



The EU's Response to Brexit: United and Effective

by Brigid Laffan and Stefan Telle, Switzerland, Palgrave Macmillan, 2023, xxv +285 pp., ISBN 978-3-031-26263-0.

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trade and sustainability chapters in dispute settlement, highlighting that goodness would require broader consistency within its FTAs.

Ultimately, the book represents a very successful and innovative effort to investigate EU global action and to recenter the latter with its normative basis, making it a very valid and surely thought-provoking addition to scholarship.

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The EU's Response to Brexit: United and Effective, by Brigid Laffan and Stefan Telle, Switzerland, Palgrave Macmillan, 2023, xxv+285 pp., ISBN 978-3-031-26263-0.

Brexit has been one of the main topics of the European Union's (EU) agenda since 2015, and following the 'exit' decision of the United Kingdom (UK) as the result of 2016 referendum, the EU and the UK experienced a long negotiation process as anticipated. One of the main aims of this volume is showing EU's effective response to this complicated and ambiguous withdrawal process. In the literature, liberal intergovernmentalism highlights the economic interests of the member states and limits the role of supranational institutions. This book shows that while responding to the Brexit process, the EU's and the member states' interests are beyond economic interests and the role of supranational institutions in bargaining process cannot be underestimated. Although the UK officially left the EU on 31 January 2020, Brexit cannot be understood without considering the process of initiating such decision to post-Brexit era. One of the main strengths of the book is that it relies on 20 expert interviews that includes politicians and officials from the EU and the member states. These interviews appear like the 'backstage' of the process, so they might attract the readers' attention with the observations, experiences and thoughts of these officials and politicians.

This volume emphasizes the capacity of problem-solving, stability and unity of the EU during Brexit negotiations. Article 50 of Treaty on European Union determined the details of withdrawal process and the book demonstrates the well preparedness of the EU, compared to the UK in developing a consistent approach by way of issue framing and collective capacity. Issue framing and collective capacity are examined as two main components for the EU's response to Brexit. Issue framing of Brexit refers to framing the problem and shaping an action for an effective and united response for the EU. The book demonstrates that collective EU's collective capacity has been achieved during negotiation process through building up new units for an effective response and coordination of the EU institutions such as the European Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament. These institutions set temporary units for Brexit during the periods of Withdrawal Agreement, Trade and Cooperation Agreement and post-Brexit. For instance, during the period of the Withdrawal Agreement, European Parliament built-up Brexit Steering Group, the Council created Brexit Task Force and Working Party on Article 50 and the Commission established Task Force Article 50.

The response of the UK throughout the Brexit process has not been as united and coherent as the EU's response. During post-Brexit negotiations, the UK has changed several prime ministers, which resulted in the differences in terms of their approach to Brexit. For instance, there was a balance

between economic prosperity and sovereignty of the UK as the priorities of Theresa May, but Boris Johnson highlighted sovereignty more than economic rationality. Differences in these approaches revealed the unpreparedness of the UK in the withdrawal process. Adversely, the Union pursued the process with the same negotiator, Michel Barnier, from the beginning of the negotiations until the end.

Citizens' rights, Irish border issue and financial obligations were the main issues of the Withdrawal Agreement that the book considers in detail. While both sides share the same approach to the protection of citizens' rights, financial settlement and Irish border posed much more disagreement between the UK and the EU. With regard to the financial obligations that derived from the period of membership, the UK was not willing to comply with them.

The book also explores the disagreements related to the Irish border issue. While the UK and the EU share the same perspective on protecting current situation that was achieved by the Good Friday Agreement, EU's reservation was centred around the possibility of unregulated and uncontrolled border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland that would make it possible to reach out the Single Market of the EU without being a member state. The EU has been cautious while making new arrangements to protect its customs border because this is a fragile issue, so the EU could not accept suggestions such as Chequers plan in 2018. Fisheries became another issue between the UK and the EU, but they reached an agreement with Trade and Cooperation Agreement. During the negotiations on the quota of the EU in fisheries in UK waters, the Union used market accession as one of its most powerful tools. One of the main topics in the EU agenda during withdrawal negotiations was preventing UK's 'cherry-picking' approach. In several parts of the book, the EU's emphasis on 'no cherry-picking' can be noticed. Especially, indivisibility and unity of the EU's four freedoms were highlighted for the accession to Single Market and this shows the decisive and stable approach of the EU. The institutional arrangements and coordination of the EU and consistency in its objectives became apparent during these complicated processes.

This book focuses on the details of the EU's effective response to manage the Brexit process with its well-organized structure and well-formulated research topic. It also provides an insight on the approaches and paths of the EU and the UK on the issues such as citizens' rights, financial settlement, fisheries and Irish border during the negotiation process. The comprehensive analysis and detailed explanations on the EU's capacity and unity during the negotiation process provide a valuable contribution and it can be a recommended reading for several courses that are related with the EU.

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History of the Adriatic: a sea and its civilisation, Edited by Egidio Ivetic, Polity, 2022, 380 pp, ISBN 9781509552528, Hardback £25.

Egidio Ivetic describes the Adriatic as the 'small Mediterranean' or the 'sea of intimacy' (Predrag Matvejevic). The author explores Adriatic as a single historical space from the first cultures of the Neolithic Age to the present day. The author's long familiarity with the Adriatic and its coasts, since the time he was a seaman of the Yugoslav navy in the 1980s on the Yugoslav Navy training ship