

Contents

Preface	xi
Introductory Chapter: Convergence versus Divergence	1
The European Scene	2
Macro Interpretations of European Politics	4
The Convergence Approach	7
Our Framework of Analysis	9
Conclusion	13
1 Historical Legacies	16
Tradition and Country Identity	16
Cleavages	18
State Institutionalization	22
Economic Modernization	23
Democratization	24
Culture	27
Configuration of Legacies	28
Conclusion	29
2 The Economy	32
Affluence	32
Economic Growth	35
Institutional Convergence	36
Trade Patterns: Increasing Interaction	39
Economic Stability	40
Quality of Life: Human Development Index and Income Distribution	43
Conclusion	45
3 Social Structures	47
Demographic Structure	47
Occupational Structure	50
European Post-industrialism: The Information and Media Society	54
Social Cohesion	56
Foreign Population	59
Gender and Modernization	61
Conclusion	61

4	European Integration	64
	Council of Europe	64
	The European Union	68
	Voting Power in the Council and Parliament	73
	Union Law	79
	Harmonization and Economic Policy	85
	Foreign Policy Cooperation in Europe	86
	Military Cooperation	87
	Conclusion	90
5	Political Institutions	94
	Variety of State Institutions	94
	Unitary or Federal Format	96
	The Executive	101
	Legislatures	104
	The Referendum	106
	Election Systems	107
	The Judicial System	110
	Institutional Patterns	112
	Conclusion	113
6	Party Systems	115
	Electoral Availability and Parties	115
	Multipartism and Party Types	118
	Fractionalization	120
	Polarization	122
	Programmatic Orientation of the Party Systems	124
	Volatility	128
	Conclusion	130
7	Governments	133
	Kinds of Governments	133
	Kinds of Coalitions	135
	Number of Parties in Governments	137
	Size of Governments	139
	Policy Orientation of Governments	143
	Government Durability	147
	Conclusion	149
8	The Public Sector	155
	Overall Public Sector Size	155
	Allocative Expenditures	158
	Social Security	162
	Theorizing the European Welfare State	163
	Corporatism	166
	Affluence or Trade Union Density?	170
	Conclusion	172

9	Political Culture	175
	Studying Political Culture	175
	Post-materialism	178
	Satisfaction with Life	180
	Religious Attitudes	183
	Interest in Politics	185
	Civil Society	187
	Satisfaction with Democracy	189
	Conclusion	190
	Concluding Chapter: Party Governance	196
	Autonomy of Politics	196
	Logic of Party Government	201
	Continued Relevance of Divergence Models	207
	Major Convergence Processes	208
	Conclusion	212
	Bibliography	214
	Index	232