

The Maastricht Treaty 1992 and the illustration of cartoons in diverse member states



HOMER Project 2015/2016: Maastricht Treaty 1992

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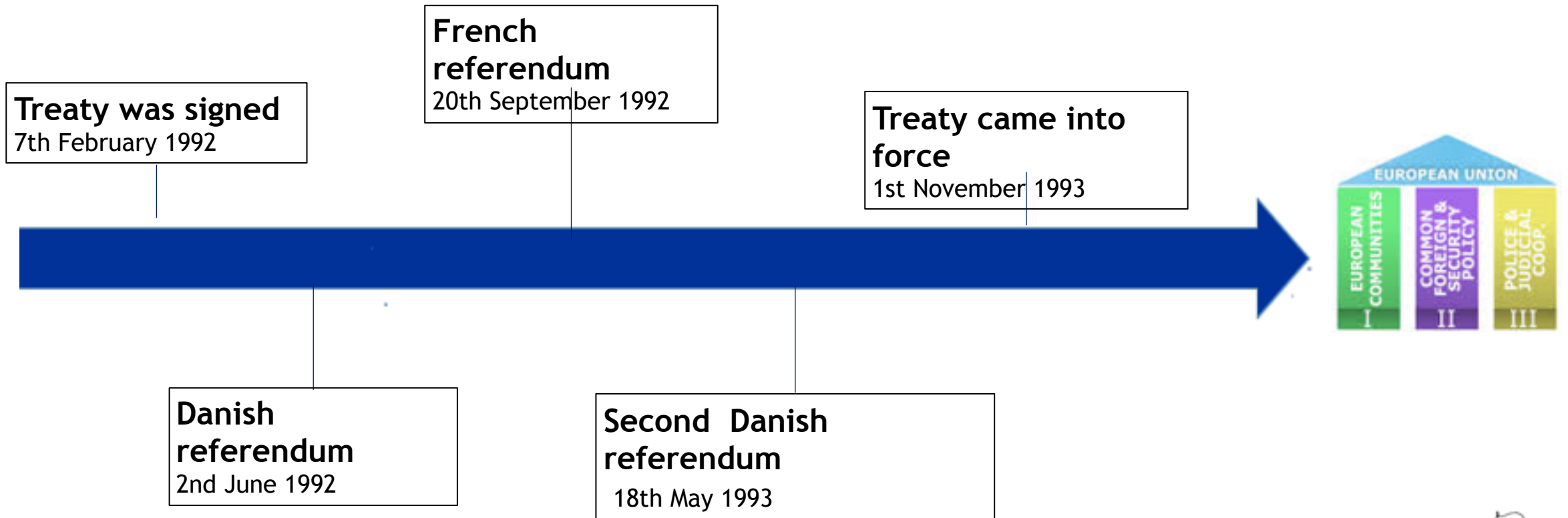
Cartoons as instruments in politics

- defined as illustrations that carry a political message, mostly referring to current events or picturing personalities.
- satirical, ironic, humorous
- aim to draw attention on social circumstances and to question political decisions
- Cartoonists deal with complex political situations and try to simply them by using visual metaphors and caricatures
- often overlooked in the context of politics, even though they offer a great variety of interpretation and reflection of society's standing on political issues
- can cause controversies, since their messages leave much space for interpretations.
- visual strategies to make a point in small spaces.



