

## บทวิจารณ์หนังสือ (Book Review)

Somjai Phagaphasvivat. (2522). *European Union: Origin, Development, Structure and Policies*. Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Publisher.

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This book gives the readers the whole knowledge of European Union from the origin up to the policies which complete the title of the book. Each of chapter conveys information concerning every item it deals with. This information makes scholars and students aware of knowledge of EU especially of facts and occurrence. It covers 19 chapters with the epilogue of Brexit.

Chapter 1 Deals with various Theoretical Frameworks and analysis of Political Unification which includes three levels: Level 1- Intergovernmental Approach which is the integration of International Organization; Level 2- Supranational Approach which resembles both an international organization and a nation. It exercises some powers of sovereignty; Levels 3- Federal Approach which integrates between two autonomous sets of governments, one national and the other subnational.

Chapter 2 Covers the background of EU from the beginning of establishment European and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951, European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), European Economic Community (EEC) to European Union (EU). Factors of Ideology, Culture, Politics and Economics that affect the establishment of EU are also analyzed in details.

Chapter 3 Emphasizes the origin and development of EU in details, from the beginning up to the establishment of EU with analysis of each development step. The author also refers the theorists who proposed the idea.



Chapter 4 Analyzes especially the establishment of European Union which derived from the Maastricht Treaty. The main idea of the Maastricht Treaty is described. The Subsidiarity, the Agreement of Democracy and Human Rights of European Council was accepted at that time. The author describes the three levels of Maastricht Treaty; Level 1, European Community (or European Economic Community-EEC for short) which agreed to change the Institution and policy of the Union; Level 2, Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) which was the mission of European Council that covered Systematic Cooperation, Joint Action and Western European Union; Level 3, Cooperation in the Fields of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) which consisted of several points. The main points they agreed that, every operation had to conform to the European Convention on Human Rights. Another change of EU was the creation of Supranationalism which was very important to the EU at present and the future to proceed the Functional and Security Community.

Chapter 5 Describes the treaty of Amsterdam to the Treaty of Lisbon which expanded the members to Eastern Europe leading to the drafting of New Constitution of EU.

Chapter 6 up to Chapter 19 covers the processes, duties, responsibilities and policies of The College of Commissions, The Council of European Union, European Council, European Parliament, Rules and Regulations, Legislative Procedure, Single market, Economic and Monetary Union, Functional Policies, Agricultural policy, External Trade, Foreign and Defense Policy and Development Policy of EU.

For conclusion, European Union (EU) is the organization of European countries, formed in 1993 to oversee their economic and political integration. It was created by the Maastricht Treaty and ratified by all members of European Community, out of the EU developed. The most important part is Brexit or British Exit in the Epilogue. The author analyzes why British wanted to exit from EU. He describes the two steps of Brexit. The first step was the withdrawal Agreement which took for two years, and the second step was negotiation under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement which took for one year.

This book is best for scholars and students who study and research the development of European Union.