

THE CONTEMPORARY EU

.. and European integration

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STRUCTURE

- Theory
- applying it to the European Union
- understanding what the European Union is (in an international context)
- through what it does and how it does it

- agriculture
- single European market (SEM)
economic and monetary affairs
competition
- justice, safety and security
- environment
human rights
culture
immigration

budget
food safety
fraud
transport
energy
education
foreign policy
- enlargement
world trade
information society
employment

THEORIES

- Theory:
 - Causal theorising (why?)
 - Constitutive (what and how?)
- Theory is approximation to reality
- Theory is always there, whether you like it or not!

THEORIES

1. Help **understand** an issue or process
2. help **explain** an issue or process
3. **predict** what will happen next
4. are consistent in themselves.

- Events are multidimensional (lectures, meetings and policy-making processes in the Council of Ministers): different types of explanation emerge
- thus we have different theoretical perspectives of European integration, which **produce and reproduce different types of knowledge.**

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION THEORIES

- Many different interpretations of what is to be studied (the dependent variable)
 - Economics
 - Politics
 - Security?

WHAT'S THE BASE-LINE?

- Is European integration 'an instance of' something else? (i.e. can we generalise from the EU?)
 - International Organisation
 - Regionalist bloc
 - Understanding policy-making dynamics?
 - EU as *sui generis*

EU STATISTICS

- 7% of population, 20% of world trade
- 450+ million EU citizens; US is 300+ million
- 27 member states
- EU is not a state
 - need to consider EU differently
 - individual relations with c. 140 countries
 - but EU is not a member of many IGOs

EU HISTORY

- Marshall Plan was instigator
- Always a question of what EEC/EU should be?
- Enlargement: 1957 (6), 1973 (3), 1981 (1), 1986 (2), 1995 (3), 2004 (10), 2007 (2)
- What's on our borders now?

GLOBALISATION?

- “...the individual state is depicted as relatively impotent in the face of non-territorial economic actors operating in a system of globalised production and exchange relationships.” (Bretherton and Vogler, 2006: 25)
- loss of national sovereignty?
- other transnational problems (terrorism, crime, environment)
- but many controversies and debates

CHALLENGES TO SOVEREIGNTY

- domestic and foreign policies intertwined
- states are interdependent
- democratic legitimacy
- markets and states no longer 'in sync'

EU IN A GLOBALISING WORLD

- Integration has led to need for EU to compete globally
- Globalisation perceived as threat to European policymakers
- Responding to globalisation with 'European values'
- Mainly active in 'soft' policy issue areas: Lisbon Strategy (1999), but also 'high-political' areas: European Security Strategy (2003)

EU AND GLOBALISATION

- EU as prime example of globalisation
 - diminishing national sovereignty in law, economics, movement of people
 - “exemplar of a new stage in political civilisation”
- EU as ‘filter’ of globalisation?
 - collective capacity is able to withstand global pressures, and support national desires in a global context

EU AS AN ACTOR

- Constitutive and Causal theories and theorists collide in the Contemporary EU
- Theories to enable studying the EU as the 'subject' of study (why integrate?), but also to look at the EU as an 'actor' for study (what happens and how).

AREAS OF ACTIVITY (WHAT)

- Security
- Development
- Humanitarian aid
- Environment
- Trade / Economy
- 'Normative issues'

HOW IS THIS EXERCISED?

- How is the EU's actorness shaped?
 - History
 - Geography
 - Strategic interest
 - 'European values'

THEORETICAL ISSUES

- actorness
- governance
- power, representation and authority
- legitimacy and democracy
- globalisation

IDENTITY, INTERESTS, BEHAVIOUR

- identity of all actors is currently evolving...
- identities perform a mediating function on interests, and “reflect shared understandings about the essential nature...constructed through social interaction” (p.39)

- behaviour emerges
as a result of
these interests
and
identities

is there a collective EU identity, and
how does that emerge?
how is the EU represented?
how does it act?

SUMMARY (SO FAR)

- the way we see the EU depends on what lenses we use
- globalisation is a process altering the way we see the (nation-) state
- other threats and entities now exist
- other 'solutions' also exist: the EU being one of them

HOW SHOULD WE SEE THE EU IN A GLOBALISING WORLD?

identity issue

- EU has to compete globally
- responding to globalisation with 'european values'
- 'value-based community', or
- 'fortress' ?
- as a civilian power or normative power (pp. 41-42)
- singular, inclusive, or exclusive actor? (pp. 56-58)

EU (SPLIT) IDENTITIES

- EU as value-based community
 - civil power
 - no military strength, then?
 - normative power
- Exclusive identities ('fortress')
 - market

WHY THE EU HAS AN EXTERNAL POLICY

interests

- history
- geography
- strategic interest
- interconnection between 'domestic' and foreign politics
- 'European values' (cosmopolitan?)

LIMITATIONS TO EU EXTERNAL POLICY

behaviour

- army?
- sovereign statehood
- 'compromise' between different internal interests
- 'bureaucratic' --> European Commission is (supposedly) apolitical
- many stakeholders with different bases of legitimacy

IN WHAT AREAS IS IT EXERCISED?

behaviour

- Security
- Development + Humanitarian aid
 - democratisation
 - migration
- Environment
- Trade / Economy
- Culture

- Thank you for participating: this lecture complemented the literature, didn't replace it.
- Remember: always contactable via email
- Don't forget the "[TCEU]"!
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