



NEW RELEASE

Routledge Handbook of European Elections

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with a Foreword by J.H.H. Weiler

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ABSTRACT

The *Routledge Handbook of European Elections*, edited by Donatella M Viola and foreworded by J.H.H. Weiler, explores the multifaceted dimension of the European Parliament's (EP) electoral contests across the European Community and European Union since 1979. After setting a general empirical and theoretical framework, this collaborative project presents original contributions from leading experts in the field. Each case study adheres to a common template that makes it easy to compare data, methodology and outcomes.

Every country chapter includes:

- a brief geopolitical profile and historical background of the Member State;
- a glance at the national political landscape;
- a short account of the main political parties, including their attitude toward the European Union;
- a section on public opinion and European integration;
- a summary of electoral systems;
- an overview of all EP and national elections;
- an in-depth analysis of the 2009 EP electoral race;
- an overall theoretical interpretation of European elections

A comparative chapter closes the Handbook followed by an extensive coverage of the 2014 EP contest with a detailed analysis of the newly elected European Assembly in terms of political group and gender composition.

The volume aims to enhance readers' understanding of the European Parliament and revive their interest in the European integration process. By providing a wide range of national and European facts and figures, this investigation represents a comprehensive reference guide to scholars, practitioners and students of the European Parliament, European elections, political parties, European Union, comparative politics.

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David-Maria Sassoli, Vice-President of the European Parliament

"No student or practitioner will work on the European Parliament in the future without using this Handbook as an essential source of data and information." Giuliano Amato, Former Prime Minister of Italy

"The academic community was waiting for an inclusive volume on EP elections." Olivier Costa, College of Europe, Belgium

"This is the definitive Handbook on European elections." Simon Hix, LSE, UK

"Hard to beat as a reference of first resort for students and scholars alike." Mark N. Franklin, EUI, Italy and MIT, USA

"A Herculean achievement to analyze all EP elections." Brigid Laffan, EUI, Italy

"The most complete and up-to-date volume of EP elections." John Loughlin, Cambridge University, UK

"The EP deserves a big book and Dr Viola gives the subject the full coverage it deserves." Richard Rose, Strathclyde University, UK

"An excellent and up-to-date account of theoretical and empirical efforts to understand European elections."
Hermann Schmitt, Manchester University, UK

"An excellent reference source for students, scholars and practitioners." Aleks Szczerbiak, Sussex University, UK