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Bruno Oliveira Martins, *Segurança e Defesa na Narrativa Constitucional Europeia 1950–2008* [Security and Defence in the European Constitutional Narrative 1950–2008] (Cascais: Principia, 2009), ISBN 978–989-8131-51-5, 152 pp.

European security and defence issues are among the research topics in which Portuguese academia currently have more interest. As a result of several military commitments in Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa, Central Asia, and the Middle East in the last twenty years, and the increasing perception that those decisions are at the centre of Portuguese foreign policy as well, a young generation of researchers is focusing their work on these areas. Bruno Oliveira Martins is one of them, and this particular book offers a stimulating contribution to this debate.

The book is divided into four parts. Firstly, it tries to explain the European Union (EU) as a constitutional subject with certain specificities. Secondly, it identifies the security and defence failures during the first forty years of European integration, emphasizing the experiences of the Fouchet Plan and the Davignon Report. Thirdly, in the post Cold War framework, particularly during the 1990s, it looks to the return of a voluntaristic security and defence policy. Finally, it identifies the steps that were taken between the Saint Malo summit and the Lisbon Treaty.

The main argument focuses on the existence of a constitutional narrative in European integration. Using this background as his starting point, the author seeks to explain the dynamics of constitutional influence in the emergence of the ESDP, and the impact that this policy has had on the European constitutional architecture. In other words, the book tries to understand in what sense and at which level the normative dimension of European integration has been linked to the formulation of a European defence policy.

Oliveira Martins assumes that the EU is a challenge to political science, international relations theory, and law, with regard to its exact definition as an organization without parallel. Former President of the European Commission Jacques Delors called it a non-identified political object, and time has given him reason: it is still half way of a typical federation of states, but it is not an alliance or a traditional international organization either. The book starts with this valid point: we need a multi-disciplinary perspective to look at the EU, and part of this is constitutional theory. In this sense, the constitutional approach proposed by the author sustains the existence of a material and transnational constitution in Europe, developed not only in the framework of the treaties but also within a governmental interstate structure, defined by constitutional principles recognized by the Court of Justice of the European Communities (CJEC), created in 1952, the European constitutional court de facto. This European constitutionalism, the argument goes, should be seen by an autonomous theoretical field due to the hybrid nature of the EU and the multi-levels of constitutional tensions between the states and the communitarian decision-making process.

The book reaches two main conclusions. The first one is the existence of complementarities in the dynamic of both processes: the lack of security and defence policies during its first few decades, particularly after the failure of the European Defence Community in 1954, has contributed to enhancing the distinctive character of European constitutionalism, since it was established by the CJEC, with the prevalence of the economic sphere of integration.

The second one is that the external dimension of European constitutionalism and specially its security nature, emphasized in this book, emerges as the background to understand the complexity of reciprocal influences. In other words, it was the stability and constitutional maturity of the EU that allowed it to overcome its security dilemma in the early 1990s. However, the author could have developed the lack of strategic debate in Europe to justify its absence in the geopolitical arena, as well as the motivation of some of its Member States to oppose US global influence in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Moreover, the Balkan crisis also helped to shape the security dimension of the EU and to reshape its strategic motivation. In this book, the security dimension is, in some way, limited to the normative process; the author could also have looked at the political and strategic dimensions to complement the argument. The book shows an interesting approach to the security and defence dynamics in Europe and assumes the Portuguese tradition, which emphasizes the normative dimension to justify several levels in the integration process. Bruno Oliveira Martins' education (Law and European Studies) may explain that preference. This short but stimulating book has won the Jacques Delors award in 2009, as the best Portuguese academic study on European issues.

Bernardo Pires de Lima
Research Associate
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AIMS

The aim of the *Review* is to consider the external posture of the European Union in its relations with the rest of the world. Therefore the *Review* will focus on the political, legal and economic aspects of the Union's external relations. The *Review* will function as an interdisciplinary medium for the understanding and analysis of foreign affairs issues which are of relevance to the European Union and its Member States on the one hand and its international partners on the other. The *Review* will aim at meeting the needs of both the academic and the practitioner. In doing so the *Review* will provide a public forum for the discussion and development of European external policy interests and strategies, addressing issues from the points of view of political science and policy-making, law or economics. These issues should be discussed by authors drawn from around the world while maintaining a European focus.

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