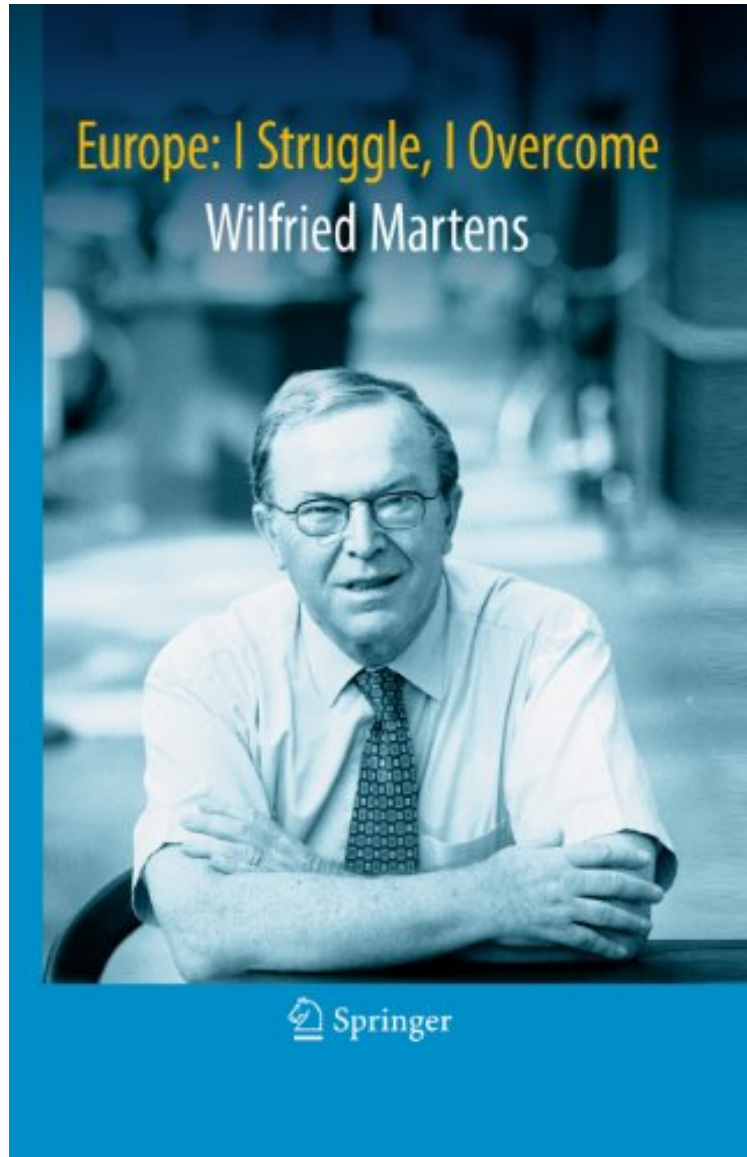


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Europe: I Struggle, I Overcome

Wilfried Martens

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????????????? Wilfried Martens is one of the most distinguished politicians to come from Belgium in the last fifty years. In his long political career, he has always fought for the implementation of his goals with passion and deep conviction. What has to be mentioned first in this context is his successful advocacy of federalism in his home country,

Belgium. Already in his time as chair of the CVP youth league from 1967 to 1972, groundbreaking manifestos on Belgium's federalisation were written under his auspices. Later on, as President of the CVP, he succeeded in negotiating the Egmont Pact, whose essential elements form part of today's federal Belgian Constitution. He served as Prime Minister for more than a decade, and in this role he convinced the regions and linguistic groups of his country, which were often at odds with each other, of the necessity for cooperation and solidarity.

From the Back Cover Wilfried Martens - Europe: I Struggle, I Overcome; Foreword by Angela Merkel Wilfried Martens has devoted his entire life to politics: as student leader, youth activist, President of the Flemish Christian Democrats, Prime Minister of Belgium, President of the European People's Party and European statesman. In his autobiography Martens offers the inside story on running a complex country like Belgium, fighting for European integration and unification, and transforming the European People's Party into a strong, united centre-right movement and leading European political family. Above all, this is a book about the intricacies of European politics and its guiding ideas, values and principles. The processing of the manuscript was concluded in 2008.