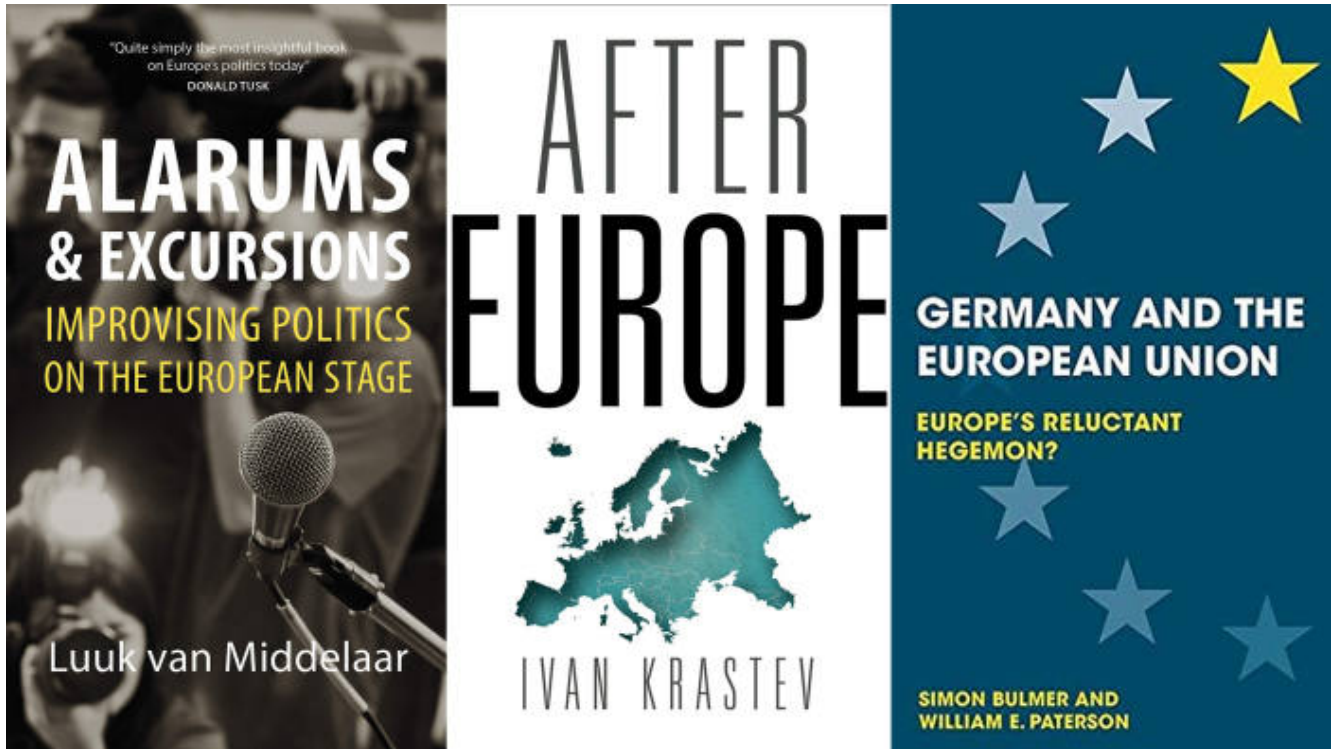


European Union

European elections: Five books that look at the future of the EU

EU citizens will soon elect a new European Parliament. Here's what to read to understand the issues at stake



Tony Barber YESTERDAY

Over the past 10 years, the EU has shown great resilience in surviving what are arguably its most acute crises since the founding Treaty of Rome in 1957. But neither the eurozone's troubles nor the refugee and migrant question have been fully dealt with. Meanwhile, relations with the US, China and Russia are under strain. The question is whether the latest elections to the EU legislature will deliver a result that strengthens the bloc's ability to address its challenges — or whether fresh turbulence awaits around the corner.

Here are five books that explain where Europe might be headed

1. *Alarums & Excursions: Improvising Politics on the European Stage* by Luuk van Middelaar provides invaluable insights into how the EU tackled the eurozone, migration and Ukraine crises — and from a Dutch political thinker and historian who served in Brussels during the turmoil.

2. *Counter-Revolution: Liberal Europe in Retreat* by Jan Zielonka is a short but important book that poses a central question about today's Europe: is the EU in trouble because its models of liberal democracy and welfare capitalism are no longer working?

3. *After Europe* by Ivan Krastev. The Bulgarian-born political scientist is among the most original thinkers about Europe's future. Here he reflects on the impact of the refugee crisis and the shrinking importance of Europe in global politics.

4. *Euroscepticism and the Future of European Integration* by Catherine E De Vries is a groundbreaking analysis of European public opinion that explains how distinctive national conditions account for varying levels of Euroscepticism across the EU.

5. *Germany and the European Union: Europe's Reluctant Hegemon?* by Simon Bulmer and William E Paterson offers a reminder that no country is more crucial to the EU's future than Germany. This is the most up-to-date and reliable book on how domestic German politics, law and culture shape Berlin's approach to the EU.

Tony Barber is the FT's European affairs commentator

What books have we missed? Share your recommendations below and join our online book group on Facebook at [ft.com/ftbookscafe](https://www.facebook.com/ftbookscafe)

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