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Citation: Cardwell, P. J. ORCID: 0000-0002-7485-3474 (2018). Book Review: Governance and Security Issues of the European Union. Challenges Ahead, by Jaap de Zwaan, Martijn Lak, Abiola Makinwa and Piet Willems. (Vienna: Springer, 2016). Common Market Law Review, 55(1), pp. 309-310.

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Jaap de Zwaan, Martijn Lak, Abiola Makinwa and Piet Willems (Eds.),
Governance and Security Issues of the European Union. Challenges Ahead.
Vienna: Springer, 2016. 353 pages. ISBN 978-94-6265-143-2. EUR 148.39.

There is no shortage of problems and challenges to dissect and discuss in relation to the European Union's governance and security. Similarly, there is no lack of scholarly literature uncovering and analysing these problems and challenges and suggesting ways for the process of European integration to progress. This new collection of 17 chapters takes a broad tour through some of the familiar and less familiar territory of EU governance.

The editors form part of an interdisciplinary research group at the Hague University of Applied Sciences, and many of the contributors are early career scholars pursuing individual programmes of research. The ambition of the book is admirable for its attempt to include scholars from many different backgrounds and disciplines. They look beyond law and political science to also incorporate scholars of environmental science and history, as well as contributions from practitioners.

The collection is described as a 'bundle' of articles in the introduction. As such, it does not follow the expected template of an edited collection that examines a theme according to a specific research agenda, theoretical or methodological model. This, along with the rather unspecific term 'issues' in the title of the collection and lack of a substantive introductory chapter to thread the contributions together, means that the book lacks a coherent frame. Most of the chapters do not connect to the reference to 'challenges ahead' in the book's subtitle. It is thus best viewed as a number of self-standing chapters that are all purported to link in some way to notions of 'security' in its widest sense. Unfortunately, 'security' is not defined or described in the introduction and simply points to current challenges facing Europe (including the prolonged economic crisis, instability in the EU neighbourhood, terrorist attacks, migration and so on). Furthermore, the connection between 'security' and the content of some of the chapters is not evident given the emphasis the book places on the contemporary nature of EU governance. This is particularly the case in the first of the book's four parts. Here, rather than set the scene by investigating the dimensions of 'security' the collection states it wishes to address, it has two chapters that look back to the early stages of integration and Schuman's personal history. Then follows a chapter devoted to an examination of the Better Regulation agenda. Although these topics are interesting, with so little connecting the contributions together, it might have worked better to avoid trying to shoehorn them together, even though they have their individual merits as contributions to a general understanding of what the EU is and how it got there.

Despite these shortcomings in the execution of the project as a whole, the individual chapters are generally well-researched. Many contain interesting and original insights into a diverse set of fields. The reader might therefore find it helpful to avoid seeking the 'security' dimension and take the chapters as stand-alone pieces of scholarship. In the section on institutional aspects, Lo Bianco's chapter on informal decision-making is insightful and neatly addresses some of the assumptions about the contemporary legislative process. The spotlight on

regulation is continued with Erdemoglu's contribution on the Privacy Regulation, which adopts a law and economic approach to a rather technical area, but which does result in suggestions to future regulation and hence addressing the promise to look at 'challenges ahead'. Part III on 'policy domains' contains a very diverse set of four chapters covering economic governance, migration burden-sharing, energy policy and the EU2020 strategy. All are concise summaries of significant areas of EU policy-making, with an eye on identifying and addressing challenges but with very limited relationship with either security or governance.

The two latter sections, on European Criminal Law and External Relations respectively, sit rather better together as examples of 'mini' collections on defined themes. It might have been preferably for the three chapters in each section to form part of a special issue section in a journal. This is because they discuss significant, but sometimes overlooked matters (for example in Koppe's chapter on EU policy on natural resources). The three chapters on European Criminal Law have a welcome focus on financial crime, including money laundering and corruption: whilst their focus is on the internal aspects of EU governance, there is a good combination of practical policy insights with thoughts on how to best adapt EU law. In the section on External Relations, Pieper and Hintzen's contributions take us through contemporary EU foreign policy in the light of the EU's Global Strategy. Again, whilst these fit together rather well, the reader is left to wonder how they connect to the other contributions in the book.

In short, although it is difficult to see how the book as a whole lives up to its name, the individual chapters stand as useful contributions to the various sub-fields of EU law and governance scholarship. Given the emphasis on contributions from scholars at a relatively early stage of their careers, the chapters of the book are hopefully an indication of their potential and what we might expect from them in the future.

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