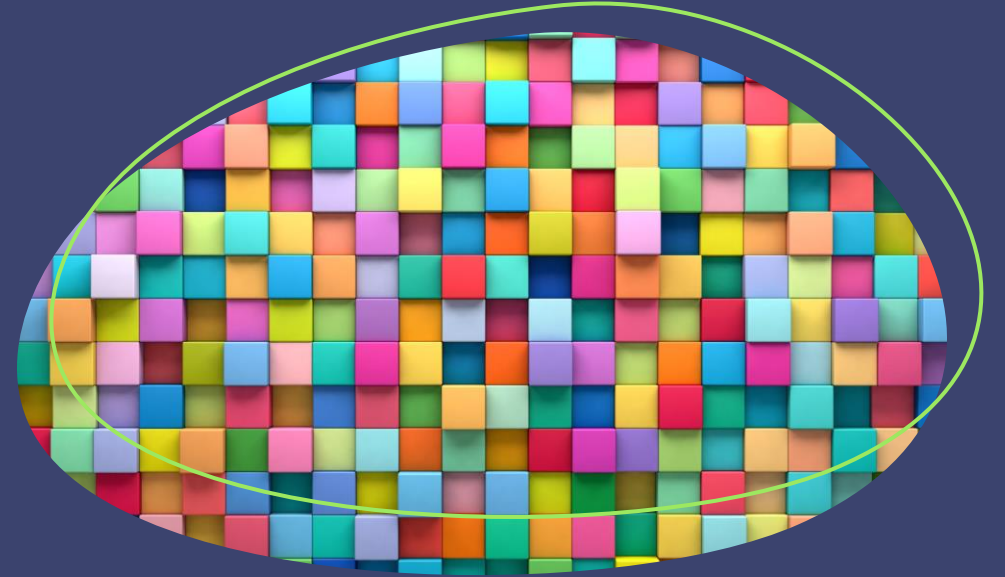


European Union Politics

Session 1:

Integration Milestones and Enduring Dilemmas



What is the European Union?

- International organization
- International trading regime
- System of multi-level governance
- Supranational "polity"
- A federation/state-in-the-making
- Embryonic federation
- Post-national union
- Medieval polity (Zielonka)
- Unidentified Political Object (Delors)



...a sui generis entity

Q: How can we define a modern state?

