

[DCU Library](#) subscribes to [The Economist](#), which provides short and well-informed reports and commentary on European politics.

The [Political Data Yearbook](#) provides basic information on European political systems. There is also a useful narrative of politics in each country.

I recommend all the readings below; I highly recommend those underlined. All are available through [DCU Library](#).

EUROPE

Bale, Tim. 2017. *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction*, 2nd. ed. London: Bloomsbury. Chs. 1 and 2.

Davies, Norman. 1997. *Europe: A History*. London: Pimlico. Introduction, esp. 3-15.

Delanty, Gerhard. 1995. *Inventing Europe: Idea, Identity, Reality*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan esp. Ch. 4.

Gallagher, Michael, Laver, Michael, and Mair, Peter. 2011. *Representative Government in Modern Europe*, 5th ed. London: McGraw-Hill. Ch. 1.

DEMOCRACY AND ITS SHAPES & SIZES

Elgie, Robert. 2004. Semi-presidentialism: concepts, consequences and contesting explanations, *Political Studies Review*, 2: 314-330

Lijphart, Arend 1999. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. Chs. 1-3

Tsebelis, George. 2000. Veto players and institutional analysis. *Governance: An International Journal of Policy and Administration* 14, 441-74.

Bernhagen, Patrick. 2009. Measuring Democracy and Democratization, in Haerpfer, Christian, Bernhagen, Patrick, Welzel, Christian and Inglehart, Ronald. 2018. *Democratization*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Costello, Rory. 2024. Introduction, in Costello, Rory and Robinson, Neil, eds., *Comparative European Politics*, 2nd. ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1-13.

Dahl, Robert. A. 1998. *On Democracy*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, esp. Ch. 8

Przeworski, Adam. 2019. *Crises of Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, esp Ch. 1.

Here are three respected databases of democracy and democratization:

[Varieties of Democracy](#), [Freedom House Index](#), [Polity Index](#)

[OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights](#)