13. It presents a thorough discussion of the insurance role of transfers.
- Chapter 17 has been extended to include new developments, including regarding the Stability and Growth Pact and the macroeconomic imbalances procedure.
- A new section has been introduced at the beginning of Chapter 18 to present the explain financial markets using the theory developed in Chapter 13. That theory is also used to explain risk and the variety of interest rates (maturities and riskiness).

Obviously, the latest developments are fully covered. The information is included in context within every chapter.



What this book is

This is a textbook for courses on European economic integration. Its emphasis is on economics, covering both the microeconomics and macroeconomics of European integration. Understanding European economic integration, however, requires much more than economics, so the book also covers the essential aspects of European history, institutions, laws, politics and policies.

The book is written at a level that should be accessible to second- and third-year undergraduates in economics as well as advanced undergraduates and graduate students in business, international affairs, European studies and political science. Some knowledge of economics is needed to absorb all the material with ease – a first-year course in the principles of economics should suffice – but the book is self-contained in that it reviews most essential economics behind the analysis.

What is in this book

The book is organized into five parts: essential background (Part I), the microeconomics of European integration (Part II), microeconomic policies (Part III), the macroeconomics of monetary integration (Part IV) and macroeconomic policies (Part V).

Part I presents the essential background for studying European integration.

- An overview of the post-Second World War historical development of European integration is presented in Chapter 1. The chapter should be useful to all students, even those who are familiar with the main historical events, as this chapter stresses the economic and political economy logic behind the events.
- A concise presentation of the indispensable background information necessary for the study of European integration is presented in Chapter 2. This includes key facts concerning European economies and a brief review of the EU's legal system and principles (fully updated to reflect the Lisbon Treaty changes). Chapter 2 also presents information on the vital EU institutions and the EU's legislative processes as well as the main features of the EU budget.
- Chapter 3 presents an economic framework for thinking about EU institutions. The first part explains how the 'theory of fiscal federalism' can be used to consider the appropriateness of the allocation of powers between EU institutions and EU Member States. The second part explains how economic reasoning – game theory in particular – can be used to analyse EU decision-making procedures for their efficiency as well as their implications for the distribution of power among EU members. While these are not classic topics in the study of European integration, they are essential to understanding the current challenges facing the EU, such as the 2004 enlargement and the debates around the Lisbon Treaty. This is more relevant than ever as the Eurozone crisis is almost sure to produce a shifting of some competencies from the national level to the supranational level – or, at the very least, a serious debate over such shifts.

Part II presents the microeconomic aspects of European integration.

- An introduction to the fundamental methods of trade policy analysis is presented in Chapter 4. The chapter introduces basic supply and demand analysis in an open economy and the key economic welfare concepts of consumer and producer surplus, and then uses them to study the simple economics of tariff protection.
- An in-depth analysis of European preferential trade liberalization is given in Chapter 5. The focus is on how the formation of a customs union or free trade area affects people, companies and governments inside and outside the integrating nations.
- A thorough study of how the market-expanding aspects of European integration affect the efficiency of European firms is presented in Chapter 6. The main line of reasoning explains how integration in the presence of scale economies and imperfect competition can produce fewer, bigger and more efficient firms facing more effective competition from each other. Again, the ongoing enlargement of the European Union makes this sort of logic more relevant than ever.



- Chapter 7 gives a detailed study of the growth effects of European integration. The emphasis is on the economic logic linking European integration to medium-run and long-run growth effects. Neoclassical and endogenous growth theories are covered to the extent that they help students understand the growth–integration linkages. The basic facts and empirical evidence are also covered.
- Chapter 8 deals with the labour markets. It recalls the basics of labour economics in order to explain unemployment and develop the notion that social requirements may have seriously negative effects in terms of jobs, wages and growth. The chapter uses these insights to study the effects of integration. It deals with many controversial issues such as social dumping and migration, trying hard to stay above the fray by presenting economic analysis as one logic, but not the only one.

Part III presents the main microeconomic policies of the EU.

- Chapter 9 looks at the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), presenting the economics and facts that are essential for understanding its effects. The chapter takes particular care to examine the economic forces behind recent CAP reform in the light of international trade negotiations (the Doha Round), the eastern enlargement and the reforms that are being discussed for the post-2013 financial period.
- Chapter 10 presents the economics that link European integration to the location of economic activities. This includes a presentation of the main facts on how the location of economic activity has shifted both within and between nations. To organize thinking about these facts – and to understand how EU regional policy might affect it – the chapter presents the location effects of integration in the light of neoclassical theories (Heckscher–Ohlin), as well as the so-called new economic geography. The chapter also presents the main features of the EU’s regional policy and considers the implications of the eastern enlargement.
- Chapter 11 covers the basic elements of the EU’s competition policy and state aid policy (EU jargon for subsidies). Instead of merely describing the policies, the chapter explains them by introducing the basic economic logic of anti-competitive practices. It has been updated to include several recent cases that illustrate the difficulties of applying simple economics to the complex world of international business.
- Chapter 12 addresses EU trade policy, that is, its commercial relations with the rest of the world. While trade policy is not as central to the EU as are, say, the CAP and cohesion policies, it is important. The EU is the world’s largest trader, and trade policy is probably the only EU ‘foreign policy’ that is consistently effective. The chapter covers EU trade policy by presenting the basic facts on EU trade, covering the EU’s institutional arrangements as concerns trade policy, and finally summarizing the EU’s policies towards its various trade partners. It has been fully updated to reflect changes introduced by the Lisbon Treaty.

