

Contents

Introduction

- The Politics of Belgium: Institutions and Policy **Wilfried Swenden,
Marleen Brans
and Lieven De Winter** 1

Part I: Sociological and Institutional Determinants of Policy-Making

- 1 'Will It Stay or Will it Go?' Federalism
and the Sustainability of Belgium **Wilfried Swenden
and Maarten Theo Jans** 15
- 2 And the Peace Goes On? Consociational
Democracy and Belgian Politics
in the Twenty-First Century **Kris Deschouwer** 33
- 3 Does Belgium (Still) Exist? Differences
in Political Culture between Flemings
and Walloons **Jaak Billiet,
Bart Maddens
and André-Paul Frognier** 50
- 4 Party System(s) and Electoral Behaviour
in Belgium: From Stability
to Balkanisation **Lieven De Winter,
Marc Swyngedouw
and Patrick Dumont** 71
- 5 Do Belgian Parties Undermine the
Democratic Chain of Delegation? **Lieven De Winter
and Patrick Dumont** 95

Part II: Policy Performance and Policy Reform

- 6 Administrative Reform in Belgium:
Maintenance or Modernisation? **Marleen Brans,
Christian de Visscher
and Diederik Vancoppenolle** 117
- 7 Policy Failure and Corruption in Belgium:
Is Federalism to Blame? **Jeroen Maesschalck
and Steven Van de Walle** 137
- 8 Policy Convergence and Divergence
in Belgium: Education and Health Care **Stefaan De Rynck
and Karolien Dezeure** 156

9	Social Redistribution in Federalised Belgium	Bea Cantillon, Veerle De Maesschalck, Stijn Rottiers and Gerlinde Verbist	172
10	The European Rescue of the Federal State: How Europeanisation Shapes the Belgian State	Jan Beyers and Peter Bursens	195
Conclusion			
11	Consociationalism, Corruption and Chocolate: Belgian Exceptionalism	B. Guy Peters	217
	Index		231