



PUBLIC LECTURE

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Unbounding the State

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This paper sketches a historical and analytical framework for the interpretation of the process of Europeanisation and of its consequences on the traditional boundary-configuration of the nation state. I relate Europeanisation to the processes of nation state formation and consolidation. The latter completed the within-Europe territorial differentiation of the middle age common heritage based on Christian cultural identity, Latin high-language and culture, and Roman public law, Germanic common law, and Church Canon law. Europeanisation can be seen as a new phase of development characterised by an uneven process of territorial *de*-differentiation. This *de*-differentiation generates tensions due to the decoupling of the formerly territorially overlapping principles of identity, solidarity and legitimised decision rules within the nation state.

Stefano Bartolini is Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute in Florence. He has been full professor at the University of Trieste (1990), the University of Geneva (1991), the European University Institute (1994) and the University of Bologna (2004). He is a member of the scientific board of *West European Politics*, *Swiss Review of Political Science*, *Acta Politica*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, and *Comparative Political Studies*. He has been awarded the best book prize of the European Politics section of the APSA (2002), the Gregory Luebbert APSA Prize in Comparative Politics (2001), and the UNESCO Stein Rokkan prize for the Social Sciences (1990).

His present academic interests are the relationships between the process of European integration and the key features of the European nation-state experience. His most recent books include *Restructuring Europe: Centre Formation, System Building and Political Structuring Between the Nation State and European Integration* (Oxford, OUP, 2005), and *The Class Cleavage: The Electoral Mobilisation of the European Left 1860-1980* (Cambridge, CUP, 2000).