in euro area governance in order to better understand three other issues: the debate on the sustainability of the single currency without a more centralized approach to economic policy; the search for alternatives to the Community method; and lessons about the EU’s global role that might be drawn from the euro area’s external relations. Hudson’s study is thus of potential interest to a wide range of scholars and graduate students from both EU studies and policy studies more generally.

While excellent and path-breaking, there are areas in which the work could have been improved. Notably, it is too brief for its ambitious undertaking. The new modes of governance analysis and the main themes of the work are occasionally lost in the treatment of the six areas covered. The author should have dedicated more space to their development. Nonetheless, the concluding chapter returns very helpfully to the analysis and to the book’s core themes, pulling the various strands of euro area governance together very nicely indeed.

DAVID HOWARTH
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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. Relaying 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 Doogan’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 re-assigned 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.

PATRICIA JERÓNIMO
University of Minho Law School


The field of European Studies has seen a growing body of literature examining the question of whether a transnational public sphere can address the perceived democratic deficit. Normative calls for a Habermasian public sphere were large were countered by intergovernmentalists, who deny the necessity of a public sphere for what they conceive of as an international organization. Unimpressed by this controversy, Koopmans, Statham and collaborators have investigated the emergence and ruptures of such a European public sphere in the making.

The 1990s marked the end of the permissive consensus on EU politics and concomitantly increased the perception of democratic relevance. In this vein, this outstandingly coherent volume conceptualizes the Europeanization of national public spheres as publicized claims-making by collective actors (including media editors) on EU policies. The interaction is either supranational between EU actors, or top-down and bottom-up in a vertical model of EU policy-making and also between EU Member State publics (horizontal Europeanization). Based on the content-coding of a rich set of quality press and tabloid items from the UK, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and non-EU Switzerland, the findings stress the obstinacy of EU executive and national political elites, with the UK and Switzerland being almost predictable Eurosceptical outliers. Although this appears to be to the detriment of civil society involvement, the contributors refrain from lamenting any absence of democracy. Instead, they suggest a more visible and ideologically-mannered engagement of national political parties in EU affairs, as these collective actors are closest to the electorates.

The most dissatisfying aspect concerns the sample of countries and media outlets. The study of long-time Eurosceptical member Denmark or, of-at that-time candidate country Poland, now among the five most populous, could have produced more surprising results. Similarly, one would have gained more insights into non-elite mass communication on the EU if radio and television broadcasts had not been omitted. A more precise title of this generally rewarding book should read The Making of a European Public Sphere, 1995–2002. The cases presented entirely date back to the period before eastward enlargement, the failure of the constitution and the euro crisis. What is more, the chapter on the significance of the Internet for the Europeanization of public spheres appears to be anachronistic in our days of social media and the blogosphere. On the flipside, the extremely sophisticated research design calls for application in related future projects. And thanks to the superb conclusion by Statham, one can infer on the development of mediated political contention and on the EU in the years to come.

ELISABETH KUEBLER
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Regions and regionalism have a wide range of ramifications for contemporary European politics and society. The process of regionalization has brought into question significantly existing identities and structures in Europe, and sought to produce new ones. Even at the height of integration in the 1980s, Europe witnessed clashes over the European structures and procedures, and though the process has brought challenges for many structures and identities in Europe, scholars have tended to highlight the most prominent one, i.e. the nation-state, and its restructuring in an integrated Europe. The other internal and sub-national (regional) factors have been marginalized and understudied. As such, this book takes an innovative direction by ‘taking Europe’s “regions” seriously’.