



EUROPEAN UNION POLITICS

Prof. Daniela Felisini

University of Rome Tor Vergata
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Endogenous elements of crisis

According to some commentators the last 15 years went from bad to worse for the European Union and its 28 (now 27) member states: in 2005, two of its founding members (France and the Netherlands) rejected the project of constitutional treaty that was aiming towards a United States of Europe; in 2008, the Eurozone-crisis nearly brought the EU on the brink of collapse; Brexit: for the first time a country leaves the Union; while everywhere forces inspired by nationalism and populism attack the EU, contesting the very idea of European cooperation and integration.

Do these elements mean the slow, inevitable decline of the European Union?

Or EU will find answers able to drive European cooperation forward?

Exogenous challenges

- Complex relationship with USA (trade skirmishes, crisis of NATO)
- Conflictual relationship with Russia
- And with China?
- Terrorism
- Migration
- Virus

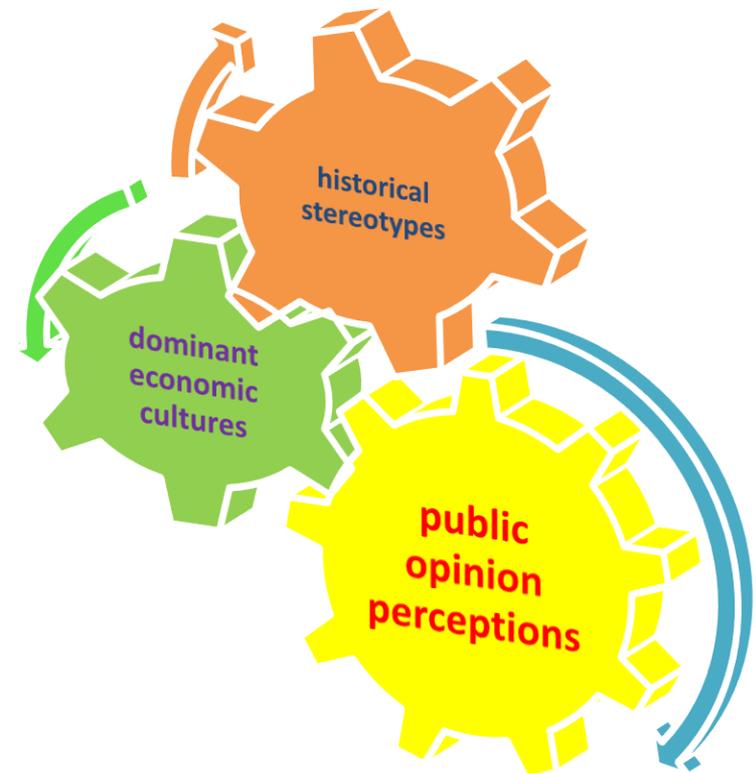
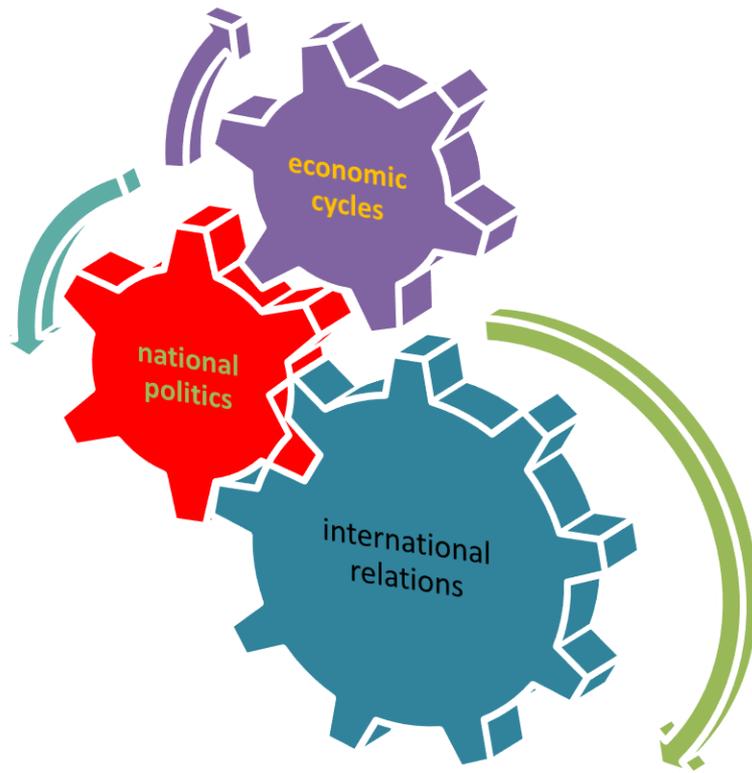
Those elements challenge EU to reshape its global economic role, to reorganize its defence and security system, not forgetting the need of finding possible synergies to cope with a general problem, the environmental one

