

Ludger Kühnhardt: Constituting Europe. Identity, Institution-Building and the Search for a Global Role, Baden-Baden: Nomos 2003, 275 p., EURO 54,- ISBN 3-7890-8309-7. (Schriften des Zentrums für Europäische Integrationsforschung. vol.60)

The question of a European identity is increasingly becoming political. The work of the Constitutional Convention of the EU and the growing demand for a global role of Europe underline the trend to define identity by its link with a political will to project it. Academic research has increasingly to combine the findings of institutional research – labelling the EU as expression of a multi-level governance system –, international relations – trying to define the conditions for a new global order post-Cold War – and political theory – in search for the normative roots of Europe in the midst of ever increasing value pluralism. This combination of methods is characteristic for the approach and also for the breadth of the horizon of the latest study by Prof. Dr. Ludger Kühnhardt, Director at the Centre for European Integration Studies. His latest book is published in English in order to contribute to the discourse on the future of Europe beyond the German-speaking world. Kühnhardt's plea for a European constitution, his support of the inalienability of human dignity, and his reflexion about the heritage of the history of political ideas („What remains?“) is leading to a thorough analysis of the impact of globalisation on the European integration process and its *raison d'être*. Kühnhardt puts particular emphasis on the future of transatlantic relations in light of new global challenges and threats. Assessing the ramifications of the terror attacks of September 11, 2001 for the future of the Atlantic civilization, Kühnhardt is analysing different experiences of Europe and the US in order to plan for a new Atlantic Treaty, being capable of reinvigorating the Atlantic community whose „*acquis atlantique*“ is impressive though requires revitalization.