

The top of the slide features a blue background with a globe on the left and the European Union flag (a circle of twelve gold stars) on the right.

Exploring EU Foreign Policy

Chapter 12

Theorizing EU Foreign Policy

Keukeleire, S. and MacNaughtan, J. (2008)

The Foreign Policy of the European Union,

Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.



The Foreign Policy of the EU

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Contents

1. International Relations theories
2. European integration theories
3. Constructivism: ideas, values and identity
4. Structural foreign policy

1. International Relations theories neorealism and neoliberalism

- Neorealism
 - Heart of national sovereignty → states will not integrate in these fields
- Neoliberalism
 - EU as an autonomous force that influences behaviour of third states and international environment

1. International Relations theories neorealism and neoliberalism

- Relevance of neorealism
 - Survival and hard military power
 - Dominance of largest member states / silence in sensitive issues
 - NATO predominance
 - Common EU policy as a national foreign policy tool
- Demonstration of neoliberal thought
 - Extensive development of common actors to intervene
 - EU's legal personality in Treaty of Lisbon

2. European integration theories

- Liberal intergovernmentalism
 - EU foreign policy is driven by member states, national interests and intergovernmental bargains
 - Essential = to reach agreement
 - ↔ yet, in practice: more than lowest common denominator
- New institutionalism
 - Expanding foreign policy institutional apparatus matters
 - Institutionalization through common actors
 - Institutions create path dependencies
 - Decisions can surpass original intentions

2. European integration theories

- Neofunctionalism
 - EU foreign policy driven by internal integration dynamic
 - Impulsion by activist non-state actors
 - Functional spillover
- Yet, foreign and security policy in a separate unanimity-bound intergovernmental pillar



3. Constructivism

- Ideas, values and identity -

■ Constructivism

- EU as a normative power driven by identity and values
- Focus on immaterial dimensions: ideas, values, norms and identity
- Importance of foreign policy identity objectives

■ Instruments

- Political conditionality
- Specific instruments

■ Assessment

- Yet, differences in power and interests among member states explaining national and EU foreign policies



4. Structural foreign policy

- ‘Structural – conventional’ foreign policy continuum
- Basic features of the approach
 - Complementarity of structural and conventional foreign policy
 - Importance of mental structures
 - Importance of comprehensiveness
- Structural foreign policy approach: interdisciplinarity
 - Importance of various structures
 - political, legal, socio-economic, security and mental
 - Importance of various levels
 - individual to global



4. Structural foreign policy

■ Challenges

- Strong framework when systematically and in detail applied to a foreign policy taking into account specific features of the third party
- Difficulty to obtain sufficiently deep understanding
- Difficulty to observe/measure long-term changes
- Difficulty to operationalize

Exploring EU Foreign Policy

See the Website Companion and Online Resource Guide:

<http://www.exploring-europe.eu/foreignpolicy>

- Guide to the maze of information sources on EU foreign policy for researchers, students and practitioners
- EU-Documents
- Official EU-links
- Links to sources from international organisations
- Links to information from non-governmental organisations, research centres and think tanks
- Latest online news on EU Foreign Policy
- Updated tables and PowerPoint presentations
- References to recent literature