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978-1-107-01561-6 - Imagining Europe: Myth, Memory, and Identity

Chiara Bottici and Benoît Challand

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Imagining Europe

Myth, Memory, and Identity

In *Imagining Europe*, Chiara Bottici and Benoît Challand explore the formation of modern European identity. Europe has not always been there, although we have been imagining it for quite some time. Even after the birth of a polity called the European Union, the meaning of “Europe” remained a contested topic. What is Europe? What are its boundaries? Is there a specific European identity or is the EU just the name for a group of institutions? This book answers these questions, showing that, in Europe’s formation, myth and memory, although distinct, are often merged in a common attempt to construct an identity for its present and future. In a time when Europe is facing an existential crisis, when its meaning is being questioned, *Imagining Europe* explores a vital and often unacknowledged aspect of the European project.

Chiara Bottici is Assistant Professor in the Philosophy Department at the New School for Social Research. She is the author of *A Philosophy of Political Myth* (Cambridge University Press 2007) and *Men and States: Rethinking the Domestic Analogy in a Global Age* (2009). She is co-author (with Benoît Challand) of *The Myth of the Clash of Civilizations* (2010) and co-editor (with Benoît Challand) of *The Politics of Imagination* (2011).

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CHIARA BOTTICI

The New School for Social Research

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Contents

<i>List of Figures, Tables, and Graphs</i>	page vii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
Introduction	I
PART I. MEMORY AND IDENTITY	
1 Europe, Identity, and Legitimacy	15
1. <i>An Output-Oriented Legitimacy?</i>	21
2. <i>The Cultural Roots of Europe</i>	26
3. <i>The Chances of a European Political Identity</i>	31
4. <i>The Project of a European Identity</i>	37
2 European Identity and the Politics of Remembrance	41
1. <i>An Identity without Memory?</i>	44
2. <i>From Collective Memory to Collective Remembrance</i>	48
3. <i>Three Levels of Collective Remembrance</i>	52
4. <i>Europe Born out of the War: Past and Future</i>	63
3 East and West: Divided Memories in a United Europe	65
1. <i>Situating the Past: Allochronism and Heterochrony</i>	69
2. <i>European Memory and the Holocaust</i>	73
3. <i>Rethinking the European Project beyond Cold War Legacies</i>	76
4. <i>Coming to Terms with a Divided Past?</i>	79
PART II. MYTH AND IDENTITY	
4 Myths of Europe	87
1. <i>Defining Myth: Cultural and Political</i>	88
	v

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-01561-6 - Imagining Europe: Myth, Memory, and Identity
Chiara Bottici and Benoît Challand
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

vi	<i>Contents</i>
2.	<i>Myth or History? How Europeans Perceive Themselves</i> 94
3.	<i>Icons of Europe between Cultural and Political Myths</i> 101
4.	<i>European Myths beyond Europe</i> 108
5	Europe’s Significant Others: The Cold War and Beyond 113
1.	<i>The Gradual Emergence of a Distinct European Subjectivity</i> 115
2.	<i>The Euroenthusiasts: The German Case</i> 118
3.	<i>The Reluctant Europeanists: France and Italy</i> 127
4.	<i>Toward a Europeanized Frame of Reference</i> 138
6	From Hammer and Sickle to Crescent: Religion and European Identity 145
1.	<i>Europe and Religion: “Just Married”?</i> 148
2.	<i>Turkey and the Unsettled Borders of Europe</i> 153
3.	<i>Europe and Its Shifting External “Others”</i> 160
4.	<i>A Multireligious Europe</i> 163
	Conclusion 167
	<i>Bibliography</i> 179
	<i>Index</i> 201

List of Figures, Tables, and Graphs

Figures

2.1. “Battlefield Europa.”	page 58
2.2. “Europeans through the ages.”	59
2.3. “Take the train to Europe!”	60
4.1. Political caricature from a German history textbook.	103
4.2. “Go and vote!” German political poster.	106
4.3. <i>De Gaulle et traité de Rome</i> . Dutch caricature from 1962.	107
4.4. <i>La terre promise: Les Etats Unis d’Europe</i> .	109
4.5. Fortress Europe. German caricature.	110
5.1. West German poster for a European Defense Community, 1952.	124
5.2. “The House of Europe.”	126
5.3. <i>L’Ecrasement</i> : French poster from 1960.	129
5.4. French pro-European Defense Community poster from 1952.	131
5.5. For a United Europe (1952).	132
5.6. Two posters for the <i>Partito Democristiano</i> from the 1948 general elections.	137
5.7. Map showing European expansion in the 1970s and 1980s.	141
5.8. An example of a typical “European” map post-1995.	142
6.1. German cartoon: “May I enter?” “Sure, no problem!”	162

Tables

5.1. Space dedicated to “Europe” in French, German, and Italian textbooks per decade	116
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viii	<i>List of Figures, Tables, and Graphs</i>
5.2. Headings of chapters in which “Europe” appears (German textbooks)	119
5.3. Headings of chapters in which “Europe” appears (French textbooks)	128
5.4. Headings of chapters in which “Europe” appears (Italian textbooks)	136
Graphs	
5.1. Percentage of French, German, and Italian textbooks dedicated to “Europe”	134
6.1. Number of occurrences of “religion” and “Europe” in academic articles (1950–2001)	149
6.2. Number of occurrences of “religion” and “Europe” in news articles (1950–2007)	150

Abbreviations

EC	European Community
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EDC	European Defense Community
EEC	European Economic Community
EU	European Union
GEI	Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research
UN	United Nations

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[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

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Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01561-6 - Imagining Europe: Myth, Memory, and Identity

Chiara Bottici and Benoît Challand

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01561-6 - Imagining Europe: Myth, Memory, and Identity

Chiara Bottici and Benoît Challand

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Acknowledgments*

xiii

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Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-01561-6 - Imagining Europe: Myth, Memory, and Identity

Chiara Bottici and Benoît Challand

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xiv

Acknowledgments

This is the third book co-written by the two authors and this *modus scrivendi* implies sharing most of each other's arguments. There remain small differences in our views, but they have been settled (if not overcome) through a process of commenting on each other's texts and of sharing empirical material collected over the course of the past ten years. The Introduction and Conclusion were jointly written. Chiara Bottici is sole author and fully responsible for Chapters 1, 2, and 4, and Benoît Challand assumes likewise for Chapters 3, 5, and 6.

This book is dedicated to Leo and Alissa, truly cosmopolitan Europeans.