STUDYING EUPOL

- explore EU history since the beginning
- take a comparative perspective between different phases
- investigate the various actors
- to gain a better understanding of European Union politics, we are going to look into the institutional complexities of the European Union and discuss the unique features of this political and economic system
- acquire tools for independent analysis on European Union issues
- understand the implications of the various challenges on Europe's future
- Be able to cope with the impact of various crises

A very complicated mechanism

the history of European integration is not "just" the history of the treaties and its most important creatures (ECSC, EEC, EU)



Some definitions about Europe, and yours ?

“ Europe is like a bike: either you ride - one way or the other - or you fall down” (J. Delors, 1993)

“ De toutes les idées qui sont nées dans la deuxième partie du 20ième siècle, celle qui historiquement et universellement est la plus fondamentale et la plus originale, concerne la construction européenne” (E.Davignon, 2001)

“L’originalité de l’Europe unie est d’avoir déjà une histoire et de demeurer un projet”.(F.Roth, 2005)

*“ An awful Frankenstein with a mechanical heart”
(G. Grass, 2012)*

WWII: a global war and the bloodiest conflict in history

Almost **85.000.000** deaths,
of which 25.000.000
soldiers and 60.000.000
civilian victims



How could Europe avoid new wars?

Nationalism was responsible for the wars:
Europeanism was the solution, both in the
Federalist vision and in the Functionalism
(sector by sector approach)

Marxist-Leninist approach:
capitalism was responsible
for the two world wars >>>
communism was the
solution

Blaming Germany

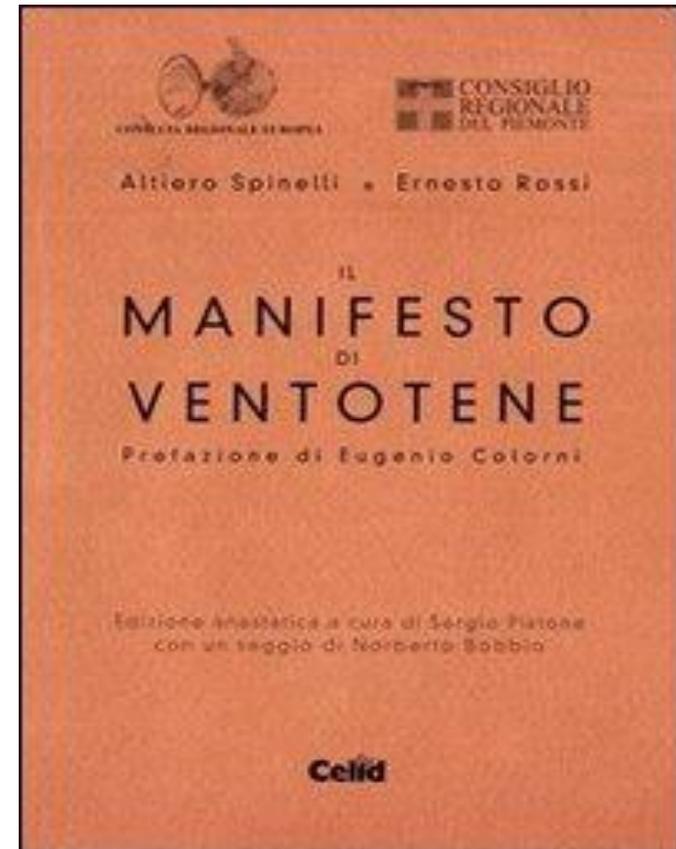
1941: Manifesto of Ventotene

In 1941 Spinelli, Rossi and Colorni, three Italian politicians, imprisoned since they opposed to the fascist regime, wrote a Manifesto to promote European unification.

In the Manifesto the responsibility for the tragic World War II was attributed to nationalistic policies.

According to the Manifesto European Countries could live in peace only devolving their sovereignty to a European Federation.

It was an extraordinary utopia !



New ideas emerged in different European Countries aiming at building gradual forms of European integration for peace and prosperity...



