Preface

This volume brings together research focusing on the conditions for the formation of common political order in Europe. The book aims to define common political order in conceptual terms, to study instances of order formation at different levels of governance and ultimately to comprehend why common political orders emerge that may profoundly challenge inherent or preceding political orders. Its objectives are thus twofold: first, to explain institutional birth and growth, and second to assess key effects of order formation. Under which conditions do common political orders emerge that profoundly challenge pre-existing political orders? To what extent, and under which conditions, does common political order profoundly transform pre-existing political orders? In sum, how can we theoretically explain and empirically assess the rise, stagnation and retrenchment of common political order in Europe, and, in particular, how is it possible to track some of its essential effects?

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