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Ludger Kühnhardt, European Union – The Second Founding. The Changing Rationale of European Integration

Ludger Kühnhardt, European Union – The Second Founding. The Changing Rationale of European Integration, Schriften des Zentrum für Europäische Integrationsforschung (ZEI), Vol. 67, Baden-Baden: Nomos, 672 pages, 2010 (2nd, revised and updated edition), ISBN 978-3-8329-5505-2

Prof. Dr. Ludger Kühnhardt, Director at the Center for European Integration Studies (ZEI) at the University of Bonn has published the second, revised and updated edition of his comprehensive study about the history of European integration and its current context. His study – which includes chapters on European integration theory and on the global context of integration in Europe - is based on the two-fold thesis that since a few years, the European Union is going through a process of its Second Founding while simultaneously changing its rationale. The original founding of European integration in 1957 was based on the notion of internal reconciliation among European states and societies. Since the 1990's European integration has become, increasingly, a political project with implications for the internal structure of its member states and their societies. At the same time, with the end of the Cold War, the rationale of European integration has begun to change: European integration is about a new global role of Europe, its contribution to the management of global affairs and its ability to cope with the effects of globalization on Europe. Inside the EU, the Second Founding is about a new contract between political elites and the people of Europe in order to solidify legitimacy and effectiveness for this unique experiment in European history. Ludger Kühnhardt's study has been updated in light of the Treaty of Lisbon, in effect since December 1, 2009.