

## Theories of the Making of European Union Foreign Policy



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## THEORIES OF THE MAKING OF EUROPEAN UNION FOREIGN POLICY

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GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Condition: New. 36 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.1in. Essay from the year 2005 in the subject Politics - International Politics - Topic: European Union, grade: -, London School of Economics (Department of International Relations), language: English, abstract: In spite of the growing empirical significance of the European Union (EU) as a soft power, scholars of International Relations (IR) have found it difficult to identify a single theoretical framework to explain the making of European Foreign Policy (EFP). The reasons for this apparent failure of rigorous theory-building may be twofold. On the one hand, there is still much debate about what the EU - the ontological object of inquiry - actually is. On the other hand, many authors have taken a self-critical attitude towards their own discipline, emphasising that there is still a multiplicity of convictions as to how we can best theorise EFP. Though detailed analyses of the specific pattern of the EUs external relations have indeed been marginalised for a long time, it seems plausible to trace this lack of theoretical coherence back to the nature of EFP itself. It is often argued that the EU is a political system sui generis, a complex structure that is neither a state nor a non-state actor, and neither a conventional international organization nor an international regime. In a similar vein, some observers assert that the EU might most suitably be characterised as a hybrid political sphere that does not easily lend itself to classical Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA). In fact, the major IR perspectives on EU foreign policy-making - neorealist, neoliberal and constructivist - appear to be largely incompatible in this respect. Within each framework, certain claims are made which effectively rule out or downgrade the validity and reliability of key premises in rival approaches. Therefore, the...



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