

Legitimizing Public Policy-Making: Referendums and European Integration

MIN SHU

WASEDA UNIVERSITY

Outline of the lecture

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- ▶ Public Policy-Making and Direct Democracy
- ▶ European Integration at a Glance
- ▶ EU-Related Referendums and Their Impacts
- ▶ Public Opinion and Regional Cooperation
- ▶ Discussions

Public policy-making and direct democracy

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- ▶ Direct democracy is policy oriented
 - ▶ The electoral process centers on specific policy issues
 - ▶ Voting results directly influence the policy choice
- ▶ Public policy-making
 - ▶ Process: policy proposal → policy decision → policy implementation → policy evaluation/feedback
 - ▶ Contemporary direct democracy is mostly related to draft policy proposal and conduct policy decision
- ▶ Direct democracy can legitimize public policy-making

European integration at a glance

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Timeline of Integration Treaties

- 1951 Treaty of Paris: ECSC
- 1957 Treaty of Rome: EEC and EURATOM
- 1967 Merging ECSC, EEC and EURATOM into EC
- 1979 European Monetary System
- 1986 SEA: Single European Market
- 1991 Maastricht Treaty: the European Union
- 1997 Amsterdam Treaty
- 2001 Nice Treaty
- 2004 Constitutional Treaty (abandoned)
- 2007 Lisbon Treaty

Enlargement

- 1951 France, Italy, West Germany and three Benelux countries
- 1973 Denmark, Ireland and the UK
- 1981&86 Greece, Portugal and Spain
- 1990 German reunification led to a full German membership
- 1995 Austria, Finland and Sweden
- 2004 Ten East and Mediterranean European countries
- 2007 Bulgaria and Romania
- 2013 Croatia
- 2020 Britain left the EU

European integration at a glance

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European integration at a glance

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- ▶ Institutional structure
 - ▶ European Commission
 - ▶ European Council
 - ▶ European Parliament
 - ▶ European Central Bank
 - ▶ European Court of Justice
- ▶ Public support for European integration
 - ▶ 'permissive consensus' in the early decades
 - ▶ Growing scepticism after the Maastricht Treaty (1991/93)
 - ▶ Politicization in several member states: UK, France, Hungary...

EU-related referendums and their impacts

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- ▶ Three types of EU referendums
 - ▶ Membership referendums
 - ▶ Policy referendums
 - ▶ Treaty referendums
- ▶ Key popular votes on European integration
 - ▶ 1975-6-5 UK: to remain in the EC
 - ▶ 1992-6-2 Denmark: to ratify the Maastricht Treaty
 - ▶ 1993-5-18 Denmark: second vote on the Maastricht Treaty
 - ▶ 1992-9-20 France: to ratify the Maastricht Treaty
 - ▶ 2000-9-28 Denmark: to join the EMU
 - ▶ 2001-6-7 Ireland: to ratify the Nice Treaty
 - ▶ 2002-10-19 Ireland: second referendum on the Nice Treaty
 - ▶ 2003-9-14 Sweden: to join the EMU

