Theory and reform in the European Union

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This substantially updated and revised edition offers a comprehensive overview of the challenges confronting the political system as well as the international politics of the European Union. It draws from a spectrum of regional integration theories to determine what the Union actually is and how it is developing, examining the constitutional politics of the European Union, from the Single European Act to the Treaty of Nice and beyond. The ongoing debate on the future of Europe links together the questions of democracy and legitimacy, competences and rights, and the prospects for European polity-building. The aim is to contribute to a better understanding of the emerging European polity and the questions that further treaty reform generates for the future of the regional system. The authors also assess the evolving European security architecture; the limits and possibilities of a genuine European foreign, security and defence policy; and the role of the EU in the post-Cold War international system. Common themes involve debates about stability and instability, continuity and change, multipolarity and leadership, co-operation and discord, power capabilities and patterns of behaviour. The book traces the defining features of the ‘new order’ in Europe and incorporates an analysis of the post-September 11th context.

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Dedication

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Start by marking “Theory and Reform in the European Union” as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read. Completely updated and newly available in paperback, this book examines the relationship between theory and reform in the European Union in the light of the Amsterdam Treaty. It draws from a rich spectrum of regional integration theory offering an account of different approaches to the politics of European constitutional reform in the late 1990s. By establishing a link between the internal and external relations of the EU, the book develops a greater understanding of the new political and institutional dynamics of the emerging European polity and the questions that future treaty reform raise for the future evolution of the regional system.