

IEUSS REVIEW OF BOOKS

Geddes, A., Hadjabdou, L. and Brumat, L. [Migration and Mobility in the European Union](#), 2nd ed., Red Globe Press, 2020.

Migration is an optimal lens for teaching many central political science, economics, and sociology concepts. It is no surprise to see ever-more courses offered on college campuses. While Castles and Miller's seminal [Age of Migration](#) text book first appeared almost thirty years ago, and is currently on its sixth edition, a similar text on the European dimension did not appear until 2011, when Geddes and Boswell initially published [Migration and Mobility in the European Union](#). With the release of the second edition in 2020, it is worth considering the place of the current edition within European Union (EU) and migration studies. While this book offers a broad survey of migration within the EU, it is uniquely well-suited to teaching, with an organization and framework that are clearly delineated toward this purpose. Already on page four, the book distinguishes between international migration, the movement from outside the EU of people who are not nationals of a member state, and mobility, which involves EU citizens exercising the right of freedom of movement within the EU. While the former receives greater attention within the book, the authors make it clear that these legally separate categories are interwoven with one another, and that what is labeled as free movement within the EU would be characterized as international migration anywhere else in the world.

A study of migration in the EU could be accomplished by covering individual countries, or it could focus on the development of migration policy in the EU. This book chooses a third option, in identifying key types of migration, which are then examined independently in order to delineate the particular balance between national versus EU policies governing each type. Indeed, through the 1990s, books on European migration either surveyed key countries and their policies or discussed the development of the EU's nascent migration policy. However, given the EU's increasing authority over migration these last few decades, it is now appropriate to focus on policy areas separately, examining the balance of retention of national sovereignty versus supranational governance in various areas. The mix of shared competencies differs by policy area, with the EU making the greatest incursions in the areas of border controls, asylum, and irregular immigration. In recognition of the multilevel policies and politics of migration, this approach best allows us to capture the balance and make hypotheses as to why certain areas have undergone more

integration than others. This second edition grants greater attention to the politicization of migration, helping explain why EU migration policy remains differential (with some countries willing to be subject to more EU law), yet the reader is left on their own to figure out why EU migration policy remains partial (not equally developed in all areas).

Reinforcing the book's pedagogical bent, before examining the individual policy areas, including labor migration, family migration, irregular immigration, asylum, and immigrant integration, two chapters prepare the reader for the empirical sections. Chapter two lays out the history of migration in Europe and introduces some public policy analysis concepts, anticipating the focus on "talk, decisions, and actions" in the policy area discussions. Chapter three then walks the reader through the basics of the EU, providing a history of its development and a description of the functions of its various institutions, often utilizing examples from the area of immigration or mobility policy.

The empirical chapters begin with labor migration, the most historically fundamental type of European migration, but it prepares the reader for the reality that while labor migration is key in the development of mobility for EU citizens within the EU, in the case of non-EU citizens, migration controls remain predominantly in the hands of national governments. With family migration, the situation is somewhat reversed, since it is not an area where member states have sought to attract migration, but it has seen a greater degree of policy harmonization through EU rulemaking. The chapter on irregular immigration is attentive to the fact that this has become the most politicized area of migration policy, and that it is therefore often the motor behind new EU initiatives. That said, one could ask why greater attention is not accorded to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (formerly Frontex), given how contentious this agency has become and how unique it is to see an EU agency grow so rapidly and become so expansive, independent, and well-funded. With asylum, we have a similarly controversial aspect of migration, but here the book points out that the primary response has been one of generating greater harmonization between countries through base-line policy guidelines. The chapter on mobility is of course unique to the European Union setting, where citizens of member states are free to move from one country to another within the employment context, as well as other expanding categories. Conversely, the final chapter on integration, points out how varied national responses remain, and how this is also reflected by the peripheral role that the EU plays in advancing integration.

The book remains a valuable first-stop for all who want to know the state of policy in the EU, and where policy competences lie. However, for academics it is only an initial resource, requiring further research elsewhere. The second edition is in fact shorter than the first, perhaps because it is more concerned about laying out an analytical framework than in being a deep font of information. This makes it ideal for teaching students without overwhelming them with facts and policies. Instead, it provides a valuable illustration of how EU policies develop, both politically and institutionally, which is ideal for teaching EU politics, and it offers a concrete description of how migration develops and is managed in the European case, something that would be of service in sociology, politics, and history courses dealing with either Europe or migration itself.

Alexander Caviedes
Farmingdale State College, State University of New York
October 10, 2021