

PASQUALE LUCIO SCANDIZZO

Making or Breaking the European Dream

The European Dream, interpreted as the vision of federal Europe united and integrated in all its diverse and conflicting components goes back to Charles the Great and has never abandoned the collective unconscious since then. The treaty of Rome and the alternate sorts of European integration in the past 60 years seem to many a slow, but progressive realization of a workable model of the European visionaries. More recently, however, Brexit, other setbacks and a general disillusionment on the great and progressive sorts of an integrated Europe have seemed to prevail. This Chapter analyzes three main elements of the surge and the possible demise of the European Dream: 1) the perceived importance of globalization for growth, but also the fear of the new vulnerabilities induced by global interdependence; 2) the need for something broader than national efforts to achieve the goals, albeit limited, of economic development, but also the reshaping of regional and national priorities within a more flexible European model; 3) the growing importance of multilateralism to achieve national and mutually compatible targets, but also the disappointment at the ineffectiveness of multilateral institutions and the surge of a new bilateralism.