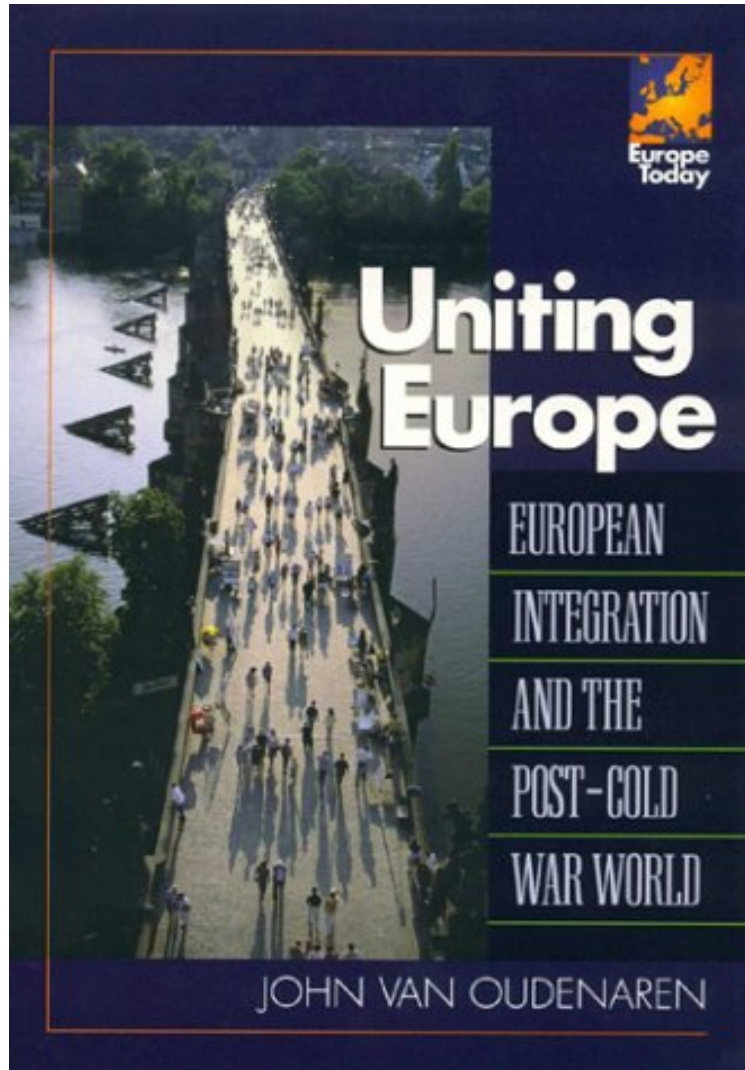


# Uniting Europe

*John Van Oudenaren*

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**John Van Oudenaren : Uniting Europe** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Uniting Europe:

As the European Union (EU) introduces its new currency, the euro, it has embarked on an equally ambitious new venture: enlarging to include ten or more of the former communist countries of central and eastern Europe along with Cyprus and Malta. If enlargement proceeds as envisioned, the EU of the twenty-first century could have as many as thirty countries and a population nearly double that of the United States. In this timely and accessible text, John Van

Oudenaren explores whether a political and economic union this large and diverse can hold together and whether it can accomplish the policy tasks that matter to its citizens: sustaining economic growth and reducing unemployment, raising living standards in poorer regions, preserving the environment, and coping with the problems of immigration and political instability on Europe's borders. To reach these goals, the author argues that the EU must build on its existing achievements—the single market, the common currency, and common policies in many areas. At the same time, the union must reform its institutions and decision making processes and find ways to balance the needs of its member states and the competing demands of different interest groups. How the EU will evolve is still unclear; there is no precise blueprint for its future. But the historic attempt to unite Europe will have enormous implications not only for Europe itself, but for the United States as a key European ally, trading partner, and on occasion rival. By providing an overview of the Union's institutions, laws, and policies, Van Oudenaren provides a solid foundation for understanding its history and emergence as a global economic and political power.

This is an informed and informative assessment of the condition of European integration today. In the classroom, John Van Oudenaren's command and treatment of the decisions that shaped the rise of an ever-closer and ever-wider union of states in Europe will provide an invaluable tool for the study of the European Union. Outside the classroom, the author's sense and anticipation of the future will provide policymakers with invaluable insights at a crucial moment for the EU and its relations with the United States. I can think of no better book to read on the state of the European institutions in post-Cold War Europe. (Serfaty, Simon) Well-informed volume. Recommended for general readers and upper-division students of European and international studies. (Choice) A comprehensive overview of key aspects of European integration. Those aspects are presented in an accessible way, complemented by the use of boxes, tables, etc. to offer those extra snippets of interesting information like brief biographies of some of the founding fathers, an extremely concise resume of the basic differences between the EEC, the EC and the EU, and the like. (Political Theory) Detailed and comprehensive . . . providing a highly reliable overview of the dossiers covered by European integration, past, present, and future. (European Library) John Van Oudenaren's *Uniting Europe* surveys and analyzes the prospects and historical dynamics of European integration. The book is encyclopedic, well organized, readable, and judicious—rich with information and insight for understanding Europe's transformation. (David Calleo) About the Author John Van Oudenaren is chief of the European Division, Library of Congress, and professorial lecturer at the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University.