Konrad Adenauer (Germany)



Alcide De Gasperi (Italy)



Winston Churchill (UK)



Robert Schuman (France)



Jean Monnet (France)

The Cold War



The Western world

- Multilateralism
- New international organizations (UN Conference, 1945; North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 1949; Council of Europe, 1949; European Convention on Human Rights, 1950)
- Monetary settlements (Bretton Woods system, 1944; European Payments Union, 1950) and developmental agencies (World Bank, IMF, 1944)
- The Marshall Plan and OEEC (1948)

Rebuilding Europe

Since 1945 European people was engaged in rebuilding houses, plants, roads, schools

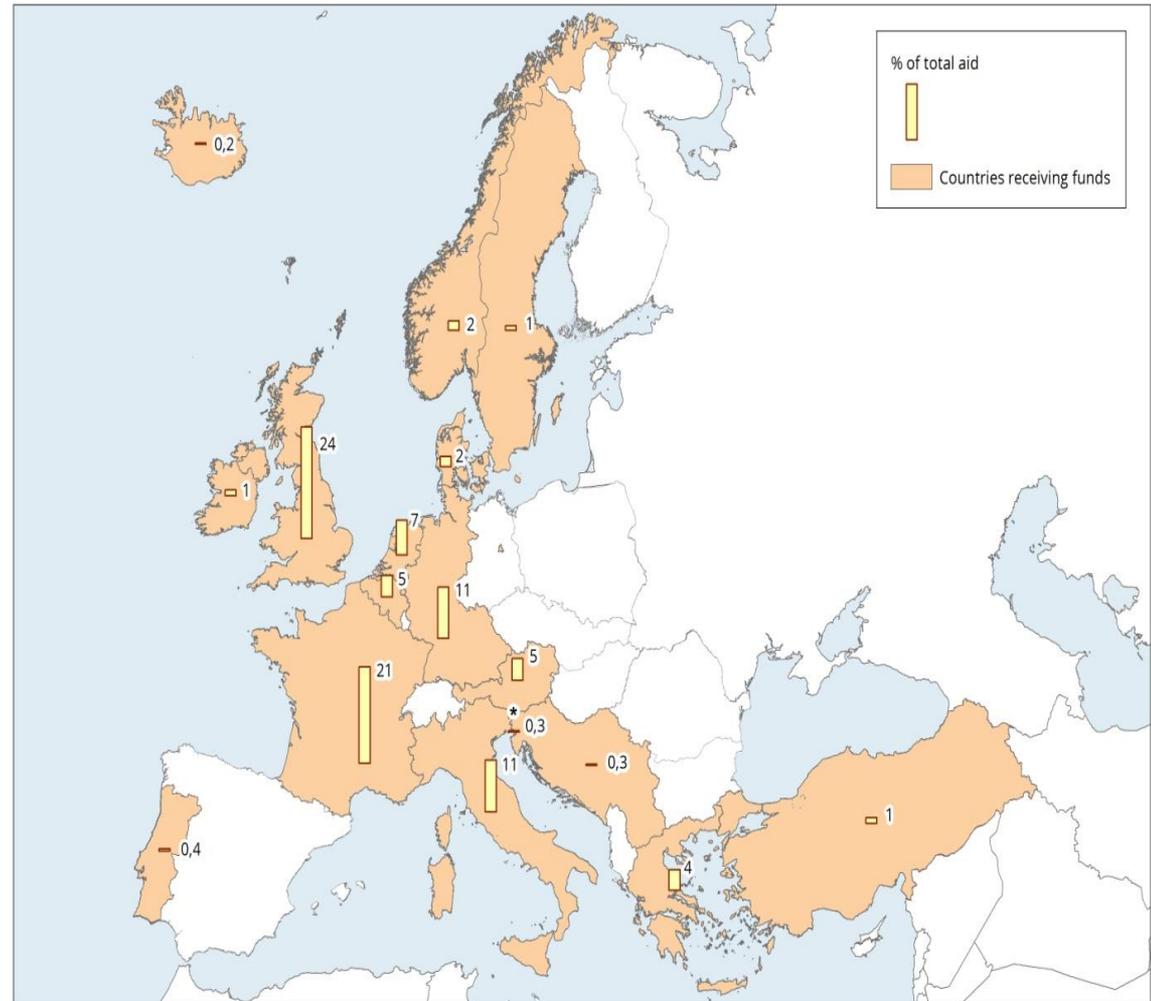
In 1948 the United States of America launched the Marshall Plan in response to the fact that western Europe was still suffering (famine, unemployment, lack of infrastructures)

USA wanted to:

- help Europeans in recover economies
- reopen European markets for american products
- exert their political influence against USSR.

