

# **WEST EUROPEAN POLITICS TODAY**

Geoffrey Roberts  
Jill Lovecy



Manchester  
University Press

# CONTENTS

<b>Preface</b>	vii
<b>1</b> Patterns of politics in western Europe <i>Geoffrey Roberts</i>	1
<b>2</b> The democratic political process <i>Geoffrey Roberts</i>	17
<b>3</b> Political orientations in western Europe <i>Jill Lovecy</i>	38
<b>4</b> Choosing governments: electoral systems <i>Geoffrey Roberts</i>	55
<b>5</b> Linkage organisations: political parties <i>Geoffrey Roberts</i>	75
<b>6</b> Linkage organisations: pressure groups <i>Geoffrey Roberts</i>	97
<b>7</b> Parliamentary politics <i>Jill Lovecy</i>	115
<b>8</b> The national parliaments of selected west European states <i>Jill Lovecy</i>	130
<b>9</b> Executive government <i>Jill Lovecy</i>	147
<b>10</b> Federalism, devolution and local government <i>Geoffrey Roberts</i>	171
<b>11</b> Politics and the European Community <i>Geoffrey Roberts</i>	186
<b>12</b> Political change in western Europe <i>Jill Lovecy</i>	202
Appendix Countries and international organisations in western Europe	220
Further reading	252
Index	259