Contents

Preface to Fifth Edition	vii
1. Introduction: The Politics of Liberal Democracy	I
2. Politics and Society The Social Bases 12 Language and National Minorities 15 Religion and Politics 19 Rural and Urban Contrasts 28 Class and Politics 32 New Cleavages? 37 Social Cleavages and Party Systems 41	
3. Pluralist Politics: Parties and Interests The Inertia of Party Traditions 48 Perpetuation of Left and Right 55 The Representation of Group Interests 59 The Age of Corporatism? 71	48
4. Party Systems Determining Features 83 Imbalance, Balance and Diffusion 94 System Trends 104 Patterns of Opposition 106 Breakdown of Parliamentary Systems 112 Party Systems in Western Europe (Table) 122	83
5. Constitutional Balance European Constitutionalism 125 The Distribution of Power 128 Assembly-Executive Relations 134 Constitutional Jurisdiction 141 Direct Democracy 145 Constitutional Dynamics 150	125
6. Non-Democratic Variants The Fascist Alternative 154 Politics and the Military 159	154

	vi	Politics i	n Western	Europe
--	----	------------	-----------	--------

Index

Transitions from Dictatorsmp 165 Extremism Today 172	
7. Assemblies and Governments Parliamentary Decline 189 Elective Functions 192 Personnel Functions 198 Rule Functions 203 Communications 212	189
8. Executive Power Political Leadership 217 Constitutional Bureaucracy 222 Administrative Élites 226 Policy Styles in Western Europe 234 Controlling Executive Power 242	217
9. The Territorial Axis The Resurgence of Territorial Identity 250 Modes of Decentralisation 253 Patterns of Local Democracy 258 European Federalism and Regionalism 266	250
10. Political Integration Models of Integration 284 European Perspectives 290 Institutional Features of the European Community 294 Problems of Development 298 A European Political Culture? 304	284
The Nations of Western Europe 1. European Socio-Economic Comparisons (Table) 310 2. European Constitutional Comparisons (Table) 312 3. Political Profiles 314	309
Austria 314; Belgium 315; Denmark 319; Finland 32 France 325; The Federal German Republic 330; Greece Iceland 337; The Republic of Ireland 339; Italy 343; Luxembourg 348; Malta 350; The Netherlands 352; Norway 355; Portugal 358; Spain 361; Sweden 364; Switzerland 367; The United Kingdom 370; Northern Ireland 374	2; 333;
Party Representation in West European Parliaments A Research Note by Michael Smart	378

391