EU-related referendums and their impacts

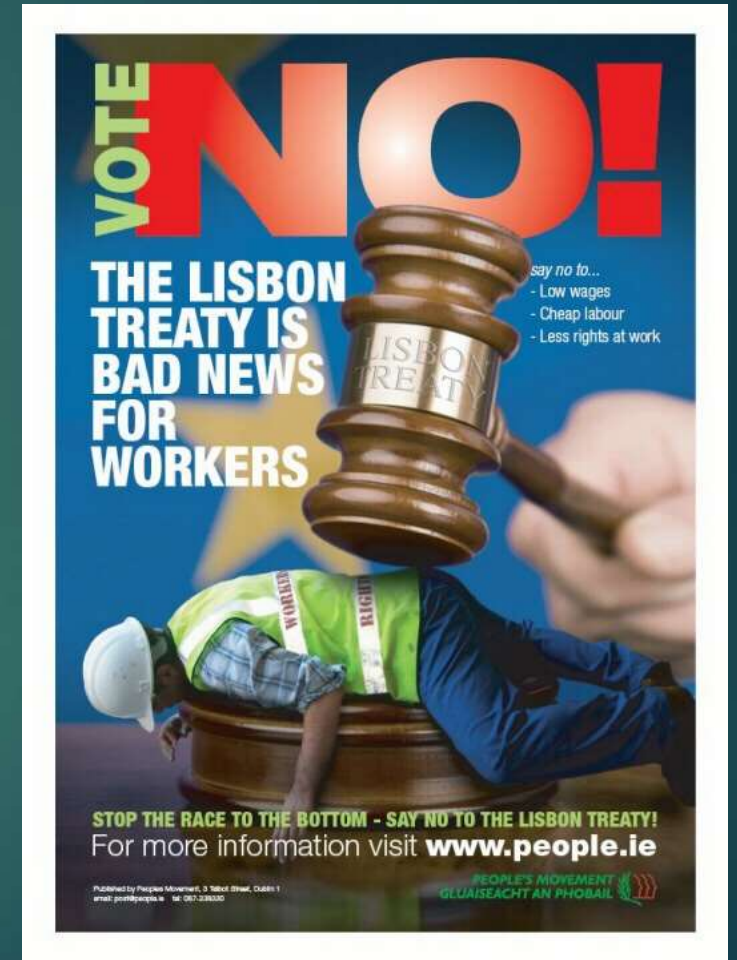
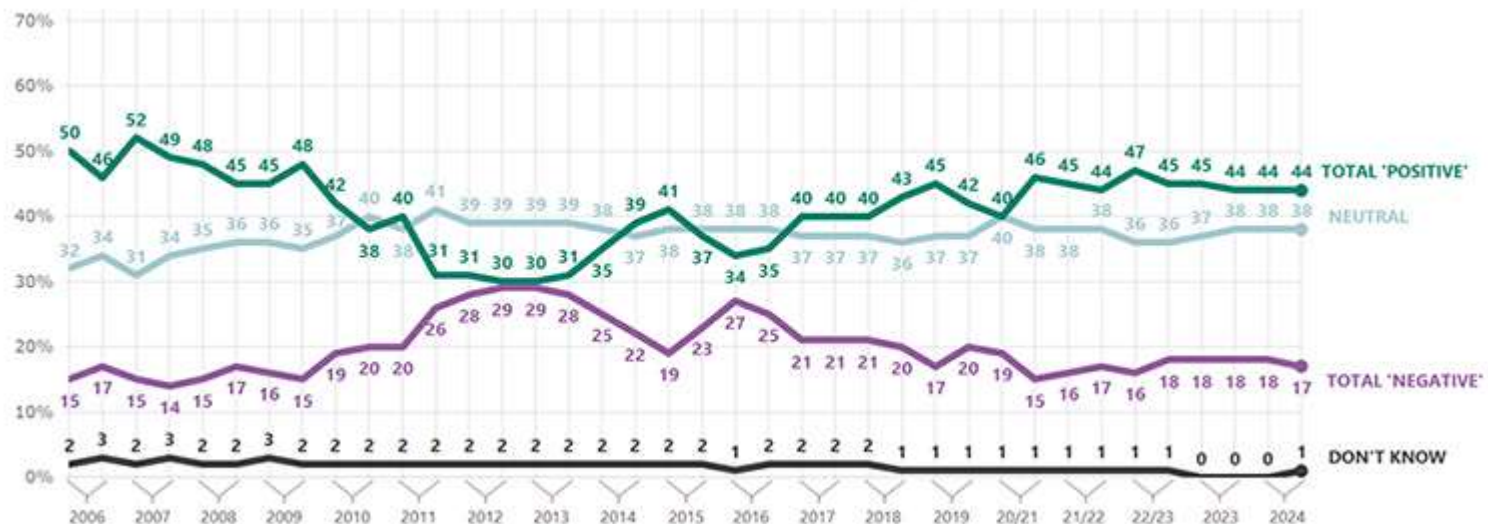
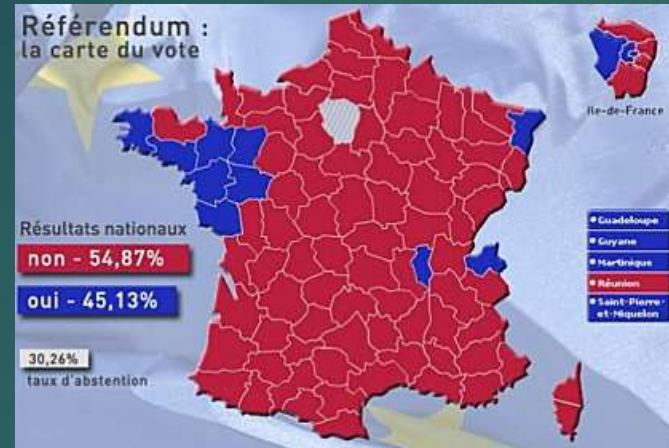
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- ▶ Key popular votes on European integration (continued)
 - ▶ 2005-5-29 France: to ratify the Constitutional Treaty
 - ▶ 2005-6-1 Netherlands: to ratify the Constitutional Treaty
 - ▶ 2008-6-12 Ireland: to ratify the Lisbon Treaty
 - ▶ 2009-10-2 Ireland: second referendum on the Lisbon Treaty
 - ▶ 2016-06-23 UK: to remain or leave the EU
- ▶ Explaining the dynamics of EU referendums
 - ▶ Voters: lacking a concrete knowledge about the EU
 - ▶ Political parties: lacking enthusiasm for EU campaigns
 - ▶ Activist (interest) groups: exploiting discursive campaign linkages

EU-related referendums and their impacts

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EU-related referendums and their impacts

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- ▶ Impacts of EU-related referendums
 - ▶ Politicizing European integration
 - from 'permissive consensus' to 'constraining dissensus'
 - ▶ Forcing the EU to address the democratic deficit
 - the democratic nature of international organization and regional institutions
 - ▶ (De-)Legitimizing EU treaties and policies
 - Constraining or pushing forward European integration

Public Opinion and Regional Cooperation

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- ▶ Regional cooperation and integration
 - ▶ Inter-state reconciliation
 - ▶ Functional cooperation
 - ▶ Intergovernmental negotiations
 - ▶ Supranational institutions
- ▶ Public opinion, referendums and regional integration
 - ▶ Public attitude towards neighboring countries
 - ▶ Public support for regional foreign policies
 - ▶ Transfer of state sovereignty
 - ▶ Democratize the regional cooperative schemes

Discussions

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- ▶ Why did regional integration in Europe led to so many popular votes in 1990~2010, but not that many in recent years?
- ▶ How did referendums reshape the process of European integration?
- ▶ Do you think that ordinary people should have the right to vote on issues related to foreign policy?
- ▶ Will direct democracy promote or prevent regional cooperation in East Asia?