European Union Integration Milestones

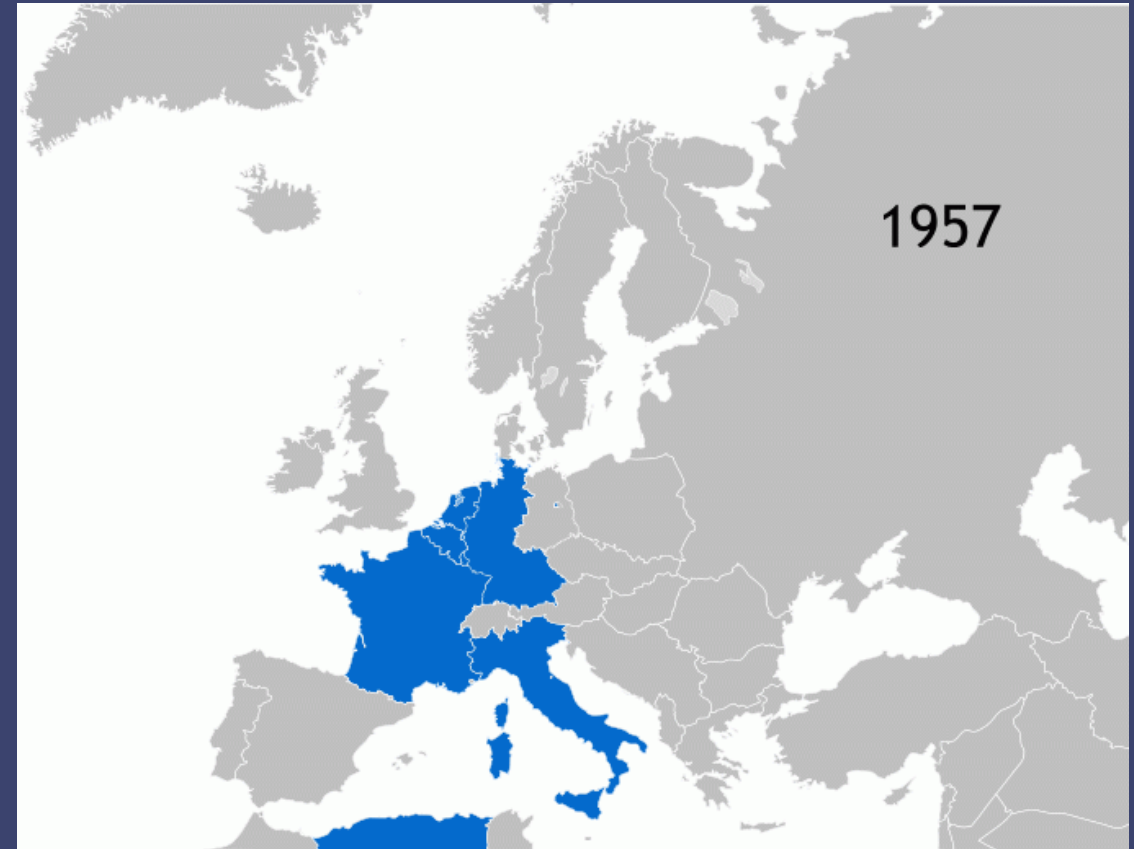
- 1950 - Schuman Declaration
- 1952 - *Paris Treaty* - ECSC
- 1958 - *Rome Treaties* - EurAtom and **European Economic Community**
- 1962 - launch of Common Agricultural Policy
- 1966 - Luxembourg compromise
- 1968 - Customs union complete
- 1970 - launch of informal European Political Cooperation
- 1975 - creation of the European Council institution
- 1979 - European Monetary System
 - first direct elections to EP
- 1987 - *Single European Act* (launch common market, enviro, social cohesion, research...)
- 1993 - *Maastricht Treaty* - pillar structure **European Union** (launch of the euro, foreign policy, immigration policy)

European Union Integration Milestones

- 1995 - Schengen Area operational
- 1999 - *Amsterdam Treaty* (Area of Freedom Security and Justice)
 - launch of the Euro currency
- 2002 - Convention on the Future of Europe
- 2003 - *Nice Treaty* institutional reform
- 2004 - Constitutional Treaty signed
...but never ratified
- 2009 - **Lisbon Treaty** (abolishes pillar structure, institutional reform, legal personality, *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU*)
- 2010s - eurozone crisis and integration fatigue ..
 - "Extra-EU" integration:
 - ✓ 2012 - European Stability Mechanism
 - ✓ 2013 - Fiscal Compact
- 2020 - Next Generation EU fund post covid
- 2022 - Russian war against Ukraine

EU Enlargements

- 1957 – France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg
- 1973 – United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland
- 1981 – Greece
- 1986 – Portugal and Spain
- 1995 – Austria, Finland, Sweden
- 2004 – Poland, Hungary, Czech Rep., Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Cyprus and Malta
- 2007 – Romania and Bulgaria
- 2013 – Croatia
- 2020 – United Kingdom EXIT

