

LECTURE 8

A EUROPEAN UNION IDENTITY IN THE FUTURE

3 dimensions of the European Union's top-down policies designed to embellish E.U. identity:

1. the development of rights and citizenship;
2. the politics of 'belonging' and 'symbols'; and
3. the development of, and support for, cross-national networks and co-operation

Source: Brigid Laffan, 'The Politics of Identity and Political Order in Europe', in *Journal of Common Market Studies*, vol.34, no.1 (August 1996).

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In order to construct a European Union ‘identity’ the European Union must be ‘experienced’ by the citizen in his or her everyday life:

- The European Union must make itself felt in (be part of) education and culture, news, and communications
- The European Union must also protect the rights of the individual and strengthen democracy
- The European Union must have a set of institutions which have legitimacy (a legitimacy achieved through the ‘will’ of the people)
- The image of the European Union must be one that demonstrates the solidarity of European people and the values (diverse values) of European society