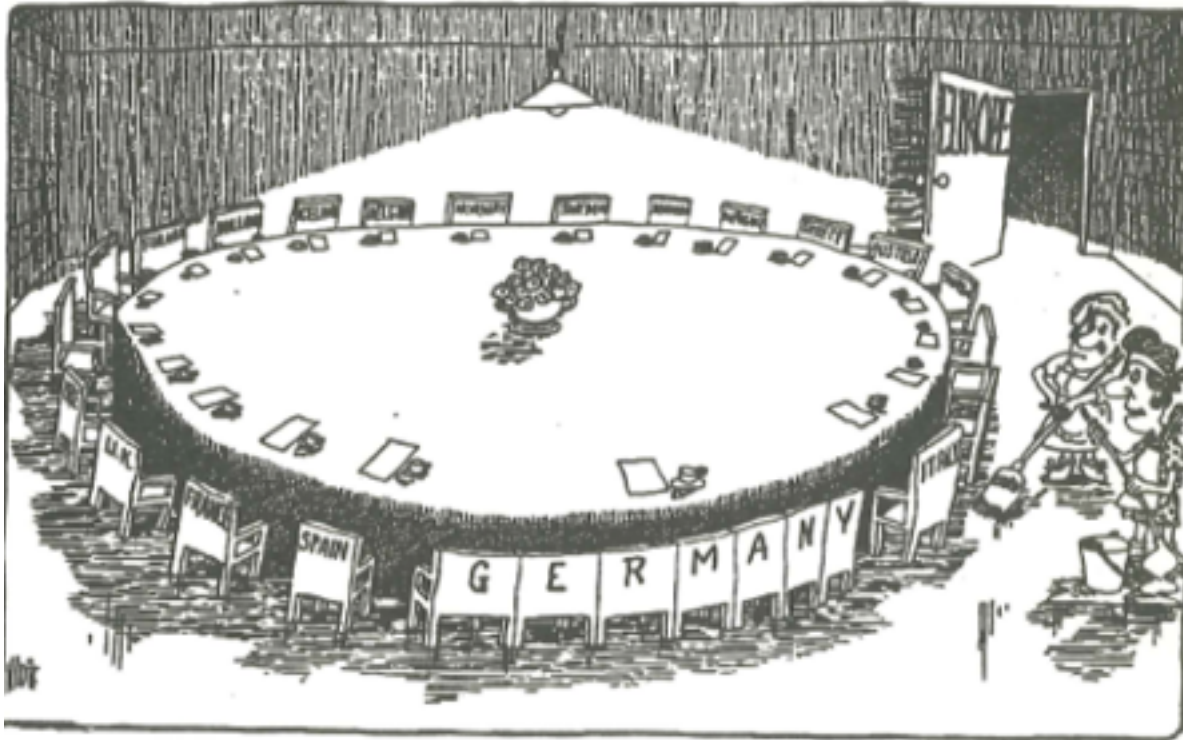


The implementation of the Maastricht Treaty





The usage of Cartoons to illustrate the Maastricht Treaty 1992

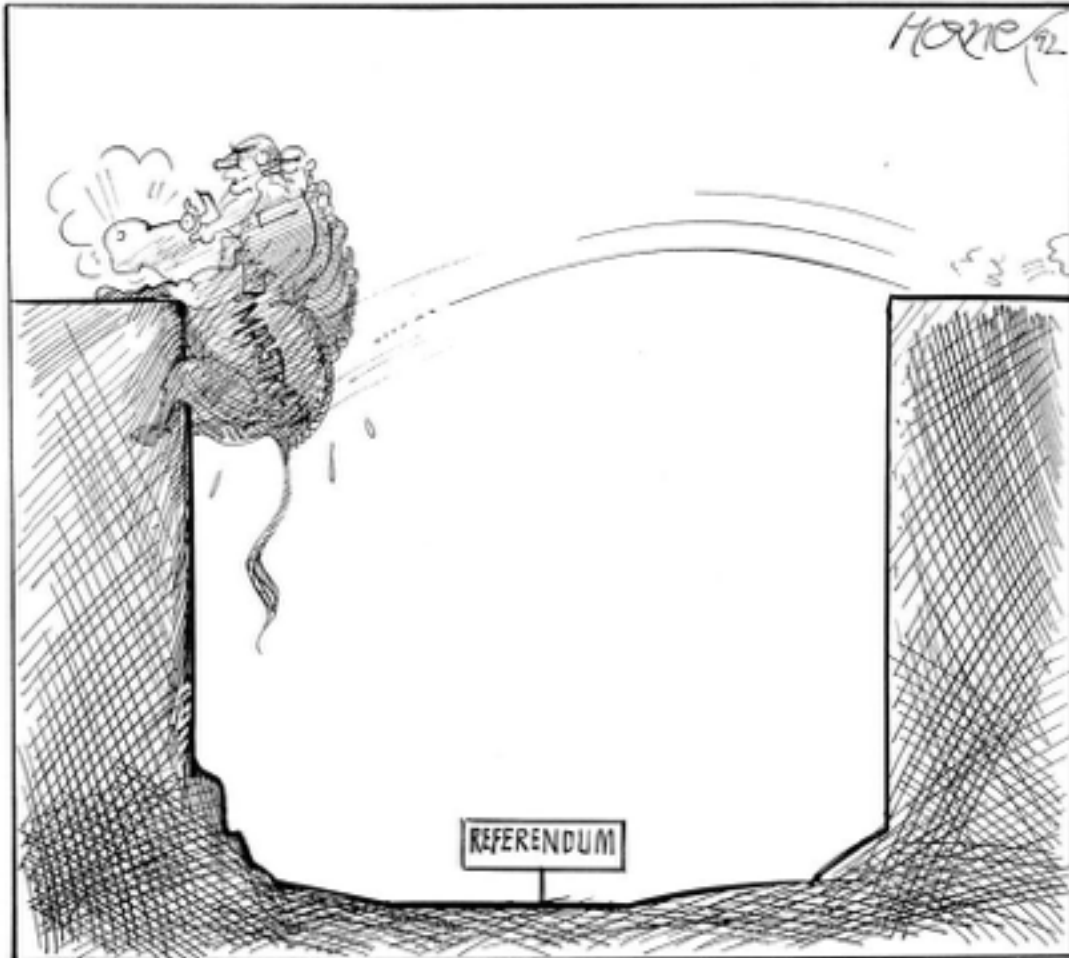


- Political cartoons refer to current events and offer satirical point of view
- „So that is the new seating order.“
- Cartoon demonstrates the enormous role of Germany
- Process of building united Europe reflected differently in member states





The Maastricht Treaty 1992 and the illustration of cartoons in Germany I



- French and Danish referendum : close results almost bring Maastricht bull to fall
