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John Gillingham

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European Integration, 1950–2003 Superstate or New Market Economy?

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John Gillingham : European Integration, 1950ndash;2003: Superstate or New Market Economy? before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised European Integration, 1950ndash;2003: Superstate or New Market Economy?:

4 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Too many factual errorsBy A CustomerEuropean Integration is one of my favorites topics. I do not share the author's euro skepticism but I enjoyed his discussion about different theories

of integration. However, I cannot recommend a book with so many factual errors about modern history of my native Spain. I do not know who told Mr. Gillingham that Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez was known as Pepe (it is Gonzalez and not Gonzales by the way), that the socialist inspired trade union is the Unión de Centro Democrático (as opposed to the Unión General de Trabajadores) that the deputy PM name was Juan Guerra (as opposed to Alfonso Guerra) or that the Bank of Spain intervened BANESTA (as opposed to BANESTO). I recommend a full revision if this book is ever to be translated into Spanish and/or sold in Spain. I can only hope that he got the facts of the rest of the countries right. 4 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Too many factual errors to recommend this book

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By A. Hyde
We need a one-volume history of European Integration, but not this five hundred page panegyric to...Margaret Thatcher? In Gillingham's funhouse, Thatcher is the key figure in European Integration, receiving more attention than any of the individuals who actually tried to integrate Europe, most of whom are dismissed, often in very personal terms. European integration indeed disappears from the book sometimes for sixty pages at a time while the author reviews political developments of right-wing governments in...New Zealand? A very distorted understanding of European integration.

Integration is the most significant European historical development in the past fifty years, eclipsing in importance even the collapse of the USSR. Yet, until now, no satisfactory explanation is to be found in any single book as to why integration is significant, how it originated, how it has changed Europe, and where it is headed. Professor Gillingham's work corrects the inadequacies of the existing literature by cutting through the genuine confusion that surrounds the activities of the European Union, and by looking at his subject from a truly historical perspective. The late-twentieth century has been an era of great, though insufficiently appreciated, accomplishment that intellectually and morally is still emerging from the shadow of an earlier one of depression, and modern despotism. This is a work, then, that captures the historical distinctiveness of Europe in a way that transcends current party political debate.

"John Gillingham's fascinating history of European integration brings out the shifts of gears, changes of direction and divergent impulses that brought the European Union to its present established but contested shape as the triumph of market over state. Gillingham wanted his book to 'trumpet like an elephant,' and it does. To extend his metaphor, it goes any number of sacred cows, from the myths of the Founding Fathers and of American benevolence to the European social model. It will stimulate lively and constructive debate." Robert O. Paxton, Columbia University

"John Gillingham is the preeminent American historian of the European Union. His book builds on vast scholarly knowledge to provide the first full-length history of European integration from the Second World War to the present day." Charles S. Maier, Harvard University

"Professor John Gillingham's sweeping reinterpretation of European integration since 1950 is informed, provocative, and fresh. It combines a deep appreciation of the market incentives that have made European cooperation inevitable, a subtle account of the ideologies and diplomatic circumstances that shaped its precise form, and a sharp Hayekian critique of the policy choices that were made. It is sure to generate scholarly debate for years to come." Andrew Moravcsik, Harvard University

"John Gillingham has produced an excellent, up-to-date history of the EU which overturns many preconceived ideas and challenges the views of Eurofanatics and Eurosceptics alike. It is a dazzling performance, full of paradoxes and ironies and some very funny lines. If anyone wants to know what little actually works in the EU and why, this is the book to read. It is acidly critical yet economically rational. It leaves the usual hagiographical histories of European bureaucracy way behind. Every student of post-war Europe will have to come to terms with it. It is an astounding achievement." Alan Sked, Department of International History, London School of Economics, formerly Convener of European Studies

"The European Union is very difficult to write about, because it can be bewilderingly technical, and at the same time invites windy rhetoric. It takes immense familiarity with the subject - and particular knowledge of what are still very different countries - to write a book both accessible and worth reading. John Gillingham has succeeded. This is a book that will be of great use at any level - politicians wishing to make serious speeches, teachers needing to put together a course, or just travellers in an aircraft. I am in the author's debt." Norman Stone, Director of the Turkish-Russian Institute, Bilkent University, Ankara, formerly of Oxford University

"Gillingham has written the first comprehensive history of European integration and produced a profoundly original reinterpretation of this enormously complex process." John P. McKay, University of Illinois, Urbana

"...impressive and engaging... The reader closes this book-length discourse ... with the certitude of having gained knowledge and insight into the workings and rocky foundations of the European experiment." Business History

"John Gillingham has written an entertaining and informative history of European

integration...[His] book breaks many conventions of historical and academic writing. It is bold in its scope and in its trans disciplinary methodological approach taken to its topic...It is a lively read with lots of political history detail. I recommend it." Jeffrey Sommers, Andre Gunder Frank, Journal of World History