11. Parliamentary Sovereignty within the European Union

This chapter examines the way in which the UK’s membership in the European Economic Community (EEC) prompted changes in the domestic constitutional order. The discussions include the founding principles of the Treaty of Rome; the accession of the UK into the EEC; EEC law, parliamentary sovereignty, and the UK courts; and the horizontal and vertical effects of directives. The chapter explores the controversies engendered by the Maastricht, Amsterdam, and Lisbon Treaties; and concludes by assessing whether continued EC membership will entail a loss of the UK’s ‘sovereignty’ to a federal European constitution and a rebalancing of power within the constitution between Parliament and the courts.