Humanities on the Hill
Ohio 5th, Bob Latta

Humanities on the Hill
Ohio 11th, Marcia Fudge

Humanities on the Hill
Ohio 10th, Michael Turner

Humanities on the Hill
Ohio 4th, Jim Jordan

Humanities on the Hill
Ohio Humanities

- http://www.ohiohumanities.org/
- http://www.ohiohumanities.org/advocate/
- https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=0017C_AV_ERFa2Bl-XKuUhtbehsSYI2aXesRGap90ha42PiHUM4uUi15nHyv-OIn3TohvfHLb4bdEnp-0_ARTgyVG6fqqqTikfzGrEihYP_i-Hy_ZwtnMLOHuPGexITkrvyv5_iPGGjC9AdVGez_EwRjB_RJNedn5JsCk919vm9ECyeQpUmCpXozw%3D%3D
The European Union

- Enlargement
- Unification of Germany, 1990
  - Austria, Finland, Sweden
  - Post-Cold War expansion
  - Neutral states with mature market economies

The European Union

- Treaty of Amsterdam
  - Signed October 2, 1997
  - Entered into effect May 1, 1999
  - Moved much of Third Pillar (JHA) into First Pillar
  - Incorporated Schengen system into First Pillar
  - Created High Representative for EU Foreign Policy
  - Strengthened role of European Parliament in codecision process
  - Did not provide for common defense policy, but increased EU responsibilities for peacekeeping and international humanitarian interventions

The European Union

- Treaty of Nice
  - Signed February 26, 2001; entered into effect February 1, 2003
  - Accession negotiations with 12 eastern European or small states opened; new opportunities
  - Need to adapt EU institutions to such a large expansion
  - Germans saw chance to move toward federal state
  - Preserve national identities, but in federal state
  - “Europe of two speeds”
  - Postponed Germany’s demands for primacy in voting as voting weights for after enlargement were set
  - Seen as flawed compromise
The European Union

- Strange interlude of Treaty on a Constitution for Europe
  - Provided by Treaties of Amsterdam and Nice
  - Convention on the Future of Europe December 2001
  - Signed by Member States in October 2004
  - Had to be ratified by all 25 states
  - Defeated by referenda in France, May 28, and in the Netherlands, June 1, 2005
  - Abandoned

The European Union

- Treaty of Lisbon, “Reform Treaty”
  - Signed December 13, 2007; effective December 1, 2009
  - Major revision into two treaties:
    - Treaty on European Union (TEU)
    - Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)
  - Many exceptions and reservations for some Member States
  - Greater reliance on QMV
  - End of pillar system
  - More supranational; less intergovernmental
  - Current system
The European Union

- Failed Irish referendum on June 12, 2008
  - Almost purely domestic political reasons; slap at incumbent government which was backing ratification
- Passed second Irish referendum on October 2, 2009
- Rushed into effect on December 1

The European Union

- Lisbon Treaties
  - 200 pages of Treaty text
  - 37 Protocols, 128 pages of text
  - 2 Annexes
  - 65 Declarations
  - Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 54 Articles, 15 pages
  - This is a Constitution!

The European Union

- European Union has five principal political institutions
  - The Council of Ministers
  - The European Council
  - The European Parliament
  - The European Commission
  - The European Court of Justice
The European Union
Council of Ministers

• Primary role is legislative
  – Article 16: “Jointly with Parliament to exercise legislative and budgetary functions” and to “carry out policy-making and coordinating functions”

• Who attends?
  – Article 16(2): A representative of each Member State at the ministerial level authorized to commit that Member State’s government

The European Union
Council of Ministers

• Ten different configurations of the Council of Ministers, depending upon subject matter being considered
  • Agriculture and fisheries
  • Competitiveness
  • Economic and financial affairs
  • Employment, social policy, health, and consumer affairs
  • Environment
  • Foreign affairs
  • General affairs
  • Justice and home affairs
  • Transportation, telecommunications, and energy

The European Union
Council of Ministers

• Presidency rotates every six months
  – Sets agenda for actions at meetings
  – Chairs Council meetings

• Three consecutive presidencies work together as a “trio” to set program for 18 months
  – Current president is Malta, trio is Netherlands, Slovakia, Malta
  – Next trio will be Estonia, Bulgaria, Austria

The European Union
Council of Ministers

• By Decision 2016/1316 of July 2016, United Kingdom was taken out of the rotation for Presidency of Council, as a result of the Brexit referendum

