The Evolution of EU Law, edited by P. Craig and G. de Búrca (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2nd edition, 2011, ISBN 9780199592968); lxvi+917pp., £39.99 pb.

As the EU faces yet another dramatic moment, with the euro crisis prompting further treaty reforms and talk mounting of a ‘breakthrough to a new Europe’, a look back at the history of the European construct and, in particular, at the constitutional developments of the last decade is warranted to provide some much-needed perspective.

Relying on the formula of the first edition of *The Evolution of EU Law*, from 1999, Paul Craig and Gráinne de Búrca gather, once again, a group of prominent scholars and professionals who offer their assessment of the major changes introduced in different areas of EU law in recent years. The themes covered range from the constitutional classics (legitimacy and democracy, institutional balance, direct effect and primacy, freedom of movement, citizenship), to the more recent and topical subjects (EMU, enlargement, JHA, external relations and competence). While the spectrum is vast, the approach, now as before, is deliberately non-exhaustive. As one contributor (Siofra O’Leary) puts it, the chapters provide a ‘series of snapshots’, which are intended to capture the progressive direction of EU law without purporting to offer the final picture of what is, after all, a constantly moving object. This inherent dynamism translates well in the individual chapters, which discuss rather than describe their subject matter and, at times, ostensibly depart from the ‘traditional narratives’ offered in the literature. Excellent examples are Gráinne de Búrca’s chapter on human rights and Michael Dougan’s chapter on remedies and procedures for enforcing Union law before national courts. Most chapters have a strong theoretical focus, which makes this sizeable book particularly suited for an academic audience and less so for the more general public.

While *The Evolution of EU Law* is presented as a second edition of the 1999 original, it is in fact a whole new book. Of its 27 chapters, only four (external relations, direct effect and primacy, social policy, and consumer policy) can be considered to be mere updated versions of the first edition and even here there are significant changes in length and structure. Several new topics were added – enlargement, JHA, human rights, citizenship, regulation of financial services, cultural policy – while ‘old’ topics were reassigned and even those contributors who returned to their previous topics often add a new focus to their analysis. Most interestingly, some new chapters on ‘old’ topics (ECJ, equal treatment, environment) engage in direct dialogue with their counterparts from the first edition, stressing the complementary character of the two books. More than a second edition, this is a second volume of an authoritative book series, which will hopefully continue to chart the evolution of EU law in the coming decades.

PATRÍCIA JERÓNIMO
University of Minho Law School