It was the Cold War Era

DISTRIBUTION OF THE MARSHALL PLAN FUNDS IN EUROPE, 1948 - 1951



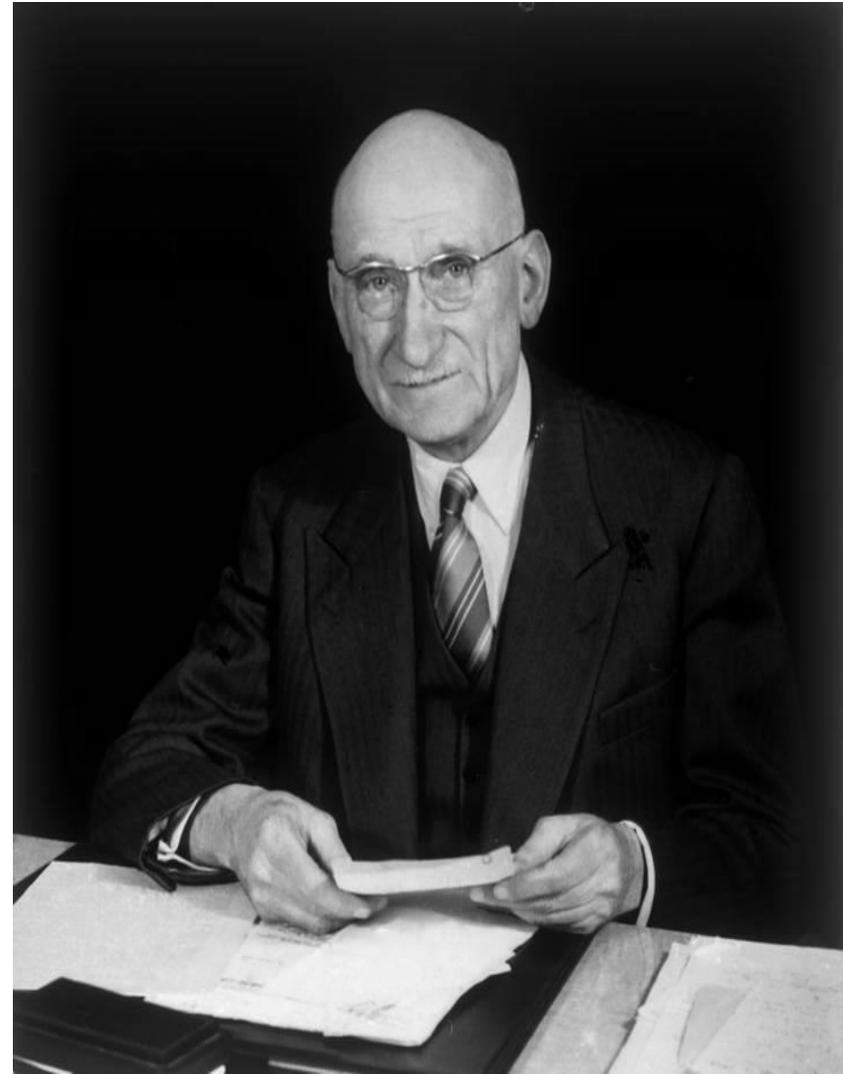
Source: USAID

*Trieste: independent territory, 1947-1954. Finally divided between Yugoslavia and Italy

9th May 1950 : Schuman Declaration: the beginnings of cooperation

The plan launched by the French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman inspired by the idea of the French entrepreneur Jean Monnet

1. a Community to manage together coal and steel, two crucial goods
2. Pooling coal and steel production would make war between historic rivals France and Germany "not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible". Since none could on its own make the weapons of war to turn against the other, as in the past
3. Europe has to be built step by step through concrete achievements creating a de facto solidarity



1951: Treaty of Paris
European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)
The ECSC was the first international organization
to be based on the principles of supranationalism



1952: Jean Monnet: President of ECSC.

A dirigistic vision.

The rescue of the Nation State ?



EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

It aimed to "contribute to the expansion of the economy, the development of employment and the improvement of the standard of living" of its citizen

The **High Authority (9 members)**: executive body which governed the Community. The members were to pledge not to represent their national interest but took an oath to defend the general interests of the Community.

>>> *Supranational dimension*

- ❖ No trade tariffs
- ❖ Regulations of prices

SIX FOUNDING MEMBERS:

West Germany, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg



The try and failure of a European Defence Community (1950-54)

- NATO (april 1949) intergovernmental military alliance between North American and European countries for a system of collective defence
- Korean War (june 1950)
- USA called for the rearmament of West Germany **BUT** European Countries were worried about
- French Ministry Pleven proposed a Plan for a European Defence Community (1950)
- The EDC (Treaty signed in 1952) would have established a European army, with common budget, institutions and corps (divided into national components)
- **BUT** in 1954 the very French Parliament rejected the Treaty !

**1955: Messina Conference:
Back to functionalism and
economic sectorial integration**