The European Union
Council of Ministers

• Presidency of Council of Ministers works in close cooperation with:
  – President of European Council
  – High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
  – High Representative is also Vice President of the European Commission and President of the Foreign Affairs Council
  – Current High Representative is Federica Mogherini of Italy
High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy

- Federica Mogherini

The European Union
Council of Ministers

- Council Voting
  - Lisbon TEU Article 24 requires unanimity for Common Foreign and Security Policy
  - TFEU requires unanimity for measures to harmonize
    - Taxation
    - Sensitive environmental or social policy legislation
    - Measures pursuant to TFEU Article 352 which permits measures to achieve the common market when no Treaty provision enables such measures

- Simple majority voting to adopt Council’s rules of procedure or to request Commission to prepare studies or legislative proposals

- All other issues require Qualified Majority Voting (QMV)
  - About 80 percent of all measures before Council
  - Much of the reason for the Treaties of Amsterdam, Nice, and finally Lisbon, was contention over the weight of voting for QMV
  - United Germany was the big issue
  - From 1952 to 1990, West Germany roughly equal in population and GDP to France, Italy, and later UK
  - After unification, Germany much bigger in population and increasingly in GDP

- Solution in Treaties of Amsterdam and Nice was German forbearance, acceptance of under-weighted voting
  - Contention with new members
  - Poland argued for over-weighting, explicitly citing the population it would have now if not for losses suffered at the hands of the Germans 1939-45

- QMV under Treaty of Lisbon is in transition until March 31 of this year
  - QMV formula of Treaty of Nice was retained in Treaty of Lisbon until November 1, 2014
  - Since November 1, 2014, the new Lisbon formula applied, but any Member State could assert its special interest and require use of Nice formula
  - Starting on April 1, only Lisbon formula will prevail
The European Union
Council of Ministers

- QMV Treaty of Lisbon formula
- To become law, a measure must receive in Council an affirmative vote of
  - 55 percent of all ministers, if acting on a proposal of Commission or High Representative; otherwise 72 percent
  - Comprising at least 15 Member States
  - Representing at least 65 percent of Union population
- Any blocking minority must have at least 4 Member States
- Vast majority of decisions are unanimous: in 2008, 128 out of 147

The European Union
European Council

- Heads of government or state of Member States began to meet at the Hague in December 1968, later twice a year
- Since the 1990s have met 4 times annually
- Since 2004, have met in Brussels

The European Union
European Council

- Recognized as an informal policy maker by Single European Act
- Article 4 of Maastricht TEU declared that the European Council shall “provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development and define the general guidelines thereof”
- Lisbon TEU designates European Council an institution of the EU, with capacity to make binding decisions
  - Generally acts by consensus, unanimity
  - But can act by QMV or even simple majority

The European Union
European Council

- Formerly, President of European Council was head of state or government of Member State who was current rotating President of the Council of Ministers
- Lisbon TEU Article 15(6) created full-time office of President of the European Council
  - 2½ year term, renewable once
  - Elected by QMV
  - Current President is former Prime Minister of Poland, Donald Tusk
  - Relected to second term on March 9 (to begin June 1), over the opposition of current Polish government!
The European Union
European Parliament

- Under EEC Treaty, Parliament was advisory and supervisory
- Until 1979, Parliament was composed of delegations from the national parliaments
- First direct elections came in June 1979, every 5 years in June since
- Now required to be elected by proportional representation
- Since 2002, dual mandates forbidden

The European Union
European Parliament

- From beginning, grouped itself according to party affiliation or political ideology rather than in national groupings.
The European Union
European Parliament

• Largest states underrepresented
  – Germany has 96 seats; if proportional to population, would have 136
• Smaller states overrepresented

The European Union
European Parliament

• Parliament elects its own President
  – Term of 2 ½ years, renewable once
• Until January 17, 2017, was Martin Schulz, SPD, from Germany
• Succeeded by Antonio Tajani, EPP, of European People’s Party
  – Former press secretary to Silvio Berlusconi

European Parliament

• Martin Schulz
European Parliament

- Antonio Tejani

The European Union

European Parliament

- European Parliament shares legislative power with Council of Ministers
- Especially pronounced in “ordinary legislative process”
- Functions like a bicameral legislation:
  - House of Member States
  - House of the People

Diagram:

- Commissions propose legislation
  - Council and Parliament vote
    - Council (double majority): at least 4 governments against the proposal, at least 50% of governments, representing at least 50% of the Union’s citizens
    - Parliament (simple majority): at least 50% of deputies