

Scenarios for the EU's future

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“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



Relaunch

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

Relaunch

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?



Relaunch

- 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?



CORONAVIRUS CRISIS
EU RESPONSE



Relaunch: Now or Never?



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



Super-regulator

- Support for Europe fluctuates with the business cycle? (Jacques Delors)
- “Confederations are inherently unstable.” (Ashok Mody)
- EU more of a super-regulator? (Anu Bradford)



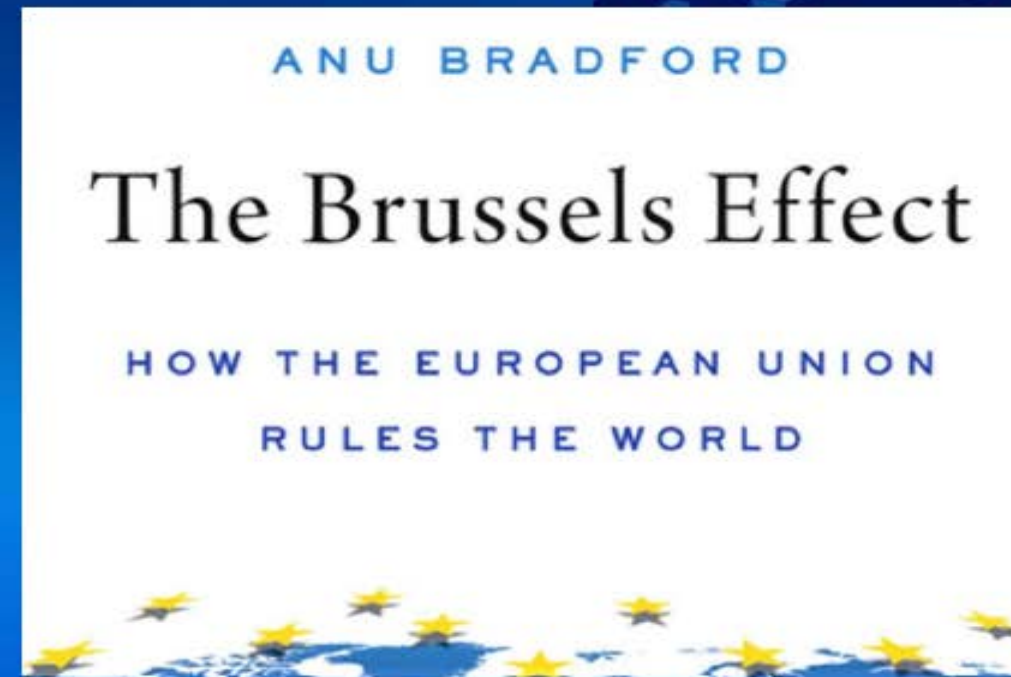
Super-regulator

“The Brussels Effect”

Standard setting = geopolitical power

EU delivers public goods

Smarter regulation



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