- Big obstacle with sharp edges
- Big effort for the bull with Mitterand, Kohl and Major
- At this point in time, not sure yet whether the Maastricht bull is going to make it over the edge

Illustration 2 by Hanel





The Maastricht Treaty 1992 and the illustration of cartoons in Germany II

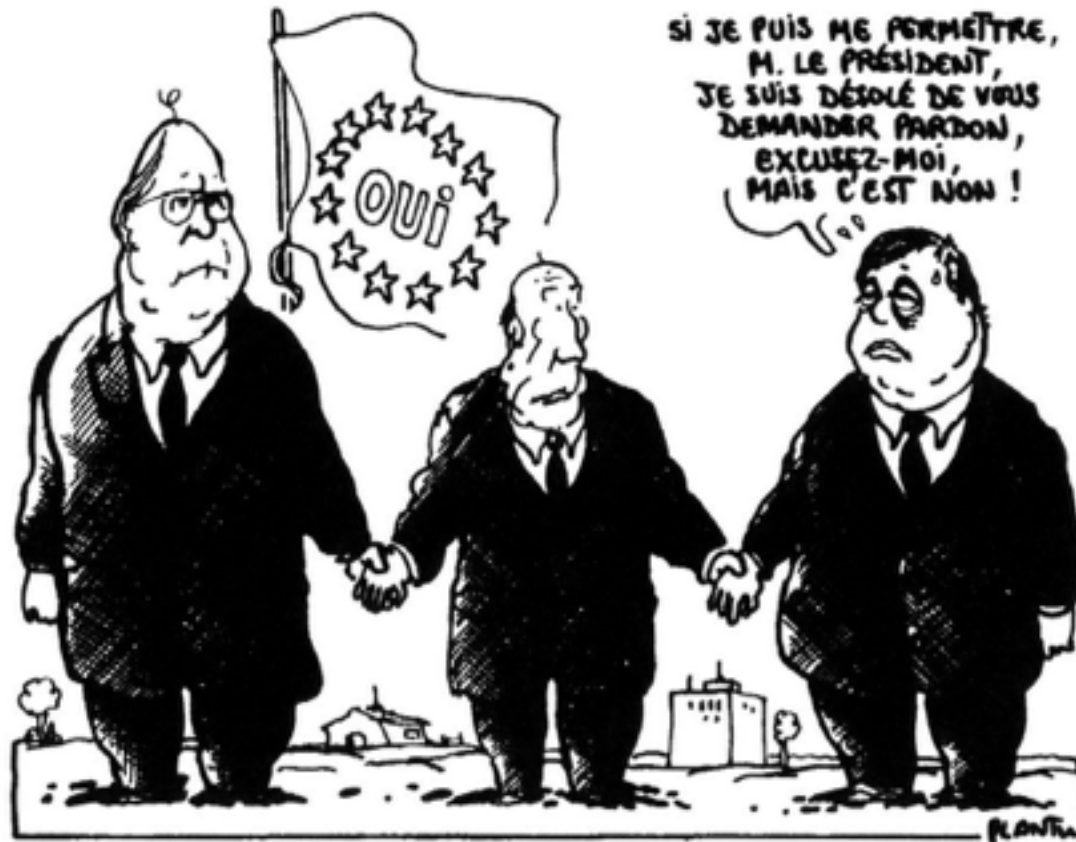


- 5 days after French referendum
- effort invested by Mitterrand and Kohl to keep Maastricht Treaty from falling apart
- British PM Major and Danish PM Schluter hold hammers to destroy the building -> referendum and British attitude could bring the whole project to fall apart