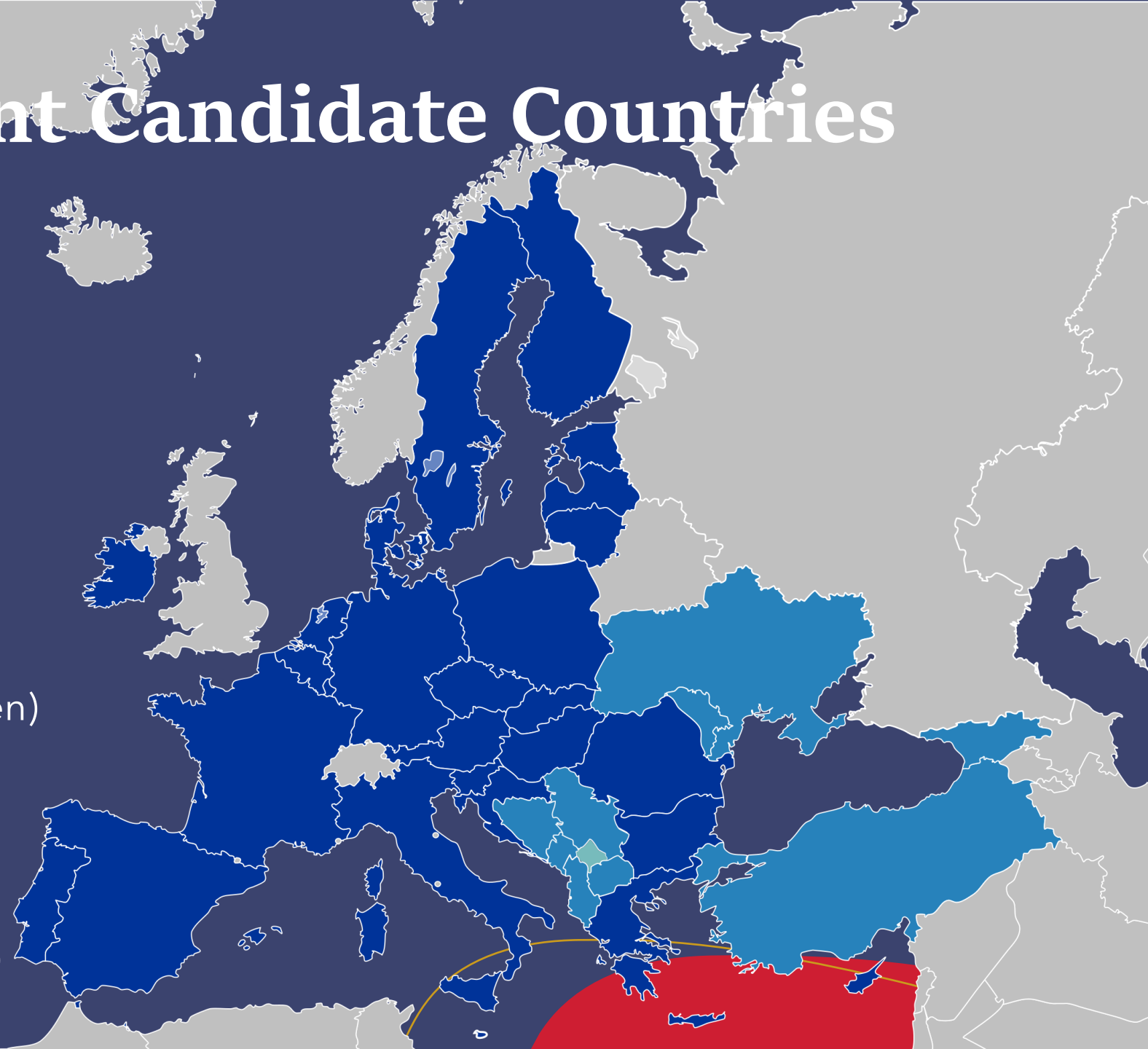


EU Enlargement Candidate Countries

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia
- Serbia
- Turkey (application process frozen)
- Ukraine

