

The Contemporary EU

Governance and bureaucracy, institutions and ideas

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STRUCTURE

- Understanding governance/government discussion
- Examining various EU institutions
- Understanding governance models
- Applying this understanding to the European Union
- Building models of the EU governance through what it does and how it does it

Understanding Governance

- Governance means nothing more (and nothing less) than the search for mechanisms to insure that absolute power is not exercised in an unjust or oppressive manner (Post 1999).
- Governance is the effort of human communities to try to control, direct, shape, or regulate certain kinds of activities (Fukuyama and Wagner 2000)
- Political institutions no longer exercise a monopoly of the orchestration of governance (Pierre 2000)

Governance/Government

- Some observers of the EU believe that the EU works only through intergovernmental means: what are the institutions that fit into this discussion?

Member states

- Self-interested actors

Council of Ministers

- Principal actors are the Member States
- There is also a Secretariat General
- COREPER I / II

European Council

- Principal actors are the Heads of State in EU Member States

Do these institutions promote
the democratic deficit?

Legitimacy or democracy

- Lord states that problem is not democratic deficit, but issues surrounding legitimacy

Understanding Legitimacy

1. Max Weber: governments can have

1. substantive legitimacy and
2. procedural legitimacy

2. Beetham

1. performance
2. democracy
3. identity

Understanding Governance

- Governance as a 'mode of coordination' and not an 'action'
- Governance as being carried out at different levels, or in different locations at the same time.

Understanding EU governance

- There is a gap between:
- “‘government’ in the Weberian sense of formal state structures endowed with legitimate and unchallenged authority over a territorially defined society, and
- ‘governance’ in the sense of the production of collective goods” (Conzelmann 1998).
- Nowhere is this seen more than the EU.

Understanding institutions

- New Institutionalism (a Theory), shifts towards acceptance of ‘less formalised arenas of politics’ as institutions (networks, etc.)
- In this theoretical framework, all institutions have a ‘mediating role’ in governance, which removes questions around authority (but probably not legitimacy).

Institutions

- European Parliament
- European Commission
- Advisory Bodies
- Policy Networks
- Regular meetings between various bodies (EU-related, NGO, etc.)

Is the EU a
Deliberative
Democracy
?

Deliberation and Democracy

- Deliberation as Epistemic Practice?
- Deliberation as Transformative Practice?
- Deliberation as Reason-Giving