

# EUROPEAN POLITICAL THOUGHT SINCE 1945

Noël O'Sullivan

palgrave  
macmillan

# Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
<i>Preface</i>	xi
<b>1 The Postwar Agenda</b>	<b>1</b>
The Limited State and the Problem of Moral Foundations	2
The Welfare State and the Problem of Growing Executive Power	7
From Social and Cultural Homogeneity to Radical Pluralism	10
The End of Eurocentric History and the Search for a European Political Identity	12
The Problem of Amnesia	16
Conclusion	19
<b>2 British Political Thought since 1945: The Limitations of Pragmatism</b>	<b>20</b>
The British Left	23
Liberal and Conservative Visions of the Free Society	28
The Quest for a Rational Consensus	41
The Quest for a Non-Rationalist Consensus	43
Identity Politics: The Search for a Radical Pluralist Consensus	45
Multicultural Political Theory	48
Beyond Identity Politics: Republican Theory	54
The Politics of the Third Way	56

The Constitutional Issue, the Problem of British Identity and the European Union	58
Conclusion	62
<b>3 From Revolutionary Idealism to Political Moderation: The French Search for an Accommodation with Liberal Democracy since 1945</b>	<b>63</b>
Radical Political Thought	64
Towards a Non-Revolutionary Political Discourse	72
Voices of Political Moderation	79
Alain de Benoist and the Nouvelle Droite	85
Towards a New French Liberalism?	86
Conclusion	93
<b>4 Nationalism, Democracy and Unification in Postwar German Political Thought</b>	<b>95</b>
The Allied Plans for a New German Identity	95
Conservative Critics of the Federal Republic: Cultural Alienation and Political Impotence	97
The Radical Critique of the New Democracy	105
The Quest for a Moderate Consensus: Legal Rights, the Social Market Ideal and 'Constitutional Patriotism'	107
Responses to Unification	116
The Berlin Republic	123
Conclusion	125
<b>5 In the Shadow of <i>The Prince</i>: Italian Political Thought since Liberation</b>	<b>126</b>
The Failure of Postwar Crocean Liberalism	128
The Identity Crisis of the Radical Left	131
Antonio Negri and the New Left	135
Conservative Responses to Postwar Italian Democracy	137
Constitutionalism, Social Democracy and 'Democratic Realism'	140
The Extreme Right	144
Postmodern Pluralism	146
The New Italian Republic	149
Conclusion	152

<b>6 Political Thought in East-Central Europe: From Empires to the European Union</b>	<b>155</b>
The Critique of Totalitarianism	157
Alternatives to Totalitarianism	167
The Velvet Revolutions of 1989 and the Problem of Transition	174
Conclusion	175
<b>7 Towards a New Post-Democratic Agenda?</b>	<b>178</b>
The Nature of European Political Identity	181
<i>Notes</i>	190
<i>Bibliography</i>	218
<i>Index</i>	232