The Maastricht Treaty 1992 and the illustration of cartoons in France



- Kohl and Mitterrand negotiated with former social minister of France, Philippe Séguin, live on TV
- Séguin was the leader of the treaty's opposition in France
- Kohl stressed Franco-German friendship and economic efforts





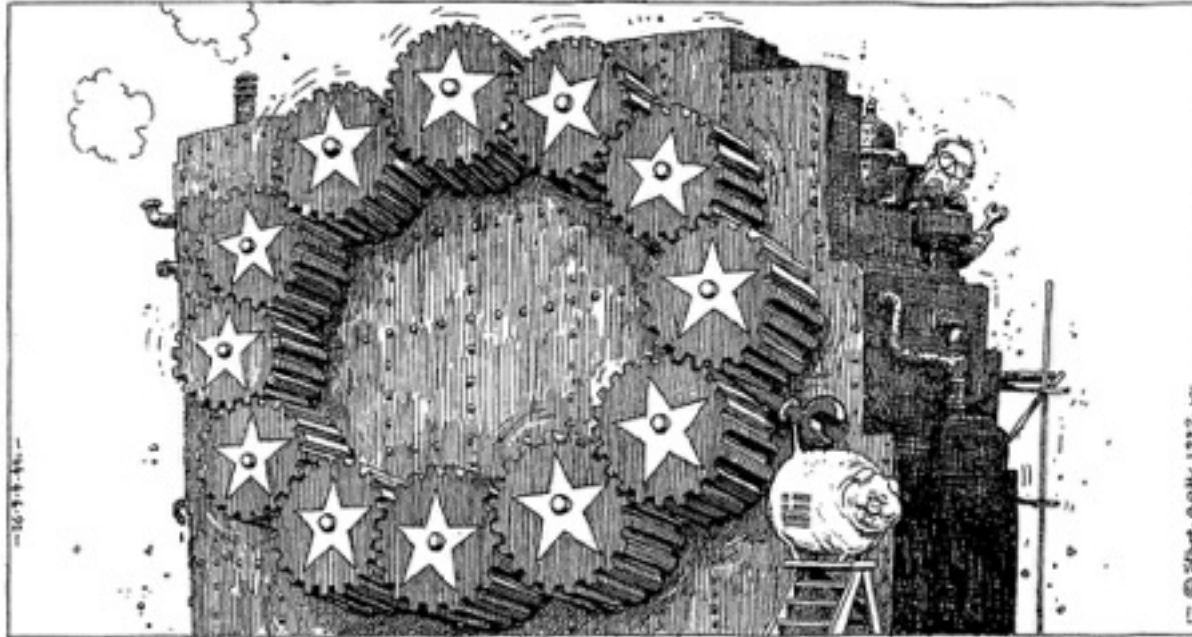
The Maastricht Treaty 1992 and the illustration of cartoons in the United Kingdom



- Addressing the concerns about losing sovereignty and protecting the British identity
- Pointing out that Europe is already in Britain, at least according to the variety of beer choices (german, dutch, danish)
- The Sun: Get stuffed Europe!



The Maastricht Treaty 1992 and the illustration of cartoons in the United Kingdom



- First Danish referendum: refusal to ratify the Maastricht Treaty
- Danish No put European machinery on hold; depends on Yes vote to keep on working properly





The Maastricht Treaty 1992 and main messages and narratives

- Germany is mostly depicted as a strong, leading bull and the driving force in the process of building a European Union e.g. seating order
- German themselves try to express that they feel left alone in rescuing the project, or only France as their alliance partner e.g. the collapsing house
- British cartoonists picture their own situations with a great sense of humor e.g. the pub scene
- All cartoonists tend to make fun of the heads of state or government
- Most cartoons show that some parts are not working and it is quite difficult to achieve the goals and overcome obstacles e.g. machinery, jumping bull





Bibliography

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