“Scenario”

- an outline or synopsis of a play
  - especially used by actors of the commedia dell'arte
- a sequence of events especially when imagined
- Not a prediction
Scenarios for the EU’s future

A distillation of two 13-session SAIS Europe classes:

The European Union: Integration or Disintegration? (2019/20)

Scenarios for the Future of Europe (2020/2021)
Three scenarios for EU’s future

1. Relaunch

2. Disintegration

3. Super-regulator
Emmanuel Macron main proponent

- More democracy
- Eurozone core of European project
- A Europe that protects
- Brexit is an opportunity
Relaunch

Conference on the Future of Europe

Guy Verhofstadt

Conference postponed at least till the Fall

JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Public opinion supportive

- 62% in 8 western European countries viewed EU favourably (Pew 2019)
- Turnout in 2019 EP election
  - 50.66% (up from 42.61% in 2014)
- This spring’s survey more sceptical?
Eurosceptical nationalists are having a bad epidemic
Divided
Governments have stolen their clothes
Irresponsible rhetoric
But their underlying popularity remains
Relaunch

The ECB is having a good epidemic

The Commission?

The European Council?
Relaunch: Now or Never?

Europe will be forged in crises
Disintegration

- Crises reveal fragility (Martin Wolf)
- Multiple crises since 2008
- 3% drop in eurozone GDP first 1/4
- Recovery plans = increased debt
  - Risk of new eurocrisis
  - Boost to eurosceptics
Disintegration

Covid-19 re-enforces
  • national authorities rather than the EU
  • inequalities
  • distrust (north/south, east/west)
EU response too little too late
Risk of “beggar-thy-neighbor” policies
Disintegration

- Public opinion (2019)
  - 38% in 8 west European countries viewed EU unfavourably
  - Negative view of EU increasing
- Europe sleep-walking to next eurozone crisis
- Prospect for 2020s
  - Further exits?
  - States/regional groupings “taking back control”?
  - New accessions unlikely
Super-regulator

- 2 previous scenarios based on false assumptions
  - Rise and fall theories of history
  - Bicycle theory of European integration
Support for Europe fluctuates with the business cycle? (Jacques Delors)

“Confederations are inherently unstable.” (Ashok Mody)

EU more of a super-regulator? (Anu Bradford)
“The Brussels Effect”
Standard setting = geopolitical power
EU delivers public goods
Smarter regulation

The Brussels Effect
HOW THE EUROPEAN UNION RULES THE WORLD
Scenarios?

- Macron style relaunch improbable
- Disintegration not collapse
- Super-regulator role weakened by epidemic could revive
- EU’s future path will reflect all 3 scenarios
- Mainly “downside risks” in the years ahead