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978-1-107-01561-6 - Imagining Europe: Myth, Memory, and Identity

Chiara Bottici and Benoît Challand

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## Imagining Europe

### *Myth, Memory, and Identity*

In *Imagining Europe*, Chiara Bottici and Benoît Challand explore the formation of modern European identity. Europe has not always been there, although we have been imagining it for quite some time. Even after the birth of a polity called the European Union, the meaning of “Europe” remained a contested topic. What is Europe? What are its boundaries? Is there a specific European identity or is the EU just the name for a group of institutions? This book answers these questions, showing that, in Europe’s formation, myth and memory, although distinct, are often merged in a common attempt to construct an identity for its present and future. In a time when Europe is facing an existential crisis, when its meaning is being questioned, *Imagining Europe* explores a vital and often unacknowledged aspect of the European project.

Chiara Bottici is Assistant Professor in the Philosophy Department at the New School for Social Research. She is the author of *A Philosophy of Political Myth* (Cambridge University Press 2007) and *Men and States: Rethinking the Domestic Analogy in a Global Age* (2009). She is co-author (with Benoît Challand) of *The Myth of the Clash of Civilizations* (2010) and co-editor (with Benoît Challand) of *The Politics of Imagination* (2011).

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# Imagining Europe

## *Myth, Memory, and Identity*

CHIARA BOTTICI

*The New School for Social Research*

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Abbreviations

EC	European Community
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EDC	European Defense Community
EEC	European Economic Community
EU	European Union
GEI	Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research
UN	United Nations

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This is the third book co-written by the two authors and this *modus scrivendi* implies sharing most of each other's arguments. There remain small differences in our views, but they have been settled (if not overcome) through a process of commenting on each other's texts and of sharing empirical material collected over the course of the past ten years. The Introduction and Conclusion were jointly written. Chiara Bottici is sole author and fully responsible for Chapters 1, 2, and 4, and Benoît Challand assumes likewise for Chapters 3, 5, and 6.

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