There is an increasingly widespread sense that Europe is in crisis. Notions of a shared European identity and a common European culture appear to be losing their purchase. This crisis is often seen as a conflict between a cosmopolitan and a nationalist idea of Europe. The reality is, however, considerably more complex, as the long history of the idea of Europe reveals. In The Idea of Europe: A Critical History, Shane Weller explores that history from its origins in classical antiquity to the present day. Drawing on a wide range of sources, he demonstrates that, all too often, seemingly progressive ideas of Europe have been shaped by Eurocentric, culturally supremacist, and even racist assumptions. Seeking to break with this troubling pattern, Weller calls for an idea of Europe shaped by a spirit of self-critique and by an openness to those cultures that have for so long been dismissed as non-European.

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THE IDEA OF EUROPE

A Critical History

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Contents

Acknowledgments vi

Introduction 1

1 Myths of Europa: From Classical Antiquity to the Enlightenment 16
2 A Great Republic of Cultivated Minds: 1712–1815 35
3 Nationalism and Universalism: 1815–1848 66
4 The Russia Question 94
5 Homo Europaeus: 1848–1918 114
6 The European Spirit: 1918–1933 141
7 A New European Order: 1933–1945 167
8 Unity in Diversity: 1945–1989 188
9 Other Europes 220
10 Europe against Itself: 1989 to the Present Day 247

Conclusion: Good Europeans? 269

Notes 282
Bibliography 322
Index 339
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