Contents

List of maps	vii
List of tables	viii
List of graphs	ix
List of abbreviations	X
Acknowledgements	xii
Introduction	1
Considering Europe through the lens	
of social class	2
Transcending the clichés of national difference	8
Beyond income inequality	11
Classifying social classes	14
1. The Weakened Working Class	18
Portrait of a social group in competition	
throughout Europe	19
The map of the working class in Europe	27
Shared vulnerability in the European labour market Income and consumption: the working class	33
split in two	44
Conclusion	52
2. Delusions of Grandeur and Social Realities:	
The Middle Class	54
The middle class at work	56
Material comfort and cultural aspirations	68
The paradoxes of the political role of	
the middle class	76

3. Beyond the 1 Per Cent: The Plural Domination	
of the European Dominant Class	83
Defining the dominant class	83
The economic ascendancy of the dominant class	84
The three forms of cultural distinction of	
the dominant class	97
From social to political dominance	108
4. Dominance and Exclusion: The Interplay	
between Social Class and Nation	116
At the bottom of the European social space	118
The hegemony of the dominant class	
of the North and West	128
Circulation between classes and nations	141
5. Are Classes Mobilised at the European Level?	153
Class in conflict in and with the European Union	155
Class antagonism contained within national borders An embryonic European social movement	159
and its limitations	170
Conclusion	178
Conclusion	181
Appendix 1. Secondary Use of Four European Surveys	187
Appendix 2. Construction of Social Classes at European Level	
Using the ESEG Classification	190
Appendix 3. ESEG Classification (Detailed Level) and	
Social Class	195
Appendix 4. Constructing a European Social Class Space	197
Index	201