Part IV continues the approach of Part II by providing the basic principles behind macroeconomic and monetary integration.

- The essential principles needed for the macroeconomic analysis are presented in Chapter 13. This chapter presents the macroeconomic theories and tools needed to analyse monetary integration. It is organized around the Mundell–Fleming model and establishes three principles: interest rate parity, purchasing power parity and the impossible trinity that affects the choice of exchange rate regimes. This chapter can serve either as a refresher for economics students or a (fast) introduction to economics for others.
- The long process of European monetary integration is recounted in Chapter 14. It starts briefly with ancient times when Europe was a de facto monetary union under the gold standard, reviews the Bretton Woods period when Europe’s exchange rates were tied together via the US dollar and then moves to the European Monetary System, past and present. The process of euro adoption is briefly reviewed.
- Chapter 15 presents the optimum currency area theory, the framework needed to think about the working of a monetary union. The basis is provided by the principles developed in Chapter 13. Looking at the costs and benefits resulting from sharing a common currency, the theory is essential to understanding what works and does not work in the Eurozone. It is used extensively in further chapters.

Part V is the counterpart to Part III, as it presents the main macroeconomic policies of the EU.

- The main features of the European monetary union are laid out in Chapter 16. This includes a description and analysis of the institutions created by the Maastricht Treaty and how they have evolved since, including during the crisis that started at the end of 2009. It explains the importance attached to price stability and the measures adopted to achieve this objective. The chapter also provides a review of the first decade of the euro up until the crisis.
- Fiscal policy is the last national macroeconomic instrument remaining once national monetary policy has been lost. Chapter 17 looks at the Stability and Growth Pact, designed to deliver just enough budgetary discipline so as not to endanger the overriding price stability objective. Since the first edition of this book, we have underlined the pact's serious shortcomings; the crisis has led to a strengthening of the pact, but fundamental economic and political difficulties remain.
- Chapter 18 deals with the financial markets. It starts with an analysis of financial markets in general. It then explains how and why the financial services industry was transformed by the Single European Act 1986 and by the adoption of a single currency and how it has been fragmented by the crisis. The measures taken to deal with this unexpected development are presented and evaluated, including the creation of the Banking Union. The chapter concludes by questioning whether the euro can challenge the US dollar as a world currency.
- Finally, Chapter 19 offers an overview of the Eurozone crisis. It looks at the global crisis that started in the USA and its transmission to Europe. The next step, the sovereign crisis, is then described and analysed, bringing together much of the material presented in earlier chapters. The policy responses are presented and critically evaluated. The chapter ends with a discussion of the remaining challenges and an analysis of what the break-up of the Eurozone would mean.

How to use this book

The book is suitable for a one-semester course that aims at covering both the microeconomics and macroeconomics of European integration. If the course is long enough, the book can be used sequentially for two courses.

Shorter courses may focus on the trade and competition aspects; they can use only Parts I, II and III. Conversely, a course dealing only with the macroeconomic aspects can use Parts IV and V, and finish with labour market issues as covered in Chapter 8 (which does not really require the previous microeconomic material).

Eclectic courses that focus on theory and cover trade, competition and macroeconomics can use only Chapters 1–8 and 16–19 or just 4–8 and 16–19. Eclectic courses oriented towards policy issues can use, with some additional lecturing if the students are not familiar with basic theory, Chapters 1–2, 9–12 and 16–19. In general, all chapters are self-contained but, inevitably, they often refer to results and facts presented elsewhere.

Each chapter includes self-assessment questions designed to help the students check how well they master the material, and some chapters also provide essay questions which can be given as assignments. We also provide additional readings that are easily accessible to undergraduate students.

The fifth edition continues our tradition of providing many internet links that should allow students and lecturers alike to gain the latest information on the EU's many fast-developing areas. We have observed that the internet is an excellent way to stimulate students' interest by bringing classroom teaching to real issues they see every day in the media. The links we provide go well beyond journalist treatment in a way that allows students to realize the usefulness of the basics they have learned from the text.