

# French political parties - Europe and the Maastricht treaty

## University of Birmingham - Europe without frontiers

Mario Cuenda García  
What were the main challenges in ratifying the Treaty of Maastricht?  
Mario Cuenda García  
The Treaty of Maastricht was the cornerstone of European integration. The European project which began in the late 1940s, The Treaty creates the European Union as we know it today and set important economic and political decisions, regarding the Economic and Monetary Union and the European institutions. The Treaty of Maastricht negotiations required a general agreement among participating states. All the member states accepted a general instant ratification process. However, the Treaty faced economic and political challenges, particularly from France and the United Kingdom, during the ratification process. It assesses what the main challenges in ratifying the treaty were, this essay is trying to briefly explain in what historical and political circumstances the Treaty of Maastricht was signed and how it has affected the European Union and the EU's Maastricht. Consequently, it will concentrate on the main challenges the Treaty's ratification faced in two problematic member states, Denmark and Britain, but also in France. This paper will also try to explain the political and economic context and explain how the Edinburgh Summit decisions influenced the ratification process. To finish, the impact of the currency crisis will be briefly assessed and this essay will conclude with the main challenges in ratifying the Treaty of Maastricht, political rather than economic.  
The negotiations for the Treaty of Maastricht took place in a Europe shaped by the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Community basis. The Berlin Wall fell in 1989 and opened the prospect of a German reunification. The USSR had collapsed in 1991. In the same year, Yugoslavia entered in a bloody civil war fuelled by regionalism and ethnic differences. The European Union was born in a period of intense integration in those difficult times but was also, according to the political scientist Michael Balts, a bargain between Germany and France. France needed to be part of the European project to keep its influence in Europe and the UK wanted their ratification process. France also believed that in this way it could exercise some influence in the European Union.  
1 Michael J. Baum, "The Maastricht Treaty as High Politics: Germany, France, and European Integration," *Political Science Quarterly* 110 (1995-1996), p.423.

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### The Maastricht Treaty as High Politics: Germany, France, and European Integration on JSTOR

It is published as part of our mission to showcase peer-leading papers written by students during their studies. Despite recent surveys, which indicate growing support for the Treaty, there are still disagreements among the French political parties, leaving the outcome of the autumn referendum in doubt. Second, integration will develop and reach a point where any state involved in the integration process cannot decide to abandon it, because that process is too interlinked with national policies McCormick, 2008: 9.

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Under pressure from the United Kingdom, apparently, it has been accepted that preparatory work on the Community's negotiating position may begin even before the Edinburgh Summit. Colin Kinniburgh is a Paris-based journalist and translator, and an editor-at-large at Dissent. The sweeping political, intellectual and institutional changes which Mr Delors announced to the European Parliament on 7 April have given way to a moderate approach not involving any upheavals for the time being.

### Political consequences of the Maastricht Treaty (the European Community after the Maastricht and Lisbon Summits)

Thatcher had been forced to join the ERM just before her resignation when Major was Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is a continuation of this collaboration, which Maastricht University has also joined as a partner, supporting the programme with pioneering research and expertise on Europe.

### The Roots of the French Far Right's Rise

Another significant development of the EU that was brought by the TEU was the establishment of the Economic and Monetary Union.

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The sovereignist campaign gained an unexpected momentum, beating the 'yes' vote in some polls. The 3 pillars consist of the Single European Act

SEA , the Common Foreign and Security Policy CFSP , and the Justice and Home Affairs. Bryan did lose, but his campaign, the first of three he waged for the White House, transformed the Democrats into an anti-corporate, pro-labor party.

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