How does the European Union (EU) resolve controversy when making laws that affect citizens? How has the EU been affected by the recent enlargements that brought its membership to a diverse group of twenty-seven countries? This book answers these questions with analyses of the EU’s legislative system that include the roles played by the European Commission, European Parliament, and member states’ national governments in the Council of Ministers. Robert Thomson examines more than three hundred controversial issues in the EU from the past decade and describes many cases of controversial decision-making as well as rigorous comparative analyses. The analyses test competing expectations regarding key aspects of the political system, including the policy demands made by different institutions and member states, the distributions of power among the institutions and member states, and the contents of decision outcomes. These analyses are also highly relevant to the EU’s democratic deficit and various reform proposals.

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Resolving Controversy in the European Union

Legislative Decision-Making Before and After Enlargement

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