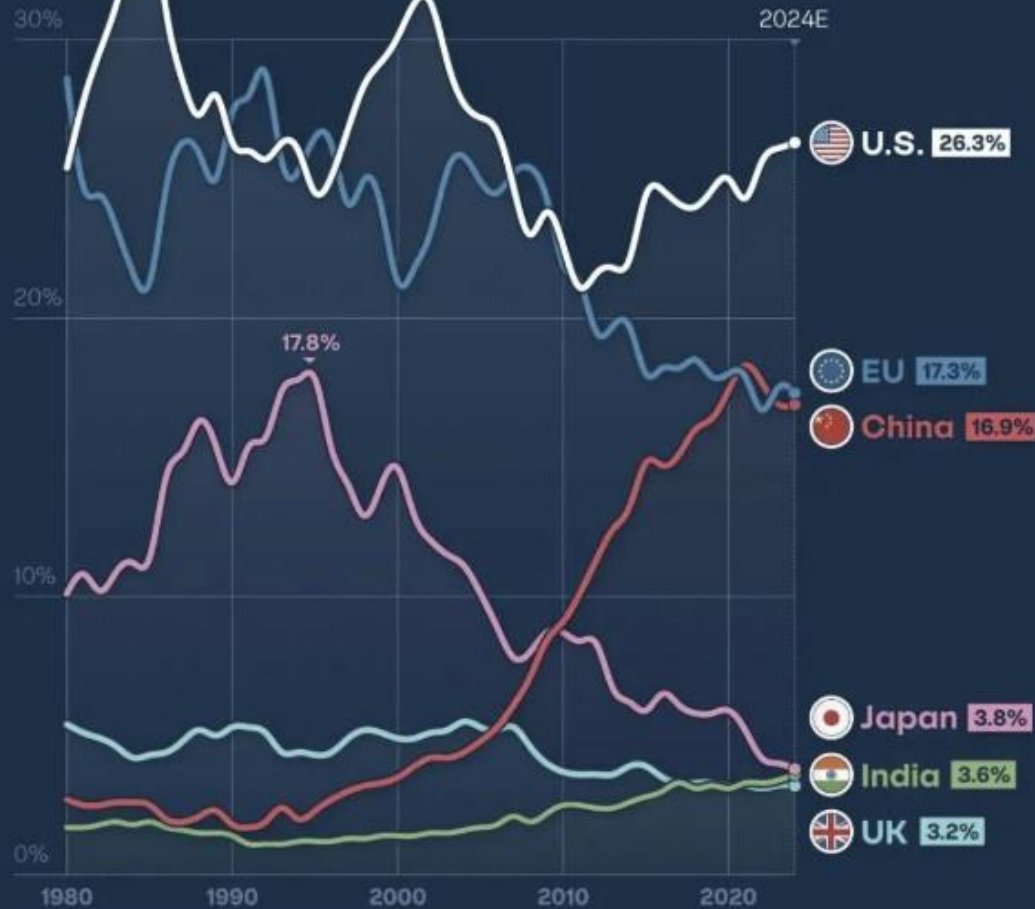
Potential candidates

- Kosovo (disputed country status)



SHARE OF GLOBAL GDP

For the world's 6 largest economies



Based on GDP in current prices. Figures for 2024 are projections.
Source: IMF World Economic Outlook (April 2024)

European Union facts and figures

- **27** member states
- **448** mil. Citizens
- **4** mil. km²
- **€Euro**: common currency used in 20 MS + microstates (Vatican, Andorra, Monaco..)
- **16 trillion \$** GDP (~ 15% global of GDP)

World Bank (2022): China \$17.9, US \$25.4, EU 27 \$16.7 trillions

Why is the EU integrating?

- To maintain peace through economic interdependence?
- To maintain economic prosperity?
- To compete against "big players" in the global economy?
- To be a voice in global political affairs?
- To follow through on Immanuel Kant's ideas
of *Perpetual Peace*?
- Is it an elite-driven project to dissolve the nation states?





EU Dividing lines

- West / East (alt. old/new members)
- North / South (public finances)
- Eurozone: members / non-members (core / periphery)
- Budgetary net contributors / recipients (rich / poor)
- Big states / small states (power)
- Franco-German motor / the rest
- ...many more opt-ins and opt-outs

Integration tensions

- **Governing principles:** supranationalism vs. intergovernmentalism
- **Future:** deepening vs. widening
- European **government** or **governance**?
- **Direction:** unified vs. flexible integration
(core-periphery, multi-speed Europe, variable geometry, Europe à la carte, concentric circles integration)

- Tensions *between* EU Institutions and Member States (MS)
- Tensions *among* EU Institutions and MS themselves
- Relationship of citizens to MS and EU





What is the European Union?

- International organization
- International trading regime
- System of multi-level governance
- Supranational "polity"
- A federation/state-in-the-making
- Embryonic federation
- Post-national union
- Medieval polity (Zielonka)
- Unidentified Political Object (Delors)

...a sui generis entity

How is the European Union governed?

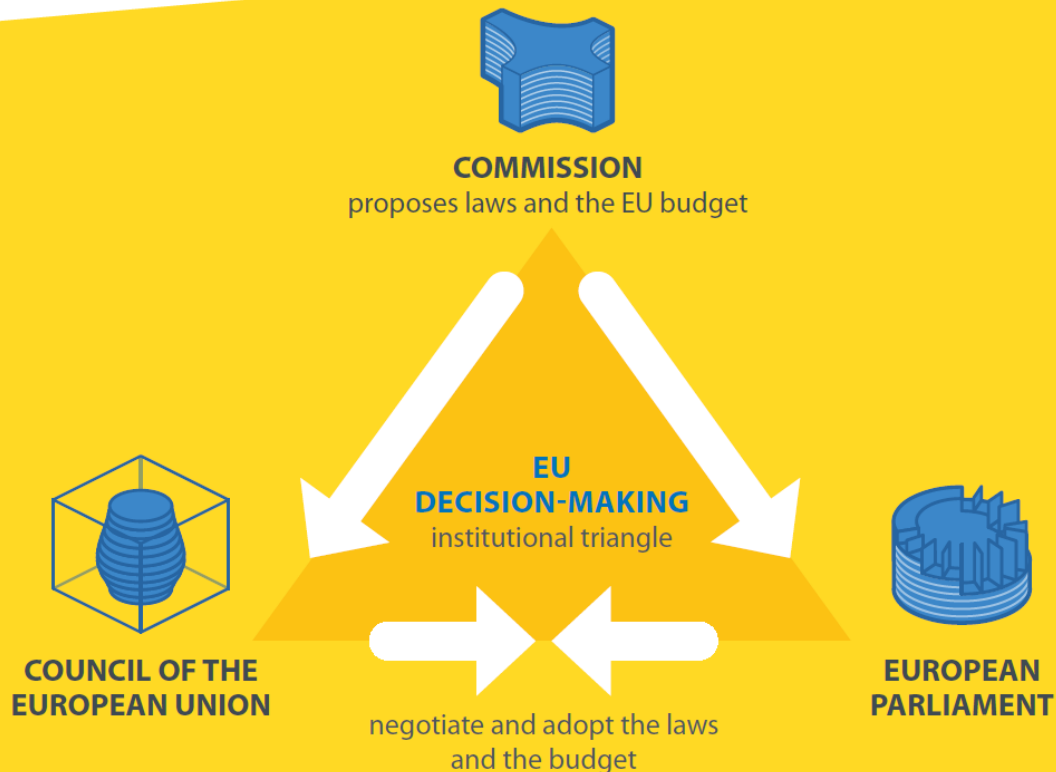
It depends!

...it's a hybrid regime...

It depends on:

- **policy area** (exclusive, shared or supporting role for EU to the MS)
- **custom, institutional history**
- **urgency** (crisis)
- **(non-)existing institutional framework**

...more about that --> next week



Is it possible to govern the European Union? Democratically?

Democracy = rule of the people!

- Does the EU have "a people"?

Democracy = elections!

- EP elections are 'second-order' elections

Democracy = representation!

- EU = a mixed bag of interests yearning to be represented: **member states, citizens** ...but also **businesses** and **institutions** themselves

Democracy = accountability to the voters

- Can German chancellor be accountable to a Greek pensioner?

Homework

- Check the student presentation topics --> find your teammates (see course participants on Moodle)
- Get in touch with me: daniela.lences@fsv.cuni.cz and I'll update the [Moodle table](#) accordingly