Ideas of European unity from the inter-war period to the present, edited by an Australian and a British scholar, takes its place among a surprisingly modest number of books in recent years which trace the ideational origins of European integration. These authors are, to be sure, uninvolved with revising history, uncovering new sources, or recasting philosophical traditions. They seek instead to present an introduction to the rich variety of European visions during the inter-war period, in the midst of World War II, among classical functionalists and federalists like Monnet and Spinelli, and in the partisan spectrum of post-war Europe. Yet for those who believe in the causal importance of ideas in European integration, or in world politics more generally, this book poses a fundamental challenge: Given the continuous emergence of infinitely varied blueprints for European unity throughout this century, how do we explain why certain ideas were selected by policy-makers? Can such an explanation itself be ideational?

Center for European Studies, Andrew Moravcsik


Michael Calingaert, a former diplomat, Brussels-based representative of US business, and policy analyst, was one of the first to write with authority about the significance of the Single European Act. Now, nearly a decade later, he brings us up to date. This book is a self-styled overview focusing on the current status of the EU's single market programme and its implications for transatlantic relations; it spends little time on agricultural, monetary, foreign or defence policies. Calingaert points to various cleavages between small and large, rich and poor, and northern and southern countries, then reviews factors often thought to encourage cooperation among such disparate countries, including economic and geopolitical threats, political leadership, the health of the Franco-German alliance, the similarity of members, and the democratic legitimacy of European integration. By far the most original and most detailed section of the book — perhaps a reflection of the author's own experience — is that devoted to the potential for US-European economic cooperation and conflict. Most such analyses these days focus on agriculture or money; Calingaert offers instead a crisp review of the major regulatory and microeconomic issues, from pharmaceuticals to insurance.

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