

Economic, Political and Social Identity in the European Union

Professor John Wilton

Lecture 6

**A European Union for citizens
to identify with: federalism and
subsidiarity**

Lecture 6

What kind of European Union would citizens identify with?

- a federal system based on subsidiarity?
- centralised, bureaucratic ‘Superstate’ E.U., based overwhelmingly in Brussels = negative image
- decentralised E.U., alongside political and socio-cultural regional identity = positive image?

Lecture 6

a) *Functionalism*

- the functions of different elements of societies would encourage and produce co-operation and integration.

b) *Neo-functionalism*

- based on principle of ‘spillover’ (integration and benefits from one policy area ‘spillover’ into other sectors)

Lecture 6

- ‘spillover’ produce federal E.U. and E.U. citizen identity?
- Federal E.U. = ‘Europe of the Regions’ based on *subsidiarity*?
- ***Federalism*** – 3 main assumptions:
 - a) societies are complex and diverse;
 - b) societies are pluralistic;
 - c) institutions that protect diversity and autonomy, and produce unity, are required

Lecture 6

A federal framework for the E.U. would:

- protect minorities and minority interests;
- prevent the growth of a strong centralised power;
- lead to the peaceful integration of conflicting interests;
- help solve societal problems at the level of government (local, regional, national, E.U.) most suited to deal with